THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-06)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5200 N. Barton Ave ML 34

Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate

(559) 278-2743

November 22, 2021

Members excused: T. Garcia, R. Maldonado, J. Wakabayashi

Members absent: G. Brar, L. Brillante, J. Crane, D. Jackson, J. Karr, B. Mason, B. Munoz, B. Taylor

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

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11/08/21.

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements.

**Chair Hall** received a PWP from VP Adishian-Astone with new numbers regarding vaccination, testing and positive COVID-19 cases. The slides will be shared on the Academic Senate website.

Communications from Provost Fu:

Provost Fu provided updates about ongoing searches. Four candidates for the Chief Information Officer will be coming on campus. A final decision in this search will be made soon by the President.

Two Dean searches are still ongoing. Four candidates were on campus for the Dean for COSS search and a decision will be made by the end of fall, following reference checks etc. Two of the three finalists for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies search have already been on campus for interviews and a final candidate will be on campus for interviews after Thanksgiving. We will be able to close this search by the end of fall.

The appointment of the interim Dean for Research and Graduate Studies has been extended to avoid loss of benefit and the search for a permanent Dean has been postponed to fall 2022.

The searches for a permanent Provost and a search for a permanent VP for Student Affairs will be launched soon.

As of last Friday, the number of freshmen applications was up two percent compared to the same time last year. Applications are not closed and we do not have the final numbers yet.

*Questions for the Provost:*

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know what the rationale is behind limiting the time frame in which campus members get access to information on candidates in the various searches and only making their CVs available on the morning of the interviews on campus.

**Provost Fu** explained that this was prompted by the applicants, many of whom are from within the CSU and wanted to protect confidentiality and privacy. Their identity could easily transfer back to their current employer. This procedure has been adopted for all MPP searches. Candidates’ CVs and feedback surveys are open for one week or ten days, from the day of the interview, rather than available days before the interview.

**Senator Moreman** responded that we are a public institution and searches should be as public as possible. Information on candidates is now harder to get for faculty who wish to provide feedback. He invited the Provost to reconsider this policy.

**Provost Fu** will take this back to HR and the search committees, and clarified that this policy did not come from Academic Affairs.

**Chair Hall** referred to the high stakes in such searches and their impact on our campus, and thanked the faculty that are serving on these search committees.

**Senator DeJordy** asked for updates regarding the American Association of State Colleges and Universities transformation accelerator program discussed during the last Academic Senate meeting.

**Provost Fu** explained that, in the context of this program, a group of experts will be helping us to remove institutional barriers to student success. We are currently under a tight deadline to conduct surveys on our campus by Dec 24. A taskforce is working on a long survey, and a shorter survey has already been sent to selected colleagues to respond to. The AASCU team will then analyze the survey data.

1. Installation of Senator.

Welcoming Kimberly Coy (Literacy, Early, Bilingual and Special Education)

1. New Business.

**Senator Ram** moves to add APM 337 Faculty Workload policy to the agenda.

Seconded by **senator Holyoke.**

**Senator Ram** spoke to the motion. She explained that at the last Council of Chairs meeting, a fellow Chair raised the issue of workload and insufficient assigned time for research-active faculty. A university-wide Provost Faculty Workload Task Force in 2011 already recommended changes on this. With a resolution by John Karr in 2017, our Senate created another workload task force and completed another detailed workload study with recommendations in 2018, which was sent to the Personnel Committee for review. Other CSUs, including SFSU and SDSU, have already found a way to address this, and many others (incl. Fullerton and SJSU) have adopted resolutions expressing concerns regarding faculty workload. Our APM 337 is word for word a Chancellor’s Office mandate from over 45 years ago that has never been updated. Given that it does not even mention research, it is also not entirely clear if it is in line with the CBA. The proposed amendment aims to establish a workload policy that reflects our actual, significantly increased workload since 1975 in the areas of teaching, service, and research, and to support faculty research as well as teaching, which supports the university’s reputation and grant funding, student success, and faculty retention.

**Senator Holyoke** drafted a proposed amendment for the Senate’s discussion.

**Senator Holyoke** added that several senators were on a taskforce about workload in 2018, that made recommendations on research time to the Personnel Committee. This might have been sidelined by COVID-19 but should not be forgotten.

**Senator Ram** prefers the proposed resolution to a track system. It is important for everyone to remain focused on teaching and contribute to service, but should be given the time to also be engaged in research.

Motion to add APM 337 and proposed amendments to the agenda passed.

1. APM 676 – Policy on Review and Approval of International Agreements. Second reading.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) reminded the senate that changes concern procedural modifications to put us in line with EO1080.

No more questions.

The amended policy was called to a vote and passed.

1. Resolution in support of stable budgetary support for Library Collections. Second reading.

**Senator Janetvilay** invited Dolly Lopez to the floor.

**Lopez** explained that due to increasing costs for subscriptions and continuing reductions, the library proposed a resolution for stable budgetary support.

**Senator Dyer** expressed support for a stable budget for the library. Deans are responsible for budgets and they work with the Provost; the Academic Senate does not usually weigh in on budgets. Academic Affairs has been underfunded for years and the senate has spoken up about this. It is not entirely clear why the underfunding of the library is considered separately.

**Lopez** responded that reductions to the library budget have been dramatic. This led to cancelations that are affecting faculty. Also, compared to other CSU campuses, our purchases are far lower.

**Senator Lent** also supports stable funding for the library. He wanted to know what efforts have been made as a system to battle the increase of subscription fees, for instance negotiating more favorable rates systemwide.

