THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Telephone: 278-2743 (EC-2)

September 16, 2024

Members present: Raymond Hall (Chair), Amber Crowell (Vice Chair), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Xuanning Fu (Provost), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Lisa Bryant (At-Large), Aaron Stillmaker (University-wide), Tinneke Van Camp (At-large), Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President), Faith Van Hoven (ASI President)

Members excused:

Guests: Mackenzie Burke (Academic Senate), James Schmidtke (AVP of Faculty Affairs), Dermot Donnelly-Hermosillo (GE Committee), Nichole Walsh (AP&P Committee), Bernadette Muscat (Dean of Undergraduate Studies)

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

1. Approval of the Agenda.

   **Chair Hall** motioned to move Option Elevation - Mechanical Engineering Option - Second Reading after Cal-GETC

   MSC

2. Approval of the Minutes of 08.26.24

   MSC

3. Communications and Announcements.

   Communications from President: Jane Olsen will be on campus on Wednesday; Wings of the City art installation is kicking off today

   Communications from Provost:

**Vice Chair Crowell** asked questions about AI transcription software used in student accommodations and faculty meetings.

**AVP Schmidtke** replied that otter ai should not be used but Glean should be used. The data stays with University when using Glean. Student privacy is not an issue because it doesn't identify students by name and students are being told restrictions on services. Transcription software must be allowed because we are out of compliance on notetakers.

The **Provost** also shared that Student Affairs is considering using grammarly and **VP Willis** was advised to consult with the Executive Committee. The campus is launching an AI initiative and the **President is** issuing a statement in October. There will be subcommittees looking at ethical uses of AI. The **Provost** will follow up when **President** statement goes out with subcommittee charges.

**AVP Schmidtke**: In the interim, students are told to ask for faculty permission, and Glean is not mandated. No risk of privacy or IP theft with Glean because they don't have access to the data. General Counsel is reviewing the matter and **VP Johri** will be weighing in as well.

**L. Bryant** asked about suggestions for budget cut strategies and who would be incorporating the suggestions. **L. Bryant** requested more information on the structure of decision-making for budget cuts.

The **Provost** replied that they are working towards an initial plan on how we face budget cut challenges and are looking towards budget cuts that increase efficiency. Budget cuts could include workforce or program reductions. Some strategies have included implementing one time carryforward, reducing assigned time, reducing low enrolled sections and combining enrollment, temporarily suspending in-range promotions for staff and staff/faculty hiring. Focus for the budget committee will be where faculty expertise is needed the most. UBC asked **VP Hasson** to confer with their college faculty, but there is no firm plan to react to yet.

**Chair Hall** asked if programs refers to degree programs or university programs? **Provost** replied that there is no clear plan yet. Provosts meeting at the end of month is mostly focused on budget reductions and other campuses have had more severe cuts than us. Some are in layoffs.

**Chair Hall** asked if the Board of Trustees is concerned about layoffs. **President** replied that we are beyond the Board of Trustees, it is up to the legislature now.

The **Provost** clarified that furlough would happen at campus level, approved by faculty.

**Chair Hall** asked how the **President** and **Provost** determine the state's economic situation.

The **President** replied it's from state legislative analyst's office.

**Chair Hall** welcomed **ASI President Faith Van Hoven** to the Executive Committee

A. Memo dated September 3, 2024, from Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President of California State University, Fresno, to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Memo - Faculty Appointments to Search Committee - Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer. Memo received.

   Suggestion: Call for service will go out

B. Email dated September 3, 2024, from Dr. Joy Goto, Interim Dean of the Division of Research and Graduate Studies, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate, and Dr. Amber Crowell, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate re: NCURA Final Peer Review Report and Recommendations - for the Academic Senate Executive Committee. Email received.

   Suggestion: Dean Goto will be invited to give report at next EC meeting on agenda

C. Memo dated May 21, 2024, from Dr. Nichole Walsh, Chair of the Academic Policy & Planning Committee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APP Memo APM 237 - Accessible Materials (Substantive Revisions.) Memo received.

Suggestion: Add to agenda

D. Memo dated May 21, 2024, from Dr. Nichole Walsh, Chair of the Academic Policy & Planning Committee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: AP&P Memo AP&P Charge Update - Revisions to membership.

   Suggestion: No action needed

E. Memo dated September 11, 2024, from Dr. Bao Johri, VP for Information Technology and CIO and Chair, Technology Steering Committee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation for Technology Steering Committee. Memo received.

   Suggestion: Call for service will go out

F. Memo dated September 10, 2024, from Dr. Bao Johri, Vice President for Information Technology and CIO, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Appointment to Search Committee – AVP/Deputy CIO. Memo received.

   Suggestion: Pull from previous nominations, hold executive session today

4. New Business.

   **AVP Schmidtke** requested that UBRT elections happen soon to fill UBRT membership

   **Chair Hall** explained constitution procedures and that elections cannot happen until October 15

   **Chair Hall** noted that nominations and elections committee also needs to handle pending Senator elections

5. Cal-GETC

   **D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** presented slides on GE Committee Cal-GETC motions

**A. Stillmaker** asked about exemptions for high unit majors and what the procedure will look like for exemptions

**D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** replied that that might be outside of GE purview

**S. Schlievert** shared that Chancellor's Office GE committee will review exceptions tomorrow and will provide recommendations

**D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** stressed that it is important to stay on the timeline for recommendations even if exemptions rules haven't been sorted yet. **D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** explained that the W motion is about a cumulative writing requirement from the start of degree, portfolio assessed in upper-division. Students could otherwise take the upper-division W course.

**Chair Hall** suggested that **D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** present as much information as possible on the process and data that led to decisions for proposal so that the Senate will have a measured discussion. **L. Bryant** also recommended that **D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** show how many parties have been consulted with on these decisions.

**Chair Hall** commended **D. Donnelly-Hermosillo** on how this process has been handled.

**J. Miele** suggested that the major decisions on Area C and E be handled first, and then work on the smaller, less prioritized issues later.

**Chair Hall** explained that the Executive Committee can take that on.

6. Option Elevation - Mechanical Engineering Option - Second Reading

**A. Stillmaker** explained that this is essentially renaming what was already effectively a major.

**Chair Hall** recommends adding to consent calendar for next Senate

*MSC*

7. NACADA Study on Advising

   **Dean Muscat** shared the status on this item, starting with listening sessions with advising centers, deans, council of chairs. Requested that **ASI President Van Hoven** invite her to ASI, also would like to be invited to the Senate. Goal is to write recommendations in the Spring to get feedback, but won't be ready for input until April or May. **Dean Muscat** will talk to the Provost about extending the August deadline to give time for faculty input. Moving advising from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs is a key recommendation from NACADA. Making progress in every area of highest priority recommendations, working with **Dr. Still** on assessment, working on policies and by-in, bifurcated structure, and inconsistent service provision.

   **Chair Hall** asked for clarification on budget lines if University Advising moves to Academic Affairs. **Dean Muscat** explained that the budget would be transferred to Academic Affairs.

   *Remove from agenda*

8. APM 327 - Policy on Promotion

   The Executive Committee reviewed previous Senate activity on APM 327.

   **Chair Hall** asked that members of the Executive Committee prepare for a substantive second reading.

9. Executive Session

   *Executive session began at 4:47 pm*
   *Executive session ended at 4:51 pm*

   **Matin Pirouz** is appointed to the search committee for AVP/Deputy Chief Information Officer, pending their confirmation of their willingness to serve

Adjourned: 5:00 PM