THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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January 28, 2019

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Bradley Hart (Vice Chair), Susan Schlievert (State-wide), Rebecca Raya Fernandez (At-large), Jennifer Miele (At-large), Melanie Ram (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Robert Harper (Provost)

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Demi Wack (ASI; Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Colin Stewart, Lisa Kao, Brian Tsukimura, Marsha Baum (Faculty Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 3:01 pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2018

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1. Communications and announcements
   1. Free Speech Area  
        
      Item 4 from the agenda was moved into this section and Colin Stewart and Lisa Kao were recognized. A question had been raised at the last meeting regarding the speaker’s platform in the Free Speech Area. Specifically, at a recent Take Back the Night event, chairs were not used. AVP Stewart clarified that chairs were not permitted in this case because of campus policy. Lisa Kao added that the policy is simply that a fire lane must be kept clear and unobstructed under the state fire code.  
        
      Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked why this policy is suddenly being applied to this particular space after many years of chairs being used. Lisa Kao stated that she understood the senator’s frustration, but the area has probably been a fire lane for years.

Senator Kensinger replied that event organizers in the past had been given the choice of using chairs or tables, and that this year was the first time chairs were not permitted in the speaker’s area. Lisa Kao stated that the state fire marshal has recently been more involved in campus affairs than previously, and that compliance enforcement may be increasing. Senator Kensinger suggested that an appeals process might be one option to allow groups to review such cases. Lisa Kao stated that her office would examine the history of the area and related policies. Senator Kensinger replied that her primary concern was why the policy had suddenly changed, and thanked the guests for the information they had provided.

* 1. Susan Schlievert (State-wide)  
       
     Senator Schlievert stated that the Tenets of Shared Governance has been passed with an amendment to be reviewed at least every five years. The Senator also conveyed that the Principles of Community recently introduced by the campus had been discussed using some erroneous information. The Senator officially sent a reply correcting the information.   
       
     Senator Kensinger asked for clarification regarding the Principles of Community. Senator Schlievert stated that a statewide committee had reported erroneous information about the recent campus announcement.
  2. Chair Holyoke  
       
     Chair Holyoke stated that the campus communication office had asked to contribute to social media guidelines for the campus. As a result, Chair Holyoke suggested that the senate not be asked to endorse such guidelines as they would not be developed by faculty exclusively. Senator Kensinger asked what the role of the Senate would be in those guidelines. Chair Holyoke stated that the guidelines would not be actual policy, and that another set of guidelines is under development by the Personnel Committee. Brian Tsukimura (Personnel Committee) stated that the policy his committee is working on would be directed at faculty, but other groups on the campus could decide to adopt them or not. Senator Kensinger asked whether the senate could decide to vote against proposed guidelines. Chair Holyoke stated that could be an option, or the senate could pass a resolution. Senator Kensinger stated that she is unsure whether such a policy is needed, and therefore she is unsure who should be driving the process. Chair Tsumikura stated that some of the policy might be designed to simply education about how social media works.

Vice Chair Hart stated that another aspect of the discussion might involve official university social media accounts and how they are managed. Senator Kensinger suggested that any set of guidelines might be framed as helpful to faculty, rather than restrictive. Chair Holyoke suggested that the Personnel Committee meet with University Communication to open those discussions.   
  
Chair Holyoke conveyed to the committee that he had observed lecturers discussing bullying by senior tenured faculty. Chair Holyoke suggested that one solution might be creating an ex-officio lecturer seat on the Senate.

Senator Kensinger spoke in favor of the proposal to give lecturers a voice in the Senate and also noted that CFA has a lecturer representative. Vice Chair Hart asked whether there are any contractual issues with asking lecturers to engage in service. AVP Baum stated that she would have to examine how WTUs could be assigned or funded for such a situation. Chair Holyoke stated that he would explore what other campuses are doing. Chair Holyoke also stated that the idea of adding a senator to represent staff had also been proposed.

* 1. Action Items
     1. Memo dated December 12, 2018, from Marilyn Wilson, Chair University Graduate Committee, to the Academic Senate Executive Committee re: Degree Change for Mathematics Graduate Program. Memo has been received.  
          
        The committee decided to invite Marilyn Wilson, the chair of the Mathematics department and Jim Marshall, the Dean of Graduate Studies.
     2. Email dated December 20, 2018, from Kathleen Scott, Director of Organizational Excellence and Administrative Operations, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Administrative Policy Senate Consultation. Email has been received.  
          
        Chair Holyoke explained that this item was related to the recent attempt to create an emeritus administrative status. The item was moved to the agenda of the next meeting.
     3. Memo dated December 12, 2018, from Marianne Jackson, Chair Student Affairs Committee to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Syllabus Template. Memo has been received.

Chair Holyoke stated that this item relates to revisions of the campus syllabus template. Marianne Jackson will be invited to discuss the item.

* + 1. Memo dated January 23, 2019, from Jim Schmidtke, Chair University Budget Committee to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Bachelor of Music Program Elevation. Memo has been received.

The Budget Committee has rejected this item on a budgetary basis. Chair Holyoke suggested he discuss the situation with the Budget Committee chair, the dean of Arts & Humanities and the chair of the Music Department. Chair Kensinger suggested that the Chair of the Budget Committee, and past chairs of the committee, be spoken to first to determine how the committee reached its decision. Senator Ram suggested that the Music Department should also be given an opportunity to respond.

* + 1. Memo dated January 23, 2019, from Jim Schmidtke, Chair University Budget Committee to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty Workload Task Force Report. Memo has been received.  
         
       This item was sent by the University Budget Committee and states that the recommendations in this report cannot be funded. Senator Kensinger suggested that this item be reported to the senate. The committee agreed and Chair Holyoke will announce the findings at the next Senate meeting.
    2. Memo dated January 16, 2019, from Robert Harper, Interim Provost to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Provost's Awards Committee 2018-2019. Memo has been received.  
         
       This item was sent to the executive session of the next meeting.

1. APM 332 Policy on Range Elevation for Temporary Faculty. Personnel Committee. Second Reading.   
     
   Chair Tsukimura (Personnel) was recognized to introduce the item. This proposal would better spell out the qualifications for lecturer range elevation without excluding the Library. The proposal would also align those expectations with the Collective Bargaining Agreement and draw out criteria for non-instructional faculty to be considered for elevation.

Senator Kensinger asked whether this policy would in fact be adding workload for faculty above the expectations of their jobs to obtain higher compensation. Chair Tsukimura (Personnel) stated that all the suggestions in the policy were derived from the previous policy, but previously range elevation was derived merely from keeping an updated syllabus. Senator Kensinger added that those requirements are still above and beyond the normal expectations of a lecturer’s job. Chair Tsukimura stated that his committee could reexamine the document to clarify the exact criteria used to evaluate lecturers for range elevation. Senator Ram suggested that perhaps the addendum list could serve as a comprehensive set of examples for each section laying out criteria for range elevation.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Bradley Hart Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate