THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-11)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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March 20, 2023

Members excused: E. Mason, S. Moreman, J. Randles, P. Turnbull, O. Vega

Members absent: N. Akhavan, L. Brillante, B. DerMugrdechian, K. Fobear, T. Huerta, M. Jackson, L. Jakobs, A. Mortimer, G. Newell, B. Noel Smith, B. Taylor

In-person attendance: 21 Zoom attendance: 28

The Academic Senate was called to order by **Chair Hall** at 4:01 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

**Senator Bryant***: Motion to approve agenda*

*Motion seconded*

*Vote on the amended agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/13/23.

**Senator Dyer***: Motion to approve the amended minutes*

*Motion seconded*

*Vote on the amended minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Chair Hall

**Chair Hall:** There are only two working sessions left on 4/10 and 4/24. The 5/1 Senate meeting will be the budget presentation.

**Senator Schleivert:** CSU-wide Senate announcements: Talked about ChatGPT. Turnitin is looking at what they can do. Canvas will be used system-wide. Arizona State has an online presence in California and has billboards up in high traffic areas in L.A., possibly elsewhere. Worry over students being poached. CSU looking into increasing online options. Discussed community colleges offering Bachelor’s degrees, there are 15 now. There will be a ‘culture of care’ results presentation at the Board to give outcome of salary study. CSU is looking into sustainable funding. There’s a recommendation to require a 4th year of math class.

1. New Business. - None
2. APM 322 – Policy on Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness.

**Senator Dyer:** Speaking as chair of the subcommittee. We have a new form of delivery and instrument. Policy for student ratings needed to be updated. Worked with Personnel committee to create these changes. Item nine – there are now different guidelines for in-person vs. online vs. asynchronous. Item 8 – Response rates have gone down and this is addressed in the new policy. Students have online survey fatigue. So this is a strategy for response rates to reduce the number of surveys so courses need to be evaluated 6 times for each mode of delivery. Item 3 – System is opt-out currently not including supervision classes. Item 5 – Department chair can request additional student ratings.

**Senator Maldonado:** Those 6 times, are they separate semesters or per course? Semesters might be better.

**Senator Yang:** How do you count to 6? What if a faculty never gets to 6?

**Senator Dyer:** It could take years.

**Interim AVP Jim Schmidtke:** Would probationary faculty be exempt because the last two years wouldn’t be reviewed. Going up for tenure without recent student evaluations may be a problem.

**Senator Hernandez:** Lecturers sometimes have 5 sections every semester but need student evaluations for 3-year reviews. There should be 2 per year minimum student evaluations of lecturers.

**Senator Miele:** What happens if people give up after 6? How will they be monitored?

**Senator Dyer:** There is no solution for this. But it’s not likely to happen.

**Senator Pinzon-Perez:** There are variations with student evaluations in smaller enrollment vs large enrollment courses since one negative comment can have a major impact on the mean score in small enrollment courses. Also, there is a need to discuss how mega-courses (e.g. enrollments of 150 students) are going to be evaluated (evaluation of one course or evaluation of two courses since they are equivalent to two courses).

**Senator Dyer:** We are working on how to guide committees with dealing with comments.

**Senator Wise:** Who is keeping track of this?

**Senator Dyer:** Academic Senate Office. Currently that’s myself and two CFE tech.

**Senator Wise:** Will we get notifications about who needs to be evaluated and is this by course or by instructor?

**Senator Dyer:** Course by instructor. The office gets notifications when someone opts out when they shouldn’t.

**Senator Shatz:** Why 6? Seems to increase the number of evals for new faculty. Reduces flexibility and creates an imbalance to over-evaluate junior faculty.

**Senator Dyer:** Probationary aren’t always evaluated for every class but most departments do this. 94% of instructors use student ratings to improve teaching but meaning goes down over time. Most courses don’t go down to below 3.5.

**Senator Bryant:** Departments have to change policy about incentives and procuring response rates – maybe this is a university-wide thing to do.

**Senator Dyer:** This is department specific because some departments have different needs with small vs large vs. GE. Current policy says no incentive by way of saying only pencils brought. But incentives are being used. So the committee discussed incentives and decided to leave it open. So it’s not forbidden. University incentives have been discussed like priority registration but that doesn’t mean anything anymore. Grades can’t be released to only students who complete their ratings.

**Senator Lent:** 1. B. e. Argues for university standard.

**Senator Perez:** Students will be angry whether incentives are allowed or not.

**Senator Bryant:** I would like to recognize Melanie Ram.

**Dr. Ram:** Independent study and theses – will they need to opt out?

**Senator Dyer:** No, system can do that and does for any class under 3 students. Let me know if it doesn’t automatically opt out.

**Senator Crowell:** There should be a higher threshold. 3-10 can opt in.

**Senator Dyer:** Send the verbiage and it will be ready to put in next meeting.

**Senator Jenkins:** CBA calles these SCE (student course evaluations), policy uses SRI (student ratings of instruction). Should these match? CBA has things to say about the frequency of evaluations.

**Senator Dyer:** Student opinions about teaching in the CBA. Students don’t have expertise to evaluate but they can report. Peers and supervisors can evaluate. This policy is in compliance with CBA.

**Senator Maldonado:** Speaks in favor of university standard for these choices about incentives.

**Senator Wise:** There needs to be a mechanism for enforcement for seeing if incentives are being offered if so.

**Senator Dyer:** Currently there is no one checking on this and creating a rule would mean someone should check on it.

**Senator Bryant:** Clarify III. D. 1. f. Subsequent semester and where does it go? Is there research on self-reflections? Are they equal to student ratings?

**Senator Dyer:** What we don’t want is a person who doesn’t get response rates to be penalized. However, those who actively try to get few responses – they should be held accountable.

**Chair Hall:** Let’s consider this a first read.

1. APM 301 – Policy and Procedures on the Appointment of Tenure-Track Faculty including the Award of Service Credit.

**Interim AVP Jim Schmidtke:** These changes are procedural to address the electronic format and how to do background checks. Adds that the search committee to be diverse.

**Chair Hall:** Let’s consider this a first read.

1. APM 131 – Procedures for Votes of Confidence.

**Chair Hall:** This was a mistake and wasn’t ready to come to the full academic senate yet.

1. APM 218 – New Policy on Credit for Prior Learning Assessment.

**Senator Stillmaker:** Executive order to account for prior learning, assessments. This was created in response to that. Gives credit for military and work experience.

**Senator Fulop:** Programs that are state accredited? Example teachers from other states have to go back to school to get accredited. So will this account for something like that?

**Senator Stillmaker:** They can get credits but not the actual certification.

**Senator Jenkins:** Fresno State used in document. Should probably be university to be uniform across documents.

**Chair Hall:** Let’s consider this a first read.

*The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15p.m.*

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on April 10, 2023.

Submitted by Approved by

Andrea Roach Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate