THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 1, 2021

Members present: Rich DeJordy (At-Large), Kathleen Dyer (Universitywide), Xuanning Fu (Interim Provost), Raymond Hall (Chair), Tom Holyoke (former chair), D’Aungillique Jackson (ASI Executive President), Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Tinneke Van Camp (Vice Chair)

Members excused: Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Brad Barker (Technology Services), Bryan Berrett (CFE), Jeff Colvin (Technology Services), Delritta Hornbuckle (Dean Library), Mike Garvey (Technology Services), Robert Guinn (Interim VP for Information and Chief Information Officer), Sarah McDaniel (Director Library), Bernadette Muscat (Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Jim Schmidtke (Interim AVP Academic Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall at 3:17 pm on Zoom from the academic senate meeting room in the library, to test the potential of doing hybrid Academic Senate meetings in the future. Another test run will be done with the Executive Committee meeting on Nov 15.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes 10.18.21.

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from the President:

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the President has charged the cabinet earlier today to work on plan B and plan C, if needed and strategies for COVID testing compliance among employees and students are not improving the numbers.

He also reported that the Chancellor’s Graduation Initiative 2025 includes particular strategies to close equity gaps. Fresno State strategies (six initiatives) in this respect will be presented to this body soon. A preliminary progress report from the Chancellors’ Office will be shared with Chair Hall on how we are doing so far towards GI 2025 objectives.

Two searches are being prepared, for a permanent Provost and VP for Student Affairs. The President is inclined to use a search consultant for these two searches and will discuss this with this committee at a later date.

The President also announced that we have received the Seal of Excellencia, which is a prestigious seal. It authenticates our efforts to empower LatinX students and facilitate their success. We will be using this recognition to lift the success in all of our student demographics. Models and strategies to recruit, retain and succeed can be copied to apply to other demographics and it can help us showcase us as being an inclusive campus for all demographics. Only two other CSUs have received the Seal.

We are holding COVID vaccination, COVID booster and flu shot clinics for employees this week on campus on various days and times to enable as many employees as possible to get it.

An application was submitted in response to a call from the American Association for State Colleges and Universities on the transformation and acceleration cohort, which promotes the value of a university degree and graduation rates. This is a prestigious award, funded by the Gates Foundation.

The President was in Washington DC last week to push for attention for Fresno State and to target funding for the build-back-communities initiatives.

*Questions for the President:*

**Senator Holyoke** referred to earlier communications from the President regarding possible restructuring of Student Affairs.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** explained that he would like to consolidate the resources that we have as far as advising and tutoring is concerned, which we now have in two divisions. He will be moving forward with consolidating these specific resources and services first and keep the rest of the structure as is. Currently discussing to bring these specific resources and services under either Student Affairs or Academic Affairs.

**Chair Hall** wanted to know whether with this plan for consolidation, there would still be a VP for Student Affairs.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** confirmed that that is the case, but part of these plans is also for the VP for Student Affairs and Provost to meet with the President on a monthly basis to coordinate more strongly between both divisions.

Communications from the Provost:

With regards to operational modality after Thanksgiving, Provost Fu explained that the Chancellor’s Office and county health department are being consulted. The county health department appraised what we have achieved with a high vaccination rate on campus and testing program. This encourages us to continue with what we have been doing and indicates that we are in a good position to continue face-to-face instruction. The county health department insisted that COVID-19 will stay with us and we will have to learn to live with it, hence continue to use all the means to protect ourselves. There will be a final meeting before Thanksgiving with the county health department for a final check.

Provost Fu will send reminders the Monday before and Monday after Thanksgiving about safety prior to and following travel. There is also new guidance on what tests are admissible: when someone is symptomatic, a rapid anti-gen test is now allowable as a good test for that person to return to campus, it does not have to be a PCR test.

*Questions for the Provost:*

**Chair Hall** wanted to know whether we can let faculty know that we will not likely be going virtual after Thanksgiving.

**Provost Fu** responded that we can. He added that in-person exams have been scheduled for in-person classes and that several ongoing search committees have requested in-person interviews that may take place after Thanksgiving. The decision today is not to change this.

**AVP Schmidtke** referred to the most recent statistics on self-certification: only about 120 faculty are not in compliance and this number has come down significantly from previous weeks. Those who are still not in compliance are being contacted. Some of these faculty responded that they are teaching online and they did not self-certify for that reason.

**Provost Fu** added that 89 percent of all faculty members have certified that they are fully vaccinated and that we are trying to find out what the reasons are for not self-certifying.

* 1. Zoom Phone.

Technology Services are reviewing the contract for our phone system. Executive Committee members were requested to review documents about Zoom phone.

**Senator Dyer** wanted to know how switching to a computer-based system accounts for the need for every room to have a handset for safety reasons. She does not oppose getting rid of handsets, as long as this is allowed for safety reasons.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** added that calls from handheld phones allows police to triangulate where an emergency is, which is not possible when a call is made from a mobile phone.

**Mike Garvey** (Technology Services) explained that single touch devices could be provided in class rooms to allow for direct dial. There is also room for some flexibility in how we go about the switch to a different phone system, for instance by allowing the option to keep a handheld phone in offices for staff who have to monitor multiple lines. The primary phone system would be computer phone without video.

**Senator DeJordy** wondered how including handheld devices would affect the price.

**Garvey** explained that the estimate we received does not include handheld devices. It is not clear how many would be required or wanted at this time.

**Senator Holyoke** asked whether our phone numbers will remain the same.

**Garvey** answered that they will stay the same.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** asked about the long-term savings.

**Garvey** explained that a significant cost will be saved. Hardware that needs to be refreshed is expensive and this would not be needed with the new computer-based system. A lease on handsets comes with recurring costs. The new system is more flexible. It also allows for texting, chatting, contact lists etc. It is unified and more comprehensive.

**Senator Schlievert** asked whether any other CSU campuses are using Zoom phone.

**Garvey** responded that that is not the case yet. But Technology Service is working with CSU Monterey Bay that is moving to this system as well. CSUSD is also looking into this system. Other universities have moved to it and Technology Services is talking to them to learn from their experiences.

**Chair Hall** asked the members of this committee to read the materials that were sent out about this prior to today’s meeting and to add questions to the email thread. Chair Hall will consolidate the questions and send them along to Technology Services.

 **Action Items**

1. Memo dated October 22, 2021, Kathleen Dyer, Chair Emeritus, Fresno State Council of Chairs, to Ray Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APM 206. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: will be sent to the Online Blended Education subcommittee

1. Email dated October 27, 2021, Natalie Munoz, Chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, to Ray Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Calendar Committee. Email has been received.

**Senator Holyoke**, when he was Chair of the Senate, approached the Calendar Committee, following discussions about the academic calendar on the senate floor, to have faculty representation on this committee, and two faculty members have been on the committee since.

**Dean Muscat** mentioned that the Calendar Committee has since introduced a multiyear calendar. She added that much of our calendar is dictated by the Chancellor’s Office and Payroll, which inhibits flexibility. A survey about the academic calendar will be going out.

**Chair Hall** explained that faculty representation on this committee has not been formalized by the senate.

Suggestion: put on agenda

1. USU Board Appointment (Executive Session)

Suggestion: in executive session today

1. New Business.

**AVP Schmidtke** explained that an RTP committee reached out to Faculty Affairs with a concern about materials submitted in an RTP binder that did not appear to be accurate. An RTP committee has to assume that supporting documentation is accurate and true. Do we want to modify the relevant APM policy to allow RTP committees to look beyond what is submitted?

**Chair Hall** asked AVP Schmidtke to put this in writing to him and he will put it on the Executive Committee agenda.

1. APM 241 Policy on Course Syllabi and Grading.

**Chair Hall** asked whether this is ready to be sent to the Academic Senate.

**Senator Holyoke** wanted to know whether, in addition to AP&P, the UG Curriculum Committee and Student Affairs have had a chance to look at this.

**Chair Hall** explained that he had requested the Chair of AP&P to allow the UG Curriculum Committee and Student Affairs to have a look, but he does not know whether this happened.

**Senator Dyer** added that ASI President Jackson wanted to propose a particular change regarding syllabi for hybrid classes to include information on what percentage will be online as well as dates of in-person meetings, but that is not reflected in this proposed document. Has this revised version of APM 241 gone by the ASI President?

**Senator Holyoke** suggested to invite the Chairs of the UG Curriculum Committee and AP&P to the Executive Committee for a second reading, and to then also add the amendment from ASI President Jackson before sending it to the senate.

**Chair Hall** will invite the Chairs of the UG Curriculum Committee and AP&P and asked ASI President Jackson to provide language for the amendment she wants to put forward by the next Executive Committee meeting.

**ASI President Jackson** responded that she will do so and added that this will concern an amendment to go into section III of APM 241 in the clause on what faculty are required to include in their syllabi.

1. APM 233 Policy on Repeating Classes.

**Dean Muscat** explained that graduate students are taking UG courses and it is not clear in APM 233 that they can and how it can impact their graduate degree. What these revisions aim to do is to clarify that graduate students cannot repeat a UG course for a higher GPA. With these revisions, we are closing a loophole. Graduate students can take UG courses, but not as repeats to improve their UG record. It can only impact their graduate transcript, not their UG transcript.

**Senator DeJordy** asked whether with this new language, graduate students can redo a UG course as a graduate student and get a better grade, to count towards their graduate degree.

**Dean Muscat** clarified that they will need permission from the graduate program coordinator/department to retake the UG course and they cannot change the grade on their undergraduate transcript.

**Chair Hall** added that this revised policy allows graduate students to improve themselves.

**Chair Hall** will put this on the senate agenda.

*Into executive session at 4:10pm*

1. Executive Session.

New appointment to University Student Union Board: Reuben Addo (Health and Human Services)

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The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:28 pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Nov 15 via Zoom.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Tinneke Van Camp Raymond Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate