THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-04)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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October 24, 2022

Members excused: N. Akhavan, K. Dyer

Members absent: A. Athanasios, C. Alvarez, L. Brillante, M. Calahorra-Jimenez, M. Jackson, Z. Daqing

In-person attendance: 19 Zoom attendance: 26

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Hall at 4:02 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

*Motion to approve*

*Seconded*

**Senator Moreman** requested that documents for Senate meetings are made available sooner than Friday afternoon.

**Chair Hall** responded that he will get the agenda to be sent out by Thursday. He mentioned that documents to be discussed in Senate are already on the Senate webpage before the email invite with the agenda goes out.

*Vote on approval of agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 10/10/22.

Corrections were made to members excused and absent.

Corrections requested by Senator Maldonado and Senator Polegato, which were taken as friendly amendments.

*Motion to approve the amended minutes*

*Motion seconded*

*Vote on approval of the amended minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from President Jiménez-Sandoval

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** shared information about enrollment declines. Following an explosive demographic growth, we are now seeing a decline. It also appears that regions are growing apart from each other economically, and people in low-income areas are less likely to enroll in college. Our campus is down 1.100 FTES. We are losing junior and senior students, while we are still attracting new students. We will need to discuss how to re-engage students. The President met with veteran students today, for instance, and they explained that the military teaches them to be self-sufficient, which makes that they are less likely to make use of services on campus to help them succeed. Our international students are experiencing mental health issues that also require our attention. Enrollment is tied to the economic development of our region and funding for Fresno State.

The President also mentioned that the search for a new VP for Student Affairs is moving forward. Four candidates will be coming to campus.

He also explained that he is serving as a member on a CSU committee for sustainability, and he will be giving updates about this going forward.

The President finally mentioned that he has commissioned the construction of a booth. He will rotate occupying it with Deans and the Provost. The aim is to foster contact and community at Fresno State.

*Questions for the President:*

**Senator Wise** wanted to know what the projection for enrollment numbers is for the next few years.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that enrollment will have peaked by 2026 and will then decline due to declined birth numbers. The biggest concern for our campus now, however, is that we are losing junior and senior students. We have always grown, so this new development is worrisome. He also explained that 21 of the 23 CSU campuses have decreased enrollment numbers, and some saw a bigger decline than our campus.

**Senator Yang** wanted to know what the impact of lower incomes in our region is on enrollment at Fresno State.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that there is a decrease in enrollment in community colleges as well, which will then have an impact on the number of transfers to us.

**Senator Yang** asked whether we know why we are losing junior students.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that the pandemic and economic circumstances are among the reasons why. The Provost is looking into it.

**Senator DeJordy** asked whether we are losing junior and senior students to, for instance, jobs, or because they are taking care of their family, or other reasons, and whether and how we can find out more.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that multiple factors are at play. We are, for instance, also competing with the industry.

**Senator Schlievert** wanted to know whether there are certain colleges or departments that are seeing bigger declines.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that there is a bigger decline in STEM. He repeated that they are processing the data to learn more.

**Chair Hall** expressed appreciation for the use of data and OIE to increase insights.

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know whether we would also recruit students beyond our area and from specific areas.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that if we were to expand recruitment beyond our service area, we come into the territory of other CSU campuses. He added that students from outside the state also have to pay higher fees. He added that our campus will be focusing on recruiting from certain groups, for instance African American students etc.

**Senator Fobear** added that LGBTQ+ students are also feeling isolated at times and require support, which requires the creation of more infrastructure and support services. She wanted to know whether there will be possibilities for faculty and staff to work with the President to addressing those marginalized populations.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** is happy to engage with faculty and staff about this.

**Senator Maldonado** wanted to know which two of the 23 campuses did not have lower enrollment numbers.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that CSU San Jose and CSU San Diego did not have lower enrollment numbers. He added that CSU Chico and CSU Sonoma have already implemented a hiring pause.

**Senator Polegato** mentioned that there are plans to invest less in Hyflex modality. Hyflex provides flexibility for students. Should we not invest more in this technology in order to prevent losing junior and senior students?

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that we are not investing in more Hyflex rooms, since we have enough Hyflex classrooms now.

**Senator DeJordy** asked for news on the University Diversity Officer search.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that the search committee is deliberating.

No communications from Provost Fu

*No Questions for the Provost.*

1. New Business.

**Senator Stillmaker** presented a motion to discuss a Resolution in Support of the People of Iran and Gender Equity. There is concern among Iranian colleagues due to reprisals against people in Iran for speaking out against the regime. The aim of the Resolution is to demonstrate that Fresno State is in support of people getting attacked for protesting in Iran.

**Chair Hall** added that other CSU campuses have done this too.

*Seconded*

*Vote on putting the Resolution to the agenda: motion caries.*

1. AB 928 required Cal-GETC pathway.

**Chair Hall** reminded the Senate that we are requested to provide feedback to the Cal-GETC proposal in response to AB 928 to be sent to the ASCSU. Consultation was put out late last spring. We could not talk about it in this body until the fall because we were off contract. There are three feedback options provided (support the proposal, make recommendations, or reject it). The feedback does not concern the GE pattern for our new students. The implications for our own GE pattern are not clear yet. He proposes that, following providing feedback to the ASCSU, due today, we could use the

feedback that was provided on the survey he sent around to the Senators earlier this month, to have a discussion on our campus and consultation about this.

**Chair Hall** presented a Resolution [included in the documents for this meeting] to be sent as our Senate’s feedback to the ASCSU, which, for instance, includes general support for Cal-GETC as well as discontent with the limited time that was provided for feedback and lack of consultation, and stating that CSU campuses should retain autonomy in campus GE.

*Motion to put this on the floor.*

*Seconded.*

*Motion to waive second reading.*

*Seconded*

*Vote on motion to waive second reading: motion carried*

**Senator DeJordy** suggested to remove ‘and’ at the end of the last ‘whereas’

**Chair Hall** accepted this as a friendly amendment.

*Change made.*

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know who created this Resolution.

**Chair Hall** explained that the Resolution comes from the Executive Committee.

**Senator Moreman** responded that Executive Committee members include administrators, and wanted to know whether administrators were involved.

**Chair Hall** clarified that administrators are ex-officio members and only voting members of the Executive Committee contributed to the Resolution.

*Motion to approve the Resolution*

*Seconded*

*Vote on the Resolution: carried*

1. APM 232 – Policy on Student Absences.

**Chair Hall** invited Laura Yager (Registrar’s Office) to explain the changes to the policy.

**Yager** explained that there is only one change, *i.e.* a footnote was added to emphasize compliance with legislation on veteran students.

**Senator Moreman** suggested that it is not clear that this pertains to active members of armed forces and reserves, not veterans, and to add a footnote to reflect who is included, using language from the 2020 Act that is referenced in the footnote.

**Senator DeJordy** responded that the Act talks about active members, and that it could be enough to cite the Act.

**Senator Moreman** was concerned that the reference to veterans in the title of the Act does not sufficiently indicate that this only pertains to active members of armed services etc. Veterans are former members.

**Chair Hall** invited senator Stillmaker (AP&P) to provide further insight into the proposed amended policy.

**Senator Stillmaker** responded that the intention was to follow the law and the committee did not consider that the reference to ‘veteran’ in the title of the Act was potentially confusing.

**Chair Hall** asked Yager to clarify what we need to do with this policy: to simply state that we are in accordance with the law or are we trying to spell out something more clearly to follow on our campus.

**Yager** responded that it is a good clarification that the absences are for active military members for military service-related activities.

**Senator Perez** mentioned that this law assumes that this pertains to active members. Absences are only permissible for military service-related orders. She added that the word ‘veteran’ is commonly used as a synonym for active members too.

**Senator Bryant** *moved* to separate the footnote in two parts, in order not to conflate provisions provided under Title IX and provisions under the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

*Motion on the two amendments seconded*

*Footnote separated into two footnotes (as per the motion by Senator Bryant) and language added on who is mentioned in the Act as being eligible for authorized absences (as per the motion by Senator Moreman):*

3 In accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, absences must be authorized for pregnancy and related conditions. In accordance with Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, [Section 1018. (G). (i), and (ii)](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7105/text/enr#H2AA419727C2D49E9B08636EC449F153F), absences must be authorized for military service related activities.

*Suggested to become*

3 In accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, absences must be authorized for pregnancy and related conditions.

4 For members of the armed services, including the reserve component of the National Guard, in accordance with Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, [Section 1018. (G). (i), and (ii)](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7105/text/enr#H2AA419727C2D49E9B08636EC449F153F), absences must be authorized for military service related activities.

*Discussion on separating the footnotes and amended language in the footnote:*

**Chair Hall** recognizes Dr. Clement (Chair Undergraduate Curriculum Committee).

**Dr. Clement** agrees to clearly acknowledge the two different sources for allowing student absences.

**Senator Pitts** mentioned that ‘veteran’ can mean both active and inactive service members. An inactive veteran would not be able to produce documentation of active service, and would not be eligible.

**Senator Maldonado** spoke in favor of the changes as they made the policy clearer.

**Senator Peterson** agrees with splitting the footnote but he does think it is necessary to include the additional wording on the specific members it applies to rather than only referring to the Act itself. He *moved* to strike the additional wording.

*Seconded*

*Discussion on the motion to strike the new wording:*

**Senator DeJordy** agreed to strike the new wording. He added that if the Act were to be changed, by simply referring to the Act, we would still be in compliance without having to change the footnote.

**Senator Moreman** responded that if the Act were to change, its date would change and would have to be adapted in the policy and he preferred to keep the wording of the Act in the footnote.

*Vote on striking new wording in new footnote: carried*

*Vote on separating the footnotes: carried*

*Discussion on the amended policy.*

***Senator DeJordy*** *moved to waive second reading.*

*Seconded*

*Vote on motion to waive second reading: carried*

No further discussion on the policy ensued.

*Vote on policy as amended: approved*

1. APM 231 – Student Withdrawal Policy update. Second Reading.

**Chair Hall** invited Laura Yager (Registrar’s Office) to explain the changes to the policy.

**Yager** explained that changes had to be made to align the policy with guidelines from the Chancellor’s Office regarding reasons and supporting documentation to withdraw. There is also a date change in the withdrawal timeline. The current policy states that there is a four-day period where students would have to complete the paperwork, but this period did not align with the W date. Students were not always able to get approvals and submit forms on time and this interfered with the W grade. There is an 18-unit limit for all undergraduate students for withdrawal, and this was causing issues. The process is now also more streamlined.

**Chair Hall** invited Senator Stillmaker (AP&P) to provide further explanation on proposed changes.

**Senator Stillmaker** explained that AP&P had also made modifications to the APM and looked at the suggestions then made by Senator Dyer and the Registrar’s Office (see memo) and AP&P supports their proposed changes, which were in line with the modifications suggested by AP&P.

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know whether we have a memo from AP&P.

**Chair Hall** explained that a memo from senator Dyer was provided to the Senators. Changes had to be made in compliance with the Chancellor’s Office guidelines since changes were made to the policy by AP&P, and AP&P agrees that these changes bring policy in compliance. He added that the process is now easier for students because it is online, and that the policy is now in alignment with our current practice. The changes are also supported by Dean Muscat.

[**Senator Panagopoulos** wanted the Chair to know that senators attending online could not always hear senators in the room.]

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

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be November 7, 2022.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

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