THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-7)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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October 23, 2023

Members excused: J. Biggane, J. Pitts, R. Raya-Fernandez, A. Stillmaker, A. Weerasinghe, H. Zengin-Bolatkale

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, K. Carillo, R. Klepper, B. Munoz, R. Sias, K. Smith, S. Tayeb, B. Taylor, B. Yang,

In-person attendance: 22 Zoom attendance: 28

The Academic Senate was called to order by **Chair Hall** at 4:03 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

*Motion to approve agenda*

*Second*

*Vote to approve agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes 10/16/23.

*Motion to approve minutes*

*Second*

*Vote to approve minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Provost Xuanning Fu:

System is having annual GI 2025 convention. Each campus sent a team. President in attendance. New chancellor gave keynote. Update is on searches. Encourage faculty to attend on campus interviews for MPP searches. Dean of Library search is continuing after search committee was not satisfied with finalists. Provost agrees with the search committee. To assist with the hire, a search firm is being secured. New timeline for Dean of Library search will be that ad is posted during Winter break and review process will start in early Spring 2024. Hope to make hire in late Spring 2024. Next update is search for AVP of Faculty Affairs. Search will have three finalists, scheduled for November 27, 28, and 30. Next is AVP of Office of Institutional Effectiveness, the search failed during the summer but now we have four finalists. Thank you to Senator Bryant for serving on the committee twice. Tentatively scheduled campus interviews for Oct. 31, Nov. 8, Nov. 13, and Nov. 29. Hope to have these positions with permanent placements by Summer 2024. Currently reviewing research structure, having an external review. We upgraded to R2, but our infrastructure says R3. External review will provide suggestions for how to move on, coupled with recommendations from Strategic Plan. In Spring 2024, we will launch search for Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. Recommendations might be to restructure and we would have to search for different positions. We will wait until external review and couple with budget considerations.

*Questions for Provost Fu:*

**Senator Ram**: Who is doing the external review, when is it taking place, how long does it take?

**Provost Fu**: Cannot remember name of organization, but it’s a national organization. It is like accreditation review. Will email the name of the organization.

**Senator Ram**: Is it a written review?

**Provost Fu**: First it is a remote review, then it is on site. It is like a program review or accreditation review.

**Senator Ram**: Will it be this semester?

**Provost Fu**: Joy Goto is leading this. It might start in November.

**Chair Hall**: It was put in Strategic Plan, but also came from research advisory board, which Joy Goto is on.

**Provost** **Fu**: There are recommendations for faculty time to do research, and improved infrastructure for faculty research. We need more grant managers and compliance officers. On post-award side, we have even greater challenges. External review will help us.

**Senator Chowdhury**: Will there be opportunity for faculty input?

**Provost** **Fu**: Yes.

**Senator Kensinger**: We are a predominately teaching institution. Concerned that change to R2 is losing track of that. How can we preserve our role as a primary teaching institution serving the Central Valley.

**Provost** **Fu**: We will receive all faculty input when process starts.

1. Installation of Senators.

Nichole Walsh installed as Senator for Educational Leadership

1. New Business

*None*

1. APM 218 – New Policy on Credit for Prior Learning Assessment. Second reading.

**Senator Vega**: AP&P voted that language should specify faculty expertise. Changed mentions of department to department or program. Added new section about certifications for transfers and students with associate degrees.

**Chair Hall**: We can accept this as a friendly amendment.

**Senator Kensinger**: This last section is substantial, should be discussed. Changes are not made according to Executive Order, they are changes according to Senate discussion.

**Chair Hall**: Accept mentions of faculty expertise and departments and programs as friendly amendment.

*Changes accepted as friendly amendments*

*Motion to include Section IV.F of APM 218*

*Second*

*Discussion on motion to include Section IV.F of APM 218:*

**L. Yager**: Do not think this is needed because the challenge exam language from Chancellor’s Office is what is used for credit by exam.

**Chair Hall**: We will come back to that concern.

**Senator Ram**: Question about where Section IV.F was placed. Do not think this item is response to something I said. I asked about whether external exam credits will be used for major or GE electives. Is this in response to that?

**Senator Vegas**: Yes. I asked you what particular bullet point it was at the end of last meeting.

**Senator Ram**: Is this telling us whether external exam credits will be used for GE or electives?

**Senator Vega**: Yes

**Senator Ram**: Also not sure what Executive Order numbers are referring to or what it has to do with Footnote 13.

**Senator Vega**: Placed it there so it could go after. Has nothing to do with Footnote 13.

**Senator Ram**: A letter is missing from Executive Order item identification. Cannot find what it is referencing in Executive Order.

**Senator Vega**: A B is missing, it should be EO 1.B.3.b

**Senator Ram**: Can AP&P update footnotes to correct references to Executive Order?

**Senator Jones**: Do we want to add a footnote to F?

**Senator Vega**: I don’t think so. We don’t do that everywhere.

**Senator Kensinger**: Unclear on what the committee thought this was addressing. What problem is it solving?

**Senator Vega**: Senate thought there was something missing about GE. This is what Senator Ram said it was. That is what I remember. Looked back and saw that this information was implied but not included.

**Senator Ram**: Need more time to review it. The section I was referring to was B.3.a. Can we table this amendment?

**Senator Walsh**: Executive Order does have this language. Question for L. Yager, is this something they’re already following? What is our current practice for standardized exams?

**L. Yager**: Currently follow Chancellor’s Office policy, and it is only GE because it’s from the Chancellor’s Office. There is a process for students who want credit for major courses.

**Senator Walsh**: It sounds like we need language on that.

**Senator Kensinger**: This language does not achieve that.

**Senator Ram**: This isn’t in the right place and doesn’t address the question. We were discussing Section III.A.1. Can L. Yager recommend a statement to add there?

*Vote on motion to include Section IV.F of APM 218: denied*

**Senator Kensinger**: Thank you to AP&P colleagues for trying to listen to and address Senate comments.

**Senator Kensinger**: Section II.A.1 has weak standard for approving a challenge exam. Someone last week suggested two faculty, but there is also no chair involved. Propose it is developed by at least one faculty member in consultation with department or program chair

*Motion to amend Section II.A.1 of APM 218*

*Second*

*Discussion on motion to amend Section II.A.1 of APM 218:*

**Senator Shatz**: Agree with spirit of this, but wonder if it overlaps with the rest of sentence that references department approval.

**Senator Bryant**: The point of contact will probably be the chair, and the fact that it’s accepted by department suggests that it is not just one faculty member.

**Senator Riar**: Do we have consistency in policy that every department follows?

**L. Yager**: Currently do have process in place, includes approval and signature from department chair and instructor. It has chair indicate which faculty will administer the exam.

**Chair Hall**: Where did that policy come from?

**L. Yager**: It’s in the catalog because there wasn’t a policy that fully supports credit by examination.

**Senator Pinzon-Perez**: The decision on these types of exams has to be the department. L. Yager, does department curriculum committee make these decisions?

**L. Yager**: Not aware of that.

**Senator Kensinger**: This is a new policy, and thankfully we have someone in place who is already doing this well, but we need policy to ensure that it is done well. Prefer to leave department chair separate from department approval. Speak in favor of motion.

**Senator Chowdhury**: Should we add department curriculum committee and college curriculum committee?

**Senator Walsh**: Be careful because of small departments. Small departments are also the body that makes curriculum decisions. AP&P is trying to be mindful of different realities across departments.

*Vote on motion to amend Section II.A.1 of APM 218: approved*

*Vice Chair Crowell notes that a previous motion to amend Section II.B of APM 218 is still on the floor.*

*Discussion on motion to amend Section II.B of APM 218*

**Senator Ram**: Friendly amendment to add “and” and there should be parallel language with previous amendment.

**Senator Shatz**: Agree with Senator Ram that there should be parallel language with Section II.A.1.

**Senator Peterson**: Creation of challenge exam is different from assessing the exam. I like that it would take more to do the assessment. Disagree that we need to add the chair in there.

**Senator Chowdhury**: Disagree with this motion. These assessments are not based on a standardized exam, they are based on particular skills. Sometimes there is only one faculty member with that expertise.

**Chair Hall**: “when possible” could be appropriate

*Vote on motion to amend Section II.B of APM 218: approved*

**Senator Shatz**: Motion to include “in consultation with department or program chair” to Section II.B.

*Motion to amend Section II.B of APM 218*

*Second*

**Senator Kensinger**: Speak in favor of motion, department chair can help in cases where there is only one faculty member with expertise.

**Senator Peterson**: How is the department chair providing consultation? Is it on policy, or on content? If it’s on policy, that’s okay. Speak against this unless it’s more specific about the role of the chair.

**Senator Ram**: It’s good for consistency to have the department or program chair. Friendly amendment to remove the comma.

*Friendly amendment accepted*

*Vote on motion to amend Section II.B of APM 218: approved*

**Senator Mulhern**: There is a grammar issue with the sentence in Section II.B of APM 218.

*Friendly amendments for grammar suggested by* **Senator Mulhern***and***Senator Shatz**

*Friendly amendments accepted*

**Senator Mulhern**: There is now an issue that acceptance is mandated.

**Senator Walsh**: Change “accepted by” to “reviewed by”

*Friendly amendments accepted*

**Senator Mulhern**: Placement of “as satisfying the requirements of a course” is incorrect.

**Senator Shatz**: This is because we removed mention of “successfully”

**Senator Mulhern**: Original grammatical concerns have been addressed.

**Senator Panagopoulos**: We have changed the meaning of the sentence. The department was supposed to accept the result.

**Senator Peterson**: If we leave it as “reviewed” there is no finalization. What is the final outcome?

**Senator Wakabayashi**: We want concurrence from the department.

**Senator Shatz**: This section is about definitions, it’s defining what a successful assessment would be. It’s not defining the process.

*The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15p.m.*

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be October 30, 2023.

Submitted by Approved by

Amber Crowell Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate