THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 14, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Tim Ryan (ASI)

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Gyanesh Lama (Senate IDEA Liaison), Ram Nunna (Dean of the Lyles College), and Rudy Sanchez (AVP for Faculty Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:12pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 31, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of October 31, 2016

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Chair Ayotte

Announced that he had come from a meeting of the Campus Preparedness Committee which was getting ready for a march tomorrow by several campus groups protesting the election of Donald Trump as president. Some faculty are having their students participate in the protest for extra credit. Chair Ayotte will speak to the media on behalf of the campus regarding this protest.

There have been some incidents involving the campus, and some may have been threats to Trump supporters. One student called a local radio talk show to complain that her professor had found out that she had voted for Trump and publicly ridiculed her for it.

Chair Ayotte asked if there was a role for the Academic Senate here. Vice Chair Holyoke argued that calling out students over their votes, assuming that actually happened, is wrong and faculty should not do it. Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) asked how prepared the campus was for potential violence, and Chair Ayotte indicated that he felt it was very prepared.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) talked about the importance of the right to peacefully protest, noting that in his home country of Chile student protests were often met with deadly violence from the police.

* 1. Action items

1.) Memo dated November 2, 2016, from Paul Beare, Dean, Kremen School of Education and Human Development to Dr. Lynnette Zelezny re: Request for Approval of Creation of the Liberal Studies Department. Memo has been received.

This item was referred to the University Budget Committee.

2.) Memo dated November 7, 2016, from Deborah Adishian-Astone, Vice President for Administration and Interim CFO, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty Appointments to Title IX Coordinator Search Committee. Memo has been received.

A call for service will be sent.

3.) Email dated November 9, 2016, from Ram Nunna, Dean, Lyles College of Engineering to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM restriction on faculty searches. Email has been received.

The Lyles College wants to hire a faculty member who specializes in high speed rail, but they are sending a very broad job description and so do not know at this point which department in the Lyles College will host the new faculty member. Furthermore, since most faculty in the Lyles College are un-tenured, and thus cannot serve, Dean Nunna wants the search committee to be composed of the current department chairs. Since this requires an exception to the APM restriction, he is consulting with the Executive Committee.

Chair Ayotte and Senator Ram (University-wide) argued that junior faculty still need to be heavily consulted because at least some of them will have to live in the same department with the new faculty member. Their views and feelings should be sought. Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) recommended that some junior faculty members should be included anyway on the search committee.

4.) Memo dated November 3, 2016, from Venita Baker,

Academic Senate Coordinator to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic

Senate re: Nomination – Student Affairs Committee. Memo has

been received.

This will be discussed in executive session.

5.) From Senate Executive Committee re: Governing Documents.

This was placed on the agenda as new item #6 with the rest of the

agenda re-ordered accordingly.

6.) Emailed dated November 14, 2016, from Thomas Holyoke,

Vice Chair Academic Senate to Senate Executive Committee re:

draft resolution in support of campus multiculturalism and

diversity. Email has been received.

This was placed on the agenda as item #6 with the rest of the

agenda re-ordered accordingly.

7.) Nominees – task forces and search committee for director of

advancement.

This will be discussed in executive session.

1. Department Name Change Request – CDDS.

Chair Ayotte indicated that the Media, Communication, and Journalism Department and the Communication Department have now been consulted regarding the name change for the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies. Neither department has a problem or concern.

MSC approving this item for the consent calendar of the next agenda of the Academic Senate.

Vice Chair Holyoke noted that he has received an email from the Provost requesting that a call be sent for faculty to serve on search committees for an AVP for International Affairs and a new AVP for Water and Sustainability. More information will be found about these and the calls sent.

1. IDEA Task Force Charge

Chair Ayotte and IDEA Liaison Lama developed the draft charge together. IDEA is giving us an additional year, so there is less urgency in deciding whether to continue with IDEA or find a new provider, and, for that reason, language in the draft charge regarding a request for an extension was removed.

Vice Chair Holyoke argued that requiring a specific number of alternatives was unrealistic. The language was modified so that the task force could bring back any number of options. Vice Chair Holyoke also requested that forums be held where faculty and students could offer support for, or criticism of, IDEA. A survey will also be used to assess faculty and student opinions regarding IDEA.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked that the task force also consider paper evaluations vs. completely on-line evaluations.

Chair Ayotte indicated that Dr. Jack Benniga, Chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Department, asked if some of his faculty who were experts in evaluation statistics could attend the task force meetings and offer their assistance. It was decided they could attend as ex-officio members.

The task force must report back to the Senate Executive Committee on March 27, 2017.

1. Proposed Resolution on Multiculturalism and Diversity

Numerous changes were made to broaden the language and not give any indication that a particular group or political ideology was being targeted. Chair Ayotte will run it by the Provost.

MSC approving the resolution for a priority position on the next agenda of the Academic Senate.

1. Nominations

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 5:30pm.

The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 5:33pm.

MSC appointing Michael Botwin (Psychology) to the search committee for the Director of Advancement Operations.

MSC appointing Cindy Guerra (Nursing) and Vang Vang (Library) to the Provost’s Task Force on Academic Affairs Advising.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:35pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, November 28, 2016.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate