Executive Committee Minutes
May 21, 2021
via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Present: Curry, Day, Del Casino, Cargill, Faas, Kaur, Massey, Mathur, McKee (Chair), Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, White, Wong(Lau**)**

Absent: Papazian

1. Chair McKee welcomed the newly constituted Executive Committee for AY 2021-2022.

2. Approval of agenda of May 21, 2021. (There was no consent calendar.)

Memo attached for consideration by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Academic Senate during its summer 2021 recess: "2021-2022 Academic Year Waiver Request for 22 Bachelor Degree Programs" from Thalia Anagnos, Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education to Vincent Del Casino, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

3. Provost: There are 22 programs that will be out of compliance when they add the mandated GE units next year because they will exceed the required degree limit of 120 units. The campus has authority to make such a decision to waive 3 units of Area C temporarily.

C: These types of waivers are common and usually go through GEAC or Curriculum & Research. However, the Academic Senate adjourned for the summer before it was determined that this decision could, in fact, be made at the campus level. GEAC and Curriculum & Research did not have time to bring a resolution before the full Senate.

Committee deliberations:

C: Any language needs ensure that the addition of 3 units of Area F is not blamed for the need for this waiver.

C: We can have a vote today, with a clear timeline, transparent to the campus. We could also write a more specific temporary policy, making the waiver specific to those 22 programs.

Provost: Writing policy to solve this issue is a bad idea because the catalog for AY 2021-2022 must be changed immediately before it is published, and it is already past its deadline. The exceptions list for General Education is long and program-based. Theoretically, the request under consideration could have asked for 22 separate decisions. The proposed temporary year-long solution would not waive C for the campus. It is a program-level challenge.

C: Need to verify the actual number of programs impacted. The math in the memo does not add up.

C: Obviously, Engineering is affected by this. Engineering already cut 14 units to fulfill 120-unit graduation requirement. Engineering asked for a long-term Area C waiver, not just for one year, because cutting more programmatic units will make the degree less competitive in a market students are trying to get jobs in.

Provost: That request would have to be made and go through all regular channels. This proposal is for a one-year waver only.

C: Not sure the proposed waiver is equitable across programs. Recently, the Kinesiology department asked about the waiving of P.E. units and was concerned about the impact upon students' health. Students who lack that one unit of P.E. have to stay to complete it.

Provost: Without the approval of the waiver by the Executive Committee on behalf of the full Senate during its summer recess, he will have to ask the President to issue a Presidential Directive.

Q: Why is Area C the area to be cut?

A: There is a 9-unit Area C requirement; the idea is that students already have exposure to Area C.

Q: Can we find out what other CSUs are doing? Are they cutting C also? Are accredited programs (that would be consistent across campuses) unable to cut because of accreditation?
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Provost: Some CSU campuses are in compliance, and some are not. If SJSU doesn't take action now, it will be out of compliance with the law. He has discussed the matter with other Provosts in the system. Lots of waivers are created for historical reasons.

A member called the question on debate. It was seconded and approved.

Motion:
a) to allow a one-year waiver of GE Area C for those degree programs impacted to permit adequate time to complete a thorough and thoughtful curriculum review and program revision
b) that the Provost, Senator White, and Chair McKee work together to create language for notification of Senate and impacted programs.

The motion was approved 14-0-0.

4. Motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved unanimously (14-4-0). Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

These minutes were taken by the Associate Vice Chair Kimb Massey on May 21, 2021. They were reviewed and edited by Chair McKee on May 24, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on June 16, 2021.