THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-10)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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November 13, 2023

Members excused: H. Archambault, N. Ko, S. Schlievert, F. Van Hoven, O. Vega

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, H. Dong, M. Hernandez, R. Klepper, B. Munoz, J. Randles, S. Rodriguez, R. Sias, K. Smith

In-person attendance: 22 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.

*Motion to approve agenda*

*Second*

*Vote on motion to approve agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes 11/06/23.

*Motion to approve minutes*

*Second*

*Vote to approve minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval

The president presented slides on recent activities and updates.

*Questions for President Jiménez-Sandoval:*

**Senator Holyoke**: Back on measure E. How is the citizens' oversight constituted?

**President**: One member representing each county supervisor, one member from CSU, and one member from Fresno State.

**Senator Holyoke**: What powers does the oversight committee have?

**President**: They have the power to say yay or nay. They represent the county's people. But we have authority.

**Senator Stillmaker**: A follow-up on measure E. So you said the Board of Trustees has endorsed it? Has there been a change in us, state employees, being able to support it?

**President**: They can endorse it. They endorsed the measure for San Diego State.

**ASI President Carillo**: Are there any plans to add student representation?

**President**: Yes, there is.

**Senator Kensinger**: Question about reorganization under new AVP. Was there oversight from the Senate on the reorganization proposal?

**President**: Vice President Astone met with EC, Chair Hall?

**Chair Hall**: Yes, she did meet with the EC and said they were following the Chancellor’s office. And faculty were invited to serve on the AVP search committee. EC was comfortable with what was shared with us. Appropriate consultation happened.

**Senator Kensinger**: Will this be titled civil rights? Will there be a new AVP for Title IX and a separate position?

**President**: The new position that will oversee both Title IX and DHR. It is a neutral position.

**Chair Hall**: Our internal report informed the process as well as Cozen O’Connor report.

Communications from Senator Loretta Kensinger:

The Chancellor's Office put a freeze on special majors. I want to check if I’m right on that. I want to express that I am very concerned that we haven’t gotten any justifications for the freeze. Overreach from part of the Chancellor. Seriously impacts areas on campus.

**Provost Fu**: I can provide some information. This is a call from CO, special majors don’t have capstones or program reviews, so a call was made to improve special majors. This is so we can formalize special majors. Special majors currently are not what they were intended. Special majors were designed to be implemented at the beginning of a student’s career, not at the end. The special major will be renamed Interdisciplinary Studies. At this moment we don’t have a finalized plan.

**Senator Kesinger**: I have some concerns, special majors are APM. Does that mean it is going to come to the Senate?

**Provost Fu**: Special majors vary so much that they don’t have default things like program reviews, annual assessments, capstones, etc.

**Senator Kensinger**: Special majors were not intended to compete with departments/programs, they were specially designed to accommodate majors that do not exist on campus. Department chairs have to sign off on special majors. Students who want to specialize have to go through an intensive process with the departments involved. We don’t want to set up a major that will compete with current departments/programs.

**Provost Fu**: This is a good opportunity to look at all of this. How to better integrate into our current review assessment and even FTS offering and supplementing all positions we can consider. We need to look at how it benefits student learning, accreditation, and program review. We will come back to the Senate to ask for more input.

**Chair Hall**: Became aware of this, let AP&P know. Special majors are currently on the EC agenda as well.

1. New Business

*None*

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

**Chair Hall**: Concerns that were raised last meeting were if students could challenge any course. Discussion to keep the strikeout continues.

*Vote on motion to retain stricken language in Section IV.B of APM 218: approved*

**Chair Hall**: Continues the discussion on section C. Should we accept this strikeout by acclamation?

**Senator Kesinger**: Clarification on what the vote by acclamation would accomplish.

**Senator Walsh**: Looking at the language it is the same intent as Section B. Students cannot request for prior learning. Goes back to the issue of prerequisites. If they earned credit for a course, they can’t go back and earn extra credits for prerequisites, but instead, they earn the credits for that course and they move forward, rather than bundling units. This would be related to if a student brings their resume or a statement from their previous boss related to some past work experience like some experience with chemicals at a previous job, and then claims that they know enough about chemistry. This way, is not an exam, they would bring whatever the department asks for, but they would not be able to lump credits for the prerequisites.

**Senator Holyoke**: Reject unanimous consent. and move to remove the strikeout.

*Motion to retain the stricken language of Section IV.C of APM 218*

*Second*

*Discussion on the motion to retain stricken language of Section IV.C of APM 218:*

**Senator Kensinger**: Is this saying that students cannot request PLA for a prerequisite when they are getting PLA for an advanced course that has a prerequisite?

**Senator Walsh**: It is to eliminate certain loopholes. if they have already earned the credit, they cannot go backward and lump in credits. We don’t want to give away credits.

**Senator Kensinger**: In favor of retaining the language in Section IV.C

*Vote on motion to retain the stricken language of Section IV.C of APM 218: approved*

**Senator Ram**: Question on the attempt to assess. Is that clear to everyone? What is an attempt to assess?

**Senator Walsh**: It is so that students can't go back and say they want to try again and again. It addresses generic language. We got that language from an area of the EO that was talking about everything. You’ll see it in the next section. Perhaps for this one, it should say “or for which a prior challenge exam has been unsuccessful.”

**Senator Ram**: Even if you are taking the exam, you might want to keep it in both so that they can’t have a prior PLA or challenge exam for either

**Senator Walsh**: There is a reason why we left it that way. We don't want to create anything that allows odd loopholes. This is all new for us.

**Senator Ram:** A friendly amendment makes the same language on both sections that says “prior challenge exam or prior learning assessment.”

*Friendly amendment accepted*

**Chair Hall**: The entire document is back for conversation.

**Senator Walsh**: As a group we were discussing the names of the sections, we can now have more explicit language.

**Senator Jones**: Question about Section IV.C, last sentence. Is that a question? whose judgment is “sufficient amount of units”?

**Senator Ram**: This is the exact language from the EO.

**Chair Hall**: I assume 11 refers to that document?

**Senator Ram**: Yes

**Senator Jones**: I think this language is unclear for the registrar, what is a sufficient number of units?

**Senator Stillmaker**: I have a concern about how we kept the previous terminology. so if I have an experiential prior learning assessment in Calculus 2 I take Calculus 3 my first semester because I have to do 15 units before I get a PLA then I’m no longer allowed to get a PLA for Calculus 2 right?

**Senator Walsh**: It is about moving students forward, and not allowing them to bundle credits. There are multiple ways where students can show proficiency in previous credits preventing students from hopping to other institutions. But we also have transfer students who show successful learning and may not have 15 units at Fresno State. This language allows for creative flexibility for some outliers. There might be circumstances where we give them the PLA even if they haven’t completed 15 units because they transferred as part of some program. Gives some wiggle room while preventing people just get units.

**Senator Holyoke**: Senator Jones made a good point. What does the registrar think about the sufficient amount of units?

**L. Yager**: I read it as the 15 units are a minimum. This is the skeleton of what we’ll go off, but will partner with the departments on what is sufficient for the students to get credit.

**Senator Walsh**: If that is the case then we need to say 15 units “comma,” or in consultation with the department/program at Fresno State. As determined by the registrar in consultation with the department or program?

**L. Yager**: I would reverse it and say determined by the department in consultation with the registrar. I appreciate everyone's input on this review because we still will have a lot of work to do on our end before we implement it.

**Senator Stillmaker**: To go back to the previous comment, I believe AP&P made these most recent changes. Was this the reason for striking both previous sentences?

**Senator Walsh**: I don't see it in this case. I see what you’re saying, they come in and they are ready for Calculus 3, let's use that as an example. But to get into Calculus 3 they would need a prerequisite. My thinking is that students are going to have transfer credits if they are transfer students, they would have already demonstrated they would be ready to take these classes and incoming students from high school could do challenge exams like AP or IB.

**Senator Stillmaker**: Would PLA refer more to a military course, like Nursing 1? They did the equivalent of Nursing 1 during their military service, so they come here and take Nursing 2, and they can no longer get credits for Nursing 1.

**L. Yager**: They won’t get the units, but they still can get into the course. they move forward, they don't move backward.

**Senator Stillmaker**: If nursing requires Nursing 1, then you can't complete the degree?

**Senator Walsh**: This language about a sufficient number of units allows for case-by-case situations. The students can work with the department and registrar to figure something out. Until we put it into practice, we will be able to fix those details.

**Chair Hall**: EC can be brought in if needed.

**Senator Ram**: I read it as you can't be awarded that credit, but it doesn't mean you can't have that discussion once you completed your first semester.

**Chair Hall**: Can we accept this by affirmation?

**L. Yager**: There is language in the EO under the standard examination that we cannot award credit when it has been awarded at a level more advanced. It gets tricky with our rules. In the specific example about Calculus 2 and 3, we would award Calculus 2 credit if someone has already taken Calculus 3.

**Chair Hall**: That is just to be in line with the Chancellor’s directive.

**Senator Kensinger**: Does it make sense to clarify that they “successfully” completed the 15 units?

**Senator Walsh**: That is why we would like to take out the parenthetical piece. Because it does talk about “to establish evidence of a satisfactory learning pattern” in that second part. The idea is that they have their units to demonstrate satisfactory learning patterns. Its units, and not by-the-skin-of-their-teeth units.

**Senator Kensinger**: Point of clarification on what the change in the parenthetical would be.

**Senator Walsh**: In the EO it has it with a comma.

**Senator Kensinger**: Suggestion to add parentheticals.

**Senator Walsh**: Makes a clarification on the revision of the redlined paragraph. We can get rid of the parentheses. After registrar, I would add a comma.

**Chair Hall**: Continue the discussion on section IV.D.

**Senator Lent**: Question on the particular language in Section IV.D. Are these units earned at Fresno State? For example, could a student come in with 60 units of transfer and then do an additional 30 units of challenge exams, and then only need 30 units at Fresno State to earn a degree?

**Chair Hall**: I’m going to let Chair Walsh respond to that.

**Senator Walsh**: I’m looking it up in the EO so we can get the exact language. \*Reads section from the EO.

**Senator Lent**: That suggests that students could potentially complete 30 units at our university and the student still gets a degree. If that is the case I disagree with this. Change it to limit 25% of the total program with a maximum of 30 units earned at Fresno State or whatever is the lesser. I wouldn’t want a student to only have 30 units at Fresno State.

**Senator Walsh**: We can’t limit AP or IB. It is only for challenge exams and PLA, not the other system-wide assessments. Students who come in with 60 transfer units and 30 units of challenge exams would be very far outliers.

**Senator Stillmaker**: reads from WASC language in EO.

**Senator Ram**: I think this got corrected because the previous language didn't specify what the 25% was concerning. We can potentially expand the limit, except for AP and IB exams. Senator Lent’s suggestion might work with the exception of APs and IBs.

**Chair Hall**: Senator Lent, would you like to reinstate your suggestion?

**Senator Lent**: Yes. Adds language to the redlined paragraph “at Fresno State, excluding AP and IB exams.”

*Motion to amend Section IV.D of APM 218*

*Second*

*Discussion on motion to amend Section IV.D of APM 218:*

**L. Yager**: Just wanted to clarify that when we accept a transfer student, if they bring in 10 units of prior learning that will count toward the 25% of the total 120. Is that clear in here?

**Senator Lent**: If they say they came with 60 units of totally transferable units, and they asked for 10 units to count towards prior credit, then they are using up 25% of 60, so they would only have 5 units left.

**L. Yager**: No, we look at it from the full 120. So if 30 is the maximum and they come in with 10 and they ask for more, we would give them an additional 20. It wouldn’t start over.

**Senator Lent**: So here I am asking for it to be limited to the units earned at Fresno State. If you are asking for prior learning to count and you already come in with half of your units transferring, you could only request 15 units, since 15 units is 25% of 60.

**L. Yager**: So would we accept their units, credits for prior learning earned units from the transfer institution?

**Senator Lent**: Up to 15 units if they’re transferring 60 units.

**Senator Wise:** \*Asks for clarification on Senator Lent’s edit of the redlined paragraph and also clarification on L. Yager's comments on transfer students' credits awarded.

**Chair Hall**: L. Yager is saying that has to count towards the total. they could come transferring in with some of this PLA and that would be incorporated into these totals as originally written.

**L. Yager**: That's correct

**Senator Wise**: Are we saying that if they come in with 15 units of PLA as part of their transferred 60 units, those don’t count?

**Chair Hall**: I think whatever PLA they come in with would get put towards these percentages.

**L. Yager**: Ultimately it goes to the 120 if we are awarding the degree.

*Vote on motion to amend Section IV.C of APM 218: approved*

**Chair Hall**: Let's continue to the next section. Can we accept this with unanimous consent?

**Senator Kensinger**: In the section where it says credit shall not be awarded twice for the same demonstrated university-level learning, what does that mean?

**Senator Walsh**: The registrar should answer.

**L Yager**: So this refers to students who come in with AP credits, they can't get credit for both the AP credit and the class taken at Fresno State.

**Senator Kensinger**: my question had to do with the “unless specified otherwise” in the catalog. If my major accepts GE for elective, is that a situation where you could get credits for those two areas?

**L. Yager**: Can you provide an example?

**Senator Kensinger**: Yes. I come in with a credit in Intro to Women Studies, and this is a prerequisite in my major. What would the interpretation of the catalog be, would I be accredited a dual credit?

**Chair Hall**: We are going to have to end the conversation here. We will pick it up from here.

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

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be November 27, 2023.

Submitted by Approved by

Amber Crowell Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

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