**Lopez** confirmed that the systemwide collections committee has done a lot to battle increased costs, but issues remain, for instance for streaming media, which was moved to an individual request system because it became too expensive.

**Parliamentarian Botwin** reminded the senate that a resolution is not policy, but is meant to express our values and send a message.

**Senator Holyoke** referred to issues with academic publishers exploiting libraries. He also highlighted that this is not a Level B budget problem, but a Level A budget problem. If money was not siphoned out of Academic Affairs to other divisions, we would not be having this problem now. He strongly supports this resolution. A strong library is an indicator of a strong division of Academic Affairs.

**Senator DeJordy** agreed and highlighted that the library affects all colleges. He wanted to know whether the budgetary challenges are specific to certain collections or do they affect the entire library?

**Lopez** stated that this resolution is about the collections budget, which affects students and faculty.

**Senator DeJordy** added that we need to protect collections and account for long term contractual requirements.

**Senator Ram** wanted to know whether the interlibrary loan system helps to reduce costs, which could help not having to maintain certain collections, or do we pay to get resources from other CSU campuses?

**Lopez** responded that this is part of the library budget considerations and analysis.

**Senator Ayotte** added that millions of dollars have been allocated out of the tuition reserves to supplement the athletics budget, and while athletics is important and receives little stateside support, we are now looking at a 25 percent reduction to the library collection, and that is not a flattering indication of the values we uphold.

**Senator Jenkins** stated that the library is critically important. He has never heard an accreditation review board ask about resources for athletics, but they always ask about resources for the library.

**Senator Janetvilay** mentioned that different strategies have been put in place to work within the reduced budget. Collections were examined and unnecessary collections were eliminated, before getting to this resolution.

**Lopez** added that faculty need the let the library know what they need, regardless of whether this resolution passes.

**Senator Lent** made a motion to vote in support of the resolution.

The resolution passed with tremendous support.

1. APM 233 Policy on Repeating Classes.

First reading.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) explained that this came to AP&P from the Graduate Committee. The changes concern a clarification on whether graduate students are allowed to repeat undergraduate courses. Proposed change in this regard:

‘Students pursuing graduate degrees may repeat undergraduate and graduate level courses with the permission from their graduate coordinator, but grade substitution is not allowed.’

This brings the policy in line with practice.

**Chair Hall** added that this is a minor but important adjustment.

**Senator Moreman** suggested that the sections following the paragraph on graduate students seem to pertain only to undergraduate students, not to graduate students, and that the section on graduate students could move to the end of the document.

**Chair Hall** recognizes Laura Yager (University Registrar).

**Yager** (University Registrar) confirmed that Senator Moreman’s observation is correct.

**Senator Moreman** made an amendment to move the section on graduate students to the end of the policy.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) accepted it as a friendly amendment.

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know whether in addition to permission from the graduate coordinator, permission should also be sought from the department Chair for a graduate student to repeat an undergraduate course.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) responded that Chairs tend to go along with the graduate coordinator, hence the Chair was taken out to reduce the bureaucracy.

**Senator DeJordy** mentioned that there is no graduate coordinator in his college. He wanted to know where that responsibility would fall in that case.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) responded that it would then be the responsibility of the Dean.

**Senator Ayotte** offered some food for thought: in practice department Chairs may agree with the graduate coordinator, but there is no formal documentation that is solely executed by graduate coordinators. He encourages department Chairs to take this into consideration and potentially prepare an amendment to the proposed changes to APM 233 by the next senate meeting.

**Senator Lent** agrees with the need to include department Chairs, since undergraduate classes could be impacted and graduate students should not take seats from undergraduate students who need a course to graduate.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) agrees.

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

**Clement** (Chair Undergraduate Curriculum Committee) supports the need to include department Chairs in addition to graduate coordinators, and to keep the language consistent between graduate and undergraduate level sections.

This is a first reading item and will return to the agenda of the Academic Senate.

1. APM 241 Policy on Course Syllabi and Grading.

First reading.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) explained the following proposed changes:

* AP&P wanted to bring the course syllabus template and APM 241 together to align them. Section III was modified and points were added.
* A new paragraph was added at the bottom of the policy to clarify who manages the course syllabus template. The course syllabus template is not policy, but is execution of the APM. It has always been murky who had authority over the template and who could add things to it. This is remedied now by proposing to add a paragraph that clarifies that the Dean of Undergraduate Studies manages the template.
* Other updates were added as well, *e.g.* Footnote 1 regarding APM 237 and APM 624 that both talk about accessibility. AP&P is now assessing whether APM 237 and APM 624 need to be merged.

**Chair Hall** added that the course syllabus is a contract with students, hence this is an important policy.

**Senator Ram** agrees with the proposed changes, but suggested to replace the proposed change regarding hybrid classes in III-C, ‘and for hybrid classes, expectations for in-person and remote attendance’, with ‘and for hybrid classes, dates for in-person and remote attendance’. She also suggested to move this proposed and amended change to III-F, because it is about attendance and F concerns the course calendar.

**Chair Hall** explained that the ASI President had requested to add a requirement for instructors to include information about meeting dates for hybrid classes in their syllabus, so that was indeed the intent.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) took it as friendly amendment.

This is a first reading item and will return to the agenda of the Academic Senate.

**Senator Moreman** wanted to know what the most efficient way is to give feedback to AP&P about policy changes presented to the senate.

**Mullooly** (Chair AP&P) is happy to receive feedback by email.

**Chair Hall** added that senators are encouraged to write-up proposed amendments and to send them to the senate Chair and senate Vice Chair prior to senate discussion.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be December 6, 2021, via Zoom video conferencing.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate