THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

Fresno, California 93740-8014 Fax: 278-5745

Telephone: 278-2743 (EC-6)

November 13, 2023

Members present: Raymond Hall (Chair), Amber Crowell (Vice Chair), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Xuanning Fu (Provost), Aaron Stillmaker (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large), Lisa Bryant (At-Large)

Members excused: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President), Karen Carrillo (ASI rep), Susan Schlievert (Statewide)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Nichole Walsh (Chair of Academic Policy and Planning Committee), Jim Schmidtke (AVP of Faculty Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall at 3:03 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

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1. Approval of the Minutes of 10.30.23.

*MSC*

1. Communications and Announcements.

**Action Items**

1. Memo dated November 2, 2023, from Dr. Nichole Walsh, Chair of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APM 203 – Special Majors. Memo has been received.

**Chair Hall**: There was new communication from CO about changing name of special majors

**N. Walsh**: This is about the freeze on special majors.

**Chair Hall**: Save this discussion.

Suggestion: Put on agenda.

1. Email dated October 30, 2023, from Dr. Joy Goto, Interim Dean, Division of Research and Graduate Studies to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Research Updates. Email has been received.

Suggestion: Dean Goto will give presentation.

1. Email dated November 8, 2023, from Dr. Alam Hasson, Vice Provost, to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Proposed Discontinuance of Respondus Monitor Unlimited License. Email has been received.

**Chair Hall**: This is urgent to put on the agenda. Documentation is in Box for why we shouldn’t use Respondus anymore. Uncomfortable with lack of faculty consultation, would like to get feedback from faculty before discontinuing Respondus. Citations provided in documentation were from popular media, would like to have more academic rigor. EC requested to look over documentation ahead of next EC meeting.

Suggestion: Put on agenda.

1. Memo dated November 6, 2023, from Beth A. Steffel, Chair, Academic Senate of the California State University, to Dr. Mildred Garcia, CSU Chancellor re: Chancellor’s Packet ASCSU November 2023 Resolutions Summary. Memo has been received.

**Chair Hall**: It is an update on what statewide senate is up to. EC requested to look over the material and determine if anything should be brought up in next EC meeting.

Suggestion: EC will review packet.

1. Memo dated November 9, 2023, from: Brady Crook, Vice President for University Advancement, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Academic Senate Chair re: Faculty Appointments to Search Committee – Associate Vice President of Development and Comprehensive Campaigns. Memo has been received.

**Chair Hall**: Search needs faculty representation. We have just enough time to get nominations before Spring.

Suggestion: Send out call for service.

1. Nominations for Athletics Advisory Council.

Suggestion: Go into executive session.

Communications from A. Stillmaker from GI 2025:

CSU has nearly doubled graduation rates, Fresno State similar increases. Big takeaway is that equity gaps remain. Overall improvements but the equity gaps have not changed. Average graduation rate went from 5 to 4.5 years. Methods for improving include reengaging underrepresented students. Black students faring worse than other students. More demand to look into the data to determine where the equity failures are occurring. Fresno State had good discussion on equitable learning practices and treating students as clients. Discussion on paid internships. Final takeaway is on affordability focused on values. President stated that compensation for faculty and staff should reflect higher values.

**Chair Hall**: Anything EC should be concerned about regarding goals or policies?

**A. Stillmaker**: ASI president asked Chancellor about rising tuition. Chancellor didn’t have great response, but hopefully they are working on that. Her response was something like, “Wait and see.” All ASI presidents questioned why we are focusing on 4-year graduation rates when so many of our students are non-traditional students.

**Dean Muscat**: Dean Lowham was also present.

Communications from Dean Goto:

Dean Goto presented slides on Research Enterprise Structural Changes.

**Provost**: Update on where we are with NCURA (peer review org)?

**Dean Goto**: Pre-award has filled out most response to data briefing book, post-award has filled out most responses. Briefing book will go out before thanksgiving to NCURA, then NCURA will set up site visit dates.

**Provost**: Share with Chair Hall how faculty be involved, through forums or interviews.

**Dean Goto**: Grants and research board has had two faculty give input. University research committee, reps from each college filled out Faculty Engagement and Burden section for each college. There are ten areas, but area of interest is Faculty Engagement and Burden. Each section asks for areas of concern.

**L. Bryant**: Have you thought about surveying people with different types of grants? Different grants have different burden loads. Nobody from our college (COSS) has reached out to us.

**Dean Goto**: There will be opportunities during the site visit for faculty input. Will send template emails to Chair Hall and Vice Chair Crowell to send out to Senate. After site visit, they will have 15 days to complete report. Report will go to Dean Goto, Provost, Foundation, and CFO. We will decide how to share that report with the campus community.

**Chair Hall**: The site visit will be in the spring?

**Dean Goto**: January or February.

**L. Bryant**: Is Auxiliary/Foundation under you?

**Dean Goto**: No, it’s under CFO.

**L. Bryant**: Has anybody ever analyzed how much money we lose from grants. Have noticed that University does not submit reimbursements in time. Post award analyst does not respond.

**Dean Goto**: Email Linda Christian directly.

**L. Bryant**: I do, but post award is a significant burden.

**Dean Goto**: Cc me, and don’t feel like you’re complaining. We also need to track burn rate on grants. See us changing pre-award model, where there aren’t grant managers handling college. Instead they focus on one area of the process. Think about R2 as not high research, it is complementary research and teaching.

**Chair Hall**: If I look up definition of R2, it will say that?

**Dean Goto**: It’s the way you should interpret it. R2 is about research expenditures, but if you look at it in practice that is what it looks like.

**Chair Hall**: Can you put that in writing to share with faculty?

**Dean Goto**: Yes, and ASI has had conversations about student research.

**Chair Hall**: Anything we should do?

**Dean Goto**: Hold tight. Don’t want this to be a surprise. Would like advice about how to best transmit this to campus community.

**Chair Hall**: A single slide to share with Senate. You are also welcome to join the Senate and give a presentation.

**Dean Goto**: I would like to.

**A. Stillmaker**: Thank you for the changes you are making. Had a lot of discussions of HSIs and it seems like we are woefully underfunded and the structure is a problem. Do you have any thoughts, or want to wait for the review?

**Dean Goto**: Yes, our structure needs to change. For example, restructuring ORSP.

1. Executive Session.

*Executive session began at 3:45 pm.*

*Executive session ended at 3:49 pm.*

Todd Lone is nominated to the Athletics Advisory Council

Adjourned: 3:49 PM