MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

Office of the Academic Senate

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November 17, 2014

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhusudan Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (Statewide), Moses Menchaca (ASI), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynn Williams (Ex-officio), Provost Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: President Joseph Castro (Ex-officio)

Visitors: Venita Baker and Michael Caldwell (AVP for Faculty Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:05pm in TA 117

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of November 10, 2014

Senator Ram offered several amendments that were seconded and approved

MSC approving the minutes of November 10, 2014, as amended

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

Last month President Castro, Provost Zelezny, Vice President Lamas, and Chair Ayotte attended a CSU system-wide conference on student success. They were impressed with what they learned regarding the national debate and the chancellor’s goals, and wish to give a 20 minutes presentation to the Academic Senate with an additional 10 minutes for questions. It was decided that they will be placed on the Academic Senate agenda for December 1, 2014.

At the same conference they were impressed by a speaker from the Educational Trust named Katie Haycock. If senators are interested in learning more about student success, especially in regards to under-represented students and the challenges they face when it comes to graduation, then Academic Affairs and the Academic Senate would jointly sponsor bringing her to campus for a presentation.

The provost then discussed the formation of the search committee for a new Dean of the Jordan College of Agriculture, Science, and Technology. APM 320, Section XIII, Paragraph D, subsection 1 gives her the authority to appoint three unspecified individuals, along with the chair of a department in Jordan College, to the search committee. She wanted to know if there were any concerns about filling those three seats with people from the agriculture community, especially since three faculty members would still be included through the normal process (a total of four faculty including the select chair from the college). A great deal of concern was expressed. Senator Williams was concerned, but acknowledged that Jordan College is becoming increasingly connected to the San Joaquin Valley’s agriculture industry and a lot of people in the industry were interested in being involved in the search. Chair Ayotte suggested that it might be possible to appoint community members in an ex-officio capacity. The provost said she would take these concerns and ideas to the president.

1. Senator Ram (University-wide)

Inquiry as to whether there had been any response to the memo from the Executive Committee dated October 14, 2014, to Vice President Matson regarding the university budget. Chair Ayotte indicated that he would follow up on this.

1. Senator Kensinger (Statewide)

Expressed a great deal of concern about the way in which University Police issued the retraction notice regarding the recent sexual assault on a Fresno State student. It gave the misleading impression that the assault had not occurred when, in fact, it had occurred, but not on the university campus. Provost Zelezny indicated that she would text this concern to the president immediately after the meeting.

1. Moses Menchaca (ASI President)

Reported that ASI was looking into strategies for improving the ability of students to register for classes and create long-range academic plans, which would help improve graduation rates. Ideas that ASI were considering included asking departments to schedule all classes 7 to 8 years in advance, post all student ratings for classes, and post all course syllabi.

1. Memo dated November 10, 2014, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the Personnel Committee, to Chair Ayotte re: APM 322 and APM 324.

The memo requested that the Academic Senate approve reassigning APM 322a, 322b, and 322c to an appendix to APM 322. Similarly, 324a would be made an appendix to APM 324. It was decided to place the request for approval on the consent calendar of the December 1, 2014, meeting of the Academic Senate.

1. Memo dated November 10, 2014, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the Personnel Committee, to Chair Ayotte re: APM 367, APM 370, and APM 393.

The memo requested that these sections of the APM be simply removed since they were superseded by executive orders from the Chancellor’s Office. Great concern was expressed that local campus policy should not simply be eliminated because campuses are still required to implement these executive orders; their policies should remain in the APM. AVP Caldwell suggested that everyone read the relevant executive orders (which are 1096 and MAPP G17.1) to make sure this was necessary. The request from the Personnel Committee will return to the next agenda of the Executive Committee.

1. Memo dated November 10, 2014, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the Personnel Committee, to Chair Ayotte re: APM 321, APM 358, and APM 357.

The memo requested that since APM 321 and 358 are just reports, they should be removed from the APM, though the Personnel Committee was not sure where to keep them. APM 357 required the Center for Education, Teaching, and Learning (CETL) to be overseen by the Senate Subcommittee on Faculty Development, which is under the Personnel Committee. CETL never consulted with the subcommittee, and the subcommittee never oversaw CETL, and the subcommittee has not met since 2008. CETL has been replaced by CSALT. The Personnel Committee also just received a request from former Academic Senate Chair Williams requesting that Personnel abolish the subcommittee. Committee Chair Tsukimura wishes to discuss all of this with the Executive Committee and will be invited to the committee’s meeting on November 24, 2014.

1. Faculty nominees for the search for AVP for Enrollment Services and for Director of Financial Aid. Nominees will be selected in executive session.
2. Executive Session to consider search committee nominations

Entered executive session at 5:21pm

Returned from executive session at 5:27pm

MSC to appoint Shane Moreman (Communications) and Tamas Forgacs (Mathematics) to the AVP for Enrollment Services search committee, and Bernadette Muscat (Criminology) to the search committee for the Director of Financial Aid.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28pm

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on November 24, 2014.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate