THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-15)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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May 3, 2021

Members excused: N. Akhavan, A. Polegato, J. Roos

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, M. Calahorra-Jimenez, S. Fulop, L. Herrera, B. Mason, B. Taylor

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 4/26/2021

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements:

Interim President Jiménez-Sandoval:

Dr. Bryant reported as chair of the search committee that the search for Director of Governmental Relations will have results within the next week.

Interim Provost Fu told the senate that all Dean’s searches are now in completion and that announcements are forthcoming.

ASI President Zuñiga will graduate and thanked the Senate for its support of her and the students she represented.

Mr. Qutob (ASVP ASI) expressed concern about a possible vaccination mandate that is overbroad; the cases cited by Dr. Boone do not hold, and claimed a lack of consultation with students who are directly impacted. ASI Senator Smith (recognized by ASI President Zuñiga) offered full support of Mr. Qutob, and stated that many students will not get the vaccine if it is not FDA approved, and voiced his opposition to such a mandate.

Dr. Dangi gave an update on the Climate Action Task Force for which he serves as chair. He showed some Powerpoint slides about the recent work of the task force and emphasized that the task force is recruiting student interns.

1. New Business

none

1. Budget Presentation – Vice President Adishian-Astone.

(Slides were sent to all Senators)

Chair Holyoke expressed concern about tenure density, which has stayed at 55% for years, and asked what it will take to move that needle. The President replied that we need to know how many will retire, and how many we can hire without impacting our budget, so we must have a strategic plan, and must replace with positons in new areas that will make us progressive. Provost Fu said that we will incrementally increase TT faculty in the following year, but over-target enrollment often mandates immediate hiring of temporary faculty. So against this need we must have a strategic plan in place next year.

Senator Maldonado inquired about the Level A distributions, and how risk management might impact this budget this year. VP Astone replied that we have moved to treating this like a higher level expenditure university wide, so it does not play the same role in Level A.

Senator Maldonado also requested to see the benefits cost distributed over the administrators, staff, and faculty etc. VP Astone replied that future reports can show this with and without this breakdown, and that she will provide this to the Senate.

Senator DeJordy expressed his surprise that 55% of our TT were hired after 2014, and asked if this was indeed correct that our TT faculty are so young. He also asked if we see increases in faculty to programs and are they associated with higher interest from majors. The President said we do not have these numbers, but there could be some value in such analysis and that indeed a big chunk of our faculty were hired after 2014.

Senator Walter posed a question concerning the use of GI2025 funds toward benefits, and asked for a breakdown. The President described the Governor’s Pact, and how benefits are paid differently due to this. The President then asked VP Astone how much are benefits in ratio to our salaries. She replied that these are about 44% of salary. Senator Walter expressed her concern that GI 2025 funds should be spent solely on proven teaching strategies.

Senator Karr expressed his concern about tenure density for his own department which is seeing a large flux of retirement, and worried that these retirements might impact our budget. VP Astone explained that retirement benefits are paid from the State and not from our campus budget.

Senator Dyer expressed concern that consistently through the years the budget allocates on average $20 million per year to athletics, but only $110 thousand per year to support Programs for Children (our main support for student, staff, and faculty parents). She made the case that the way we spend our money demonstrates what our values are as a University and community. The pandemic has shown us the immense importance of childcare; if we are to support families and parents, she asks that the Senate and University administrators consider and reflect on whether our budget allocations truly reflect what we value. The President responded that we have the most children’s’ centers of any CSU (three he believes) but he knows it’s not enough (waiting lists are too long etc.) but he also stated that athletics is, in his words, a total equalizer, and brings us recruitment and community involvement, and he made a case that a strong athletics program is an asset.

1. Resolution Regarding Hazardous Work and Study Environment. Second Reading.

Friendly amendments accepted by all.

Senator Ram shared that she hopes ASI will make their own statement on this important matter.

Vote to approve:

MSC

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:40p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be May 3, 2021.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate