

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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March 26, 2007

Members Absent: M. Arvanigian, M. Barakzai (excused), D. Blum, A. Burke-Doe (excused), J. Daughtry, M. Gibson (excused), A. Heaney, V. Rondero-Hernandez (excused), M. Sanchez, M. Schettler (excused), J. Sharma, J. Slagter (excused), D. Smith, R. Statham (excused), K.C. Tseng, J. Wang, M. Watney (excused), L. Weston, M. Xiao.

A meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Botwin at 4:15 p.m. in the University Center, Room #200.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 2/26/07.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
 - A. Committee Assignments – Appointed/Reappointed to:
Nominations/Elections Committee – Executive Committee
Michael Tillman (Library), Bernadette Muscat (SS)

Committee for Faculty Equity & Diversity –
Nominating/Elections Committee
Alfredo Cuellar (E&HD), Julie Moore (Library), Suzanne Kotzkin-Jaszi (H&HS), Lynette Zelezny (S&M), Debbie Avila (A&H)

Student Affairs Committee –
Nominating/Elections Committee
Kenneth Fugelsang (AS&T), Debbie Helsel (SS), Gena Gechter (SSP-AR), Andrew Fiala (A&H)
 - B. Chair Botwin announced that he will forward a letter to the faculty on the status of a motion for a senate investigation of the Athletics' matching funds issue. He stated that he is working on a draft of that document.

- C. Two students introduced an Energy Conservation campaign, Care, Commit, Conserve!, that is starting on campus. They provided a brief overview of the campaign, and encouraged senators to publicize the Conservation Carnival that will be on the lawn in front of the Kennel Bookstore on Thursday, April 12 from 10-12:00.
- D. Paul Oliaro, Dennis Nef and Chair Botwin presented information on the Student Success Task Force. Dr. Oliaro provided a brief history and description of the task force, and distributed a hand-out that summarized the committee's work and listed the task force members. A large focus involves graduation rates, and 4 ½-year, 5-year, and 6-year graduation rates have all increased since implementation of various initiatives.

Dr. Nef briefly described three of the initiatives: Academic Road Maps, Learning Communities, and the Mentoring Institute. Other initiatives that were mentioned included mandatory advising, mandatory choice of major by 60 units, and an Early Warning System adapted from a CSU Northridge program. Dr. Oliaro encouraged those interested in being involved on the task force to contact Provost Echeverria or him.

Chair Botwin provided closing comments that included his opinion that one of the most positive things about the task force is that it has brought Student Affairs together with Academic Affairs in a collaboration that benefits students.

- E. Chair Botwin welcomed Fred Schreiber (Biology) and Lisa Weston (English) as recently appointed new senators. He noted that both professors have distinguished records of faculty service to the university.

4. New Business.

There was none.

5. Policy on Promotion (APM 327) – Personnel Committee.

Paula Popma summarized the changes, which she described as primarily wordsmithing to bring this more in line with APM 325. A request was made to have the Chair distribute a copy of the proposal that illustrates the changes made in the document. Discussion, then, is tabled until the next meeting.

6. Policy on Repeating Classes (APM 233) – Academic Policy & Planning Committee.

Dennis Nef summarized changes: 1) The first sentence is an addition to the policy; 2) the second paragraph used to just read W and now reads WU and IC, with descriptions for each, and 3) in the third paragraph, the second sentence is added.

Paul Oliaro explained that there is a lot of variation between policies on repeating classes across CSU campuses. Currently, a system-wide committee is working on a policy that will recommend that all campuses across the system limit the number of repeated units to 16, which was deemed a reasonable compromise within the vast range of differences across campuses currently. Another potential recommendation from this committee is that all campuses adopt a policy that indicates courses in which the student earns a C+ or lower can be repeated (at Fresno State, that would mean courses that earn a C or lower).

MS to waive second reading. Motion failed.

MSC to adjourn at 5:14 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be announced. An Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Kathie Reid
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:

Michael Botwin
Chair
Academic Senate