THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Dec 2, 2019

Members excused: J. Biggane, M. Botwin, F. Chen, F. Parra, R. Raya-Fernandez, S. Schlievert, A.M. Tawfik

Members absent: P. Adams, T. Botts, D. Cady, J. Crane, M. Ellis, K. McBee, J. Roos, B. Taylor

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:05 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11/25/19

MSC approving the amended Minutes of 11/25/19

1. Communications and Announcements

President Castro: Rhodes and Marshall scholarships- Dr. Castro mentioned that Fresno State students made it to the final rounds of selection this year, and reminded faculty that Fresno State students are competitive for these prestigious scholarships (we have won some in the past), and that we should remember to counsel our achieving students to apply.

He also gave a reminder that the Chancellor Selection committee will be here on campus to solicit faculty feedback.

Finally Dr. Castro have some brief remarks concerning the Governor and the Central Valley: a general concern that students are not getting adequate access here, and concepts to address this issue are evolving, such as looking at our education ecosystem for campuses that are underutilized, and where Fresno State is over-utilized. The concepts avoid cutting corners or diluting rigor, but instead ask “how can we work together to potentially share facilities?” and gave a couple examples citing Reedley College and the UC Merced campus.

Sen. Sullivan: Reminded Senate body about upcoming HIV testing and awareness campaign including workshops and other events.

1. New Business.

None

1. APM 217 - Multicultural/International Policy. Academic Policy and Planning.

Second reading: Dr. Fu present for discussion.

Sen. Sullivan expressed concerns about Section D of the policy in terms of what would happened if departments would offer an MI course just to take advantage of potential double counting. How many new courses have been offered or will be offered to this end?

Dr. Fu responded that MI course requires particular expertise. The MI subcommittee would determine if faculty have the appropriate expertise. So it is unlikely in his opinion that an MI course would be developed for this reason.

Sen. Sullivan followed up by asking what fraction of students get to use any potential double counting. Dr. Fu responded with the 90%+ of MI course are offered from two colleges, but he would follow up on this and get info from OIE.

MSC

Policy is adopted.

1. Music Department Program Change. Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee.

Dr. Darling (chair of music): Reading from a prepared statement (see senate documents for complete text). Highlights include that the Bachelor of Music (BM) is more rigorous than BA degree and that 12-13 CSUs offer the BM and this change will bring Fresno up to these standards. Wish to elevate our program for students here in the valley, so that they do not have to leave the valley to obtain this more rigorous and prestigious degree. Music as a liberal art (i.e. the BA degree) we will keep, but our accreditation body continues the push for a BM degree. The main expense comes from the mandatory 1 on 1 instruction in studio, a factor of 2 increase. Our Dean is in full support.

Sen Dangi shared a concern with respect to the on time graduation initiative- how would 131 units impact this rate and what is the real difference between a BA and BM degree for job prospects? What is the length of graduation- 4 year rate? Chair Darling: our proposal does have benchmarks in place. Music Department Rep: gave some examples of recent degree recipients naming a dozen or so graduates, and where they are now. Also stated that increased studio time will get majors out earlier.

Sen. Bryant asked about the increase in cost over time mentioned in the proposal, specifically, what is driving it?

Chair Darling: as students come in will choose BM over BA, estimate it will involve moving options to full BM degrees. As mentioned the extra studio time will move the skill level faster and that half hour lessons are not sufficient, and that longer lessons may attract talented students.

Sen. Ram requested a clarification concerning how the program will allow more studio time, but that there seems to be no plan for additional TT faculty. Chair Darling responded that the current part time lectures will be further utilized in the 1 on 1 instruction, but only bring most to ½ time, keeping costs lower and no need for additional TT faculty.

Mr. Hernandez: expressed a concern with the term “higher quality student” used to describe the potential of the new BM degree. “What is a higher quality student?” and would that leave valley students out since many do not have adequate access at the High school level. Chair Darling: expressed a goal is indeed to keep valley students. A comment from the senate floor offered that the concept of a higher quality student really expressed the gauge of the mentorship received by the student. Mr. Hernandez offered that what we mean is higher quality education, not higher quality students. Parties agreed.

Sen. Lewis expressed concern with removing some GE requirements, will the new GE requirements filled by music be at the expense of broader GE? Chair Darling spoke to her concern and pointed out the change is specific to taking 175 out, and replacing with an MI course, Music of America, a new course that fills a hole in the former curriculum. In this case the lower division music GE exempt, but upper division GE is new.

Sen. Alexandrou worried that with 225 students, how will adding new degrees that may only have 25 majors each impact enrollment? Dean Chapman pointed out that although we have many music majors there is major overlap in curriculum. She went on to say that this proposal honors our students, and our carefully tracked graduation rates show we are out performing most majors.

Sen. Miele asked about where the funding will come from and why not require a new review from the budget committee. Dean Chapman described a budget of 22M, and stated that 120k is not hard to find.

Discussion closed to adjourn.

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be Monday, Feb 3, 2020.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate