THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-10)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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March 13, 2023

Members excused: M. Jackson, L. Jakobs, S. Moreman, A. Mortimer, A. Polegato, R. Raya-Fernandez, O. Vega, A. Weerasinghe

Members absent: L. Brillante, B. DerMugrdechian, K. Fobear, J. Mullooly, S. Peterson

In-person attendance: 20 Zoom attendance: 30

The Academic Senate was called to order by **Chair Hall** at 4:04 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

**Senator Bryant***: Motion to approve agenda*

*Motion seconded*

*Vote on the amended agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/6/23.

**Senator Dyer***: Motion to approve the amended minutes*

*Motion seconded*

*Vote on the amended minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Provost Fu

**Provost Fu**: Last year the task force on work modality worked hard under the guidance of Dr. Dyer. This was a heavy topic that isn’t as heavy now but is still a concern. Thank you to everyone in that task force. Student and academic affairs are working together to tackle reengagement and enrollment. We have the challenge of figuring out how to keep students, so we need to be creative and think outside the box for ideas on how to keep them. Maybe we have a debt forgiveness program. Or the first year, Fs don’t exist and only ‘No Credits’ are given when a student doesn’t pass. In MIT during the first year, students do not receive grades. Senators need to help us think about how to tackle this issue.

Communications from Chair Hall

**Chair Hall:** I would like to welcome and introduce the campus Diversity Officer, Dr. Booker.

**Dr. Booker:** Thank you to all of you who sent well wishes while I was out sick last week and thank you to D'Aungillique Jackson for taking care of everything while I was gone. Coming to California was not an easy decision but it was the right one. During this first year, my job is to learn more about Fresno State in order to collaborate to move beyond diversity. I am the first diversity officer but I am not a messiah, I see this position as being a collaborative one so I fully welcome input and will be seeking input from faculty and the senate. Thank you for the warm welcome.

1. New Business. - None
2. APM 125 – Policy on Department Chairs. Second Reading.

**Senator Jenkins**: I would like to remove Associate Professors from item B., which would only allow Professors to be department chair. Associate Professors do not have full access to personnel issues so they should not be department chairs.

*Motion to remove Associate Professors from item B.*

*Seconded.*

**Interim AVP Jim Schmidke**: The issue is that there are departments on campus with no full Professors.

Discussion on the floor to support or oppose the motion. **Senator Alexandrou** approves the motion. **Senators Maldonado** and **Randles** approve to some degree but would rather the wording indicate that sometimes Associate Professors may be department chairs. **Senators Noel Smith, Bryant, Yang**, and **Crowell** oppose the motion. Sentiment is that preventing associates from serving poses issues since diverse faculty are less likely to be full professors.

*Vote on motion to remove Associate Professors from item B. not approved; item remains as before.*

**Senator Maldonado**: Item C. 4., 5., and 6. Add the Dean to the list and add the Provost to 5. and 6.

*Motion to add Dean to item C. 4., 5., and 6. And to add Provost to C. 5. and 6.*

*Seconded.*

**Senator Alexandrou**: The personnel committee wanted to avoid the Dean swaying the election of department chairs, that is why they are not listed. The President makes the final decision about the chair appointment and they are free to consult with the Dean and Provost but the committee did not want those individuals listed in the APM.

**Senator Dyer**: 4 is about notifying and 5/6 are about decision making so the Provost and Dean should be removed?

**Senator Alexandrou**: Yes

**Senator Maldonado**: I see this as a friendly amendment to remove the Dean and Provost from items 5 and 6.

**Senator Alexandrou**: States agreement with motion.

**Senator Crowell**: If this changes, those changes need to be reflected in Appendix A.

*Vote to include the Dean in item C. 4. approved; motion carries.*

**Senator Stillmaker**: Strike appendix A. It is repetitive and procedural so it doesn’t belong in the APM.

*Motion to strike appendix A.*

*Seconded.*

**Senator Alexandrou**: For background, there are ballot construction issues so this is listing expectations.

**Senator Jenkins**: Expresses support to remove.

*Vote to remove appendix A approved; motion carries.*

**Senator Mason (music):** Item C. 3 states results will be provided to ‘eligible to vote’ faculty. Why not all faculty?

**Interim AVP Jim Schmidke**: The results can be communicated to anyone but not everyone is eligible to vote. In a contentious election, this can be hard on an incoming chair.

**Senator Jenkins**: *Motion to remove ‘eligible to vote’ from item C. 3.*

*Seconded.*

*Vote approved; motion carries*.

**Senator Johanson**: Item E. 2. – point of clarification – can any results be shared? It appears no results will be shared

**Senator Alexandrou**: Informal evaluations happen early and should be informal to improve leadership skills. This should be shared with the chair only. Last week we did decide that formal evaluations would not be shared.

**Senator Johanson**: *Motion to add a second informal evaluation that would be shared with faculty.*

*Seconded.*

**Senator Maldonado**: The formal review is meant to prevent a person from being a chair again. Informal reviews are supposed to be formative and help a chair know how to improve. What would be different about this informal review and why would it be shared?

**Senator Fulop:** The informal review could be written informally so it summarizes a formal review and can be shared with others. Something digestable by the faculty at large.

**Senator Johanson:** To make something that is feedback about evaluation that can be disseminated to faculty.

*Vote not approved; motion does not carry.*

**Senator Dyer:** I would like to call to question. We have talked about this item for three meetings and we need a vote to move on.

*Motion to call to question.*

*Seconded.*

*Vote approved greater than 2/3 margin needed. Motion carries.*

*Motion to end discussions on APM 125.*

*Seconded.*

*Vote approved; motion carries and second reading concludes.*

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

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on March 20, 2023.

Submitted by Approved by

Andrea Roach Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate