THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 27, 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), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Jim Schmidtke (AVP of Faculty Affairs), Karen Carrillo (ASI rep)

Members excused: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President),

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Bernadette Muscat (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Bryan Berrett (IDEAS), Natalie Munoz (IDEAS), Alam Hasson (Vice Provost of Academic Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall at 3:01 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

*MSC*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11.13.23.

*MSC*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Provost Fu: Almost completed WASC theme-based reaccreditation proposal. We look strong and ready. Final run of revisions. Proposal is brief, 5-6 pages. Ready to submit this week or early next week. Anticipate approval and ready for revision requests. Thank you to Chair Hall and others who provide feedback. Carnegie Foundation Public Leadership classification 0 this is new for Carnegie. Thanks to Dean Muscat and others, report turned out to be 115 pages. Turned in to President for his final review. This classification is new so we can’t predict the outcome. Moving along and will help faculty and students get ready for the end of the semester.

**Chair Hall:** What programs/departments are benefited by new Carnegie designation?

**Provost**: We don’t know yet, it’s just a designation. It is about community service. It is a designation like how we are an R2. We’re not given more funding for that. It helps with how we think about students being the next generation of leaders. It is a recognition of who we are and what we do, helps us fine tune our focus.

**Chair Hall**: Want to recognize Dough Fraleigh for leading on WASC.

**Chair Hall**: J. Schmidtke, are there APM you want to move up?

**AVP Schmidtke**: APM 323, because we are scanning everything that goes into the employee file and we want one central place to access employee’s file. Want to work with Explorance and other systems to upload reports automatically. We want things done automatically.

**Chair Hall**: Flag APM 323 to move up the agenda.

**Dean Muscat**: Don’t have submission guidelines for submitting ACals yet, but we will be submitting in February-March.

**Action Items**

1. Email dated November 2, 2023, from Reem Osman, Administrative Support Specialist for the CSU Academic Senate, to CSU Senators re: ASCSU Resolution Condemning Acts of Terrorism. Email has been received.

Suggestion: Information received.

1. Email dated November 16, 2023, from Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Academic Senate Chair re: COSS Articles of Governance. Email has been received.

Suggestion: Put on agenda; send to Personnel Committee; invite Drs. España-Najera and Lee-Oliver to meeting on December 4.

1. New Business

*None*

1. Priority Registration – Information item.

**Chair Hall**: Put this item on hold because L. Yager cannot be here today.

1. Discontinuance of Respondus Monitor Unlimited License.

**Chair Hall**: Sent out faculty survey, 37 responses from 92 invitations. Is it just the lockdown browser being discontinued, or the monitor?

**Vice Provost Hasson**: Just the monitor.

**L. Bryant**: What are the cost-savings of getting rid of Respondus?

**Vice Provost Hasson**: $35,000 a year. We’re talking about bring back more expensive computer-based testing. This is not a budget consideration. Most users are face-to-face.

**J. Miele**: The expansion of testing center helps a lot. Difficult is with fully online courses, not sure what the solution would be there for them. They could do alternate assessments, but not sure if all faculty would want to do that. Some faculty have students who come to campus just for testing in hybrid classes.

**Chair Hall**: Had this conversation with Dean Muscat. Bulldog testing has not been available for online courses, but that could change.

**Dean Muscat**: Testing center is first come first serve, schedule a semester in advance. Up to pre-COVID numbers, try to give priority to large classes.

**Provost Fu**: Can you describe plans to expand BTC?

**Dean Muscat**: It was originally in two locations. Looking to open up FFS space again for computer-based exams.

**Chair Hall**: Did they used to do GRE tests?

**Dean Muscat:** Originally yes, but reopened for class-based exams. Professional exams went over to Student Affairs, but shut down during the pandemic.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: There’s been a decline in use of Respondus. What accounts for it?

**B. Berrett**: Probably a combination of professional development and awareness of alternative assessment, and more faculty coming back to F2F.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: What primary alternative methods have been used?

**B. Berrett**: Depends on modality. Few hybrid classes are part of this. More faculty are likely providing their own assessments because they’re back to F2F. Difficult to identify/predict online usage. There was no Respondus pre-COVID.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: Noted rationale includes concerns about bias. Has that been a concern here?

**B. Berrett**: That came from resolution from CSU Academic Senate. They guided our approach. With Fresno State, we no longer have hot spot program so rural students on longer have high speed internet access to effectively use Respondus.

**Provost Fu**: How do faculty handle cheating concerns?

**B. Berrett**: Larger test bank, time limits for overall and per question, lockdown browser, question randomization, not all exam-based questions. There are other ways to assess learning.

**A. Stillmaker**: Had discussion in Engineering when Respondus was all over the news, Engineering almost completely stopped. Used to use it, don’t use it anymore. Thought University wide we had stopped. There are great alternatives. Use B. Berrett’s methods for online testing.

**ASI President Carrillo**: How time consuming would it be for professors to switch up exams each year? Because students use quizlet a lot to see old exams. Feel more comfortable taking exams at home rather than in the classroom. Have only had one professor make me scan the room.

**Chair Hall**: That is the concern of Child and Family Sciences because test banks get posted online. That department mandates use of Respondus. We should reach out to faculty who think it’s essential and see if we can find an alternative. The white paper does say that the software flags people with darker skin, that is a problem.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: We should also find out what disciplines they’re coming from.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: Nobody in Sociology uses Respondus that I know of. During the pandemic I stopped using exams. The surveillance made me uncomfortable.

**Provost Fu**: Second as sociologist.

**ASI Carrillo**: CLAS faculty do not use exams either.

**L. Bryant**: Large classes can’t just have essay-based tests.

**Chair Hall**: In Physics we teach skills, and they have to solve the problem to demonstrate mastery.

**L. Bryant**: Don’t you want them to be able to check their work, rather than memorizing the formulas?

**Chair Hall**: I think it would be both. We have to consider different disciplines.

**J. Miele**: There are other solutions, like asking students to record themselves explaining the answers.

**Chair Hall**: As a group, are we okay with getting rid of it?

**ASI President Carrillo**: These are all responses from faculty. Can we get responses from students?

**Chair Hall**: We are always open to getting feedback from students.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: If it is discontinued, is there an alternative that we can offer?

**Chair Hall**: Is anybody willing to reach out to the 20 faculty who do not want it discontinued?

**AVP Hasson**: Yes.

**Provost Fu**: Like A. Stillmaker said, we take some initiative and leave a comfort zone. There are disciplinary differences. When I was teaching in Sociology, all exams were open book, open notes. It was a lot of work, made it difficult to cheat. We can offer those 20 faculty incentives or help to take the initiative to make changes. Eventually, this is the direction we have to go.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: They need to be supported through that transition.

**Provost Fu**: We can offer that support.

**B. Berett**: keep in mind that pre-COVID we didn’t have Respondus monitor.

**Chair Hall**: The testing center is going to become important.

**Chair Hall**: The EC does not have any objections, and we appreciate the discussion.

1. APM 510 – Research Misconduct (Honor Code) Updates and Revisions. Second Reading.

**A. Stillmaker**: Add language to 1.C.e that each department shall maintain a list.

**L. Bryant**: Took this to my department, and we decided would be to add predatory journals to a list as they reach out to faculty. We so far haven’t had many predatory journals, but this is what a review committee should already be doing. Checking things on the CV.

**Chair Hall**: Maybe say that the department review committee is responsible for ensuring that the journals meet the standard for the discipline.

**J. Miele**: We can have resources to help identify predatory journals.

**Chair Hall**: Did AP&P feel strongly about this aspect of the journal?

**A. Stillmaker**: Yes, O. Vega said there were issues in Mathematics with faculty trying to get credit for publications in predatory journals. There were personnel issues.

**Chair Hall**: Is this ready for Senate, or should we send it back?

**J. Miele**: We can make the changes before we put it on the floor. There is a lot on Senate agenda right now.

**L. Bryant**: A. Stillmaker can make his changes.

**Chair Hall**: Yes, we can make our own redlined version.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: There is no rush to get it to Senate. Senate agenda is busy.

**J. Schmidtke**: If we hold people to standard of what counts and what doesn’t, CBA says evaluation standard has to be communicated in first 14 days of the year.

1. APM Corrections to APM 325 and APM 361.

**Chair Hall**: Put corrections to 325 and 361 on consent calendar, both minor changes. This can be a first reading and we can make this happen at next EC meeting. 325 is not in Box because it was so trivial.

Adjourned: 3:50 PM