

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 03/14/2023 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 3/11/2023
Sub. To Exec. Comm. 5/30/2023 Approved by Exec. Comm. _____
Sub. To Acad. Senate _____ Approved by Acad. Senate _____
POLICY ITEMS _____

Members Present:

David Boyajian, Elizabeth Dabach, Ellis Godard, Callie Juarez (non-voting), Gregory Knotts, Mirna Sawyer, Katherine Stevenson, Christian Tedeschi, Holli Tonyan, Yarma Velazquez-Vargas

Not present (Excused):

Nazaret Dermendjian

Guests:

Interim Dean Mechelle Best and Todd Oberson (DFO), HHD

Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Gregory Knotts.

1. Welcome and Introduction

G. Knotts welcomed David Boyajian, the newest member of ERC from the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with no objections

3. Approval of the ERC Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2023

The minutes were approved with no objections. D. Boyajian and Y. Velazquez-Vargas abstained from voting.

4. Chair's Report

Thank you to M. Sawyer and H. Tonyan for the work and preparation for the town hall meeting.

G. Knotts reported continuous concerns regarding enrollment, retention, and recruitment.

The University's response to the retention concerns is the hiring of seven MPPs and 20 Advisors across seven colleges as the focus for the undergraduate population. G. Knotts shared with Academic Affairs administration the collective disappointment of the ERC regarding the lack of faculty consultation. Furthermore, there have been no efforts regarding graduate programs. MPP positions will report to the Hub and the Hub leadership will be elevated, thus removing advisement responsibilities from the Associate Deans.

It was suggested to draft a resolution, to more formally express the disappointment in the lack of consultation, and provide solutions. In addition, concerns that the committee is routinely informed there is little budget available for tenure track hires and discretionary funding, however, the budget is available for 27 new positions. It was suggested to reassign faculty in the short term while long-term solutions are developed, it is a less expensive proposal.

5. Executive Secretary's Report

C. Juarez reported Academic Resources and Planning is focused on providing training/information to Provost Komarraju.

We are starting to close out the 2022-23 budget year and we are waiting for information regarding the 2023-24 state appropriations and estimated tuition with our current enrollment concerns.

6. FTES Targets and Schedule Adjustment Process

K. Stevenson raised the question regarding the current process for assigning FTES and requesting additional FTES. It was questioned how the process changed in light of the enrollment concerns. It was suggested an earlier process that allows augmentation/discussion of FTES with colleges. Departments can request additional FTES right after the SOC build is completed through the Schedule Adjustment Process. Discussion ensued.

Augmentation funds are not available for graduate programs. Seems that there are many students (graduate and undergraduate) that are not able to get the classes they want or need.

Concerns were expressed that faculty are actively campaigning against the values and principles for hiring diverse faculty but continue to receive additional tenure track faculty lines due to the college's growth. How can the University's priority of diversifying faculty be a part of the decision-making regarding FTES targets and department growth?

K. Stevenson will continue to do research and bring a proposal to the committee.

7. Debrief of Town Hall

Town Hall was held on March 13th. Attendees reached 32 faculty.

Excited that the faculty attended and contributed to the Town Hall, as this was the first attempt to get the faculty's voice. ERC needs to continue to seek feedback and provide information back to its colleges. Frustrations discussed by faculty are areas in that ERC can provide support. The comments and concerns discussed will add to the faculty survey that will be distributed.

The faculty were hungry for community and there was a sense that they want to take back their university. They feel siloed, isolated, and dictated to and want to be more engaged and have resources dedicated to the engagement. Multiple breakouts suggested a CSUNposium for faculty.

In addition to the Town Hall, it was suggested that ERC do education and outreach efforts to faculty so they understand how Education Resources (including FTES distribution) are allocated. Some possibilities are for Faculty Senators' orientation and Department Chairs through the Chair's Leadership Academy. A budget glossary was suggested.

8. Interim Dean Mechelle Best - 3:15 pm Time Certain

CHHD is a large college and has many facilities across the college and departments and there are limited funds to upgrade and maintain. The facilities include the Brown Center/Center of Achievement, the high ropes course (RTM), the Aquatics Center at Lake Casitas, Magaram Center, and an additional 25 laboratories with high-value equipment. Many of the facilities are centers that are interwoven with the instructional mission of the college. There is currently no structure to support laboratories.

Instructional costs that are difficult for the college are faculty pay in the summer, including a new M.S. Athletic Training. Summer state-side pay is not a normal expense for a college and therefore not funded.

Furthermore, reassigned time is a large budget item that includes Associate Chairs, graduate coordinators, and program coordinators due to the services the college provides.

Discussion ensued regarding the specialized programs in CHHD. Faculty density issues were discussed that are particular to the college. Faculty density is reported as a department, however, there are faculty density concerns in specializations within departments.

9. Adjournment

Invite Diane Guido regarding Fulbright and Ford awards – pay differential in regards to existing or non-existing sabbatical.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm

Notes:

The next ERC meeting will be held on April 11, 2023, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

ERC's Charge

“This committee shall make general policy recommendations in order to guide the allocation of all University resources which impact educational programs. In carrying out its charge, the committee may review and advise on current and proposed allocation of faculty positions; the allocation and the projected needs for space; support equipment and operating expense budgets; the allocation of resources for technology; the assignment and projected needs of support staff; the recommendations of other faculty governance committees which have significant educational resource implications; additionally, at the request of an appropriate University committee or an Associate Dean, independently evaluate proposals for new programs with regard to their impact on the available educational resources of the University.” — *from ERC Bylaws*