



## ACADEMIC SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2018  
FACULTY CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order by Tom Nordenholz at 11:05 am.

**Present:** Tom Nordenholz (Chair), Dinesh Pinisetty (Secretary), Khalid Bachkar, Keir Moorhead, Margot Hanson, Steve Browne.

**Guests:** *Tom Cropper (President); Sue Opp (Provost); Julie Simons; Andres Ramirez*

**Absent:** *Cynthia Trevisan, Alex Parker (Vice-Chair)*

The minutes of the September 25 Senate Executive Committee were approved. The minutes from the General Senate Meeting (Oct 9, 2018) needed few changes and will be approved during the next Executive meeting.

#### Announcements

- All the Senate Executive Committee members introduced themselves to the student representative.
- Julie Simons will participate for the first 20 min the Senate Executive meeting to provide a report on the Vision and Role of the Gender Equity Group.
- Bob Arp (VP of University Advancement) will participate in our next Senate Executive Meeting (i.e. Oct 30, 2018) to talk about the Capital Campaign.
- David Taliaferro (Commandant) will participate in our next Senate Executive Meeting (i.e. Oct 30, 2018) to introduce the Deputy Commandant (Daniel)

#### Julie Simons' Report

- Gender Equity group is a faculty led initiative to start discussions and come up with strategic plans to achieve a feasible solution to problems with campus climate, as evidenced by inappropriate comments on student teaching evaluations and results of a recent student survey of mental health and an unsafe and unwelcome environment. However, the primary focus of the group is engage the community, including students and administration.

- The data that yielded out from the survey conducted by the Student Health Center is disturbing and it requires all the campus community to engage in discussions and come up with ideas to address all the concerned issues.
- Our campus is accepted as a Middle Leadership Academy
- The discussions suggested that Academic Senate partnering with Student Affairs would be the first step in the right direction.
- It was also suggested that some ideas can be borrowed out from the External auditor recommendations of the 2015 report at Kings Point.
- Title IX deals with students and it falls under the supervision of Student Affairs, it was also discussed if hiring an experienced Title IX coordinator should be a part of our strategic plan.
- The President suggested that various measures are already in-place to ensure safe campus environment. As an example,
  - Donny Gordon undertakes physical security of our campus. This also involves proper lighting at every corner of our campus.
  - CARE Team; BIT Team; Tracking Students of Concern; Tracking Alcohol Transport on campus.
- The President clearly noted that ‘Zero Assault’ has always been the expectation of our campus. From the Administrative side the President noted that at this point of time they are trying their best to understand as much as they can about the data. Since this is a National Survey the question ‘Do you feel Safe’ does not give us the complete information. It creates a confusion if the student does not feel safe on, campus (or) Vallejo (or) At Home etc. Understanding what we don’t know about the data will help us to act in certainty.
- The student representative, Andres Ramirez, noted that,
  - His female friends have suggested that they are always not given equal voice in the class. Most times, they were treated as not being smart enough to participate in class discussions.
  - During the break-in of Lower residence halls some students were not feeling safe on campus.
  - Title IX overview was severely lacking during this year’s freshman orientation.
- During the discussions of this matter it was also noted that considerations should be made to also address faculty harassment Issues. There were instances during which Faculty were bullied by either their peers or students in-class. This may have cropped up by the core values propagating under the current political environment in this country. Necessary steps should be taken to ensure mutual respect between all the constituencies on our campus.

## **President's Report**

This is Sustainability Week on our campus. All the cost savings that are yielded out our Sustainability measures will be re-invested back on our campus based on the prioritizations. The President suggested Academic Senate to come up with a Faculty priority list based on ideas that include adding Educational Value, Cost Savings etc.

The President agreed that it was a mistake from his end to proclaim that an e-mail was sent to all Department chairs regarding the Employee Lodging Policy.

## **Provost's Report**

The Faculty schedule is not ready because of some software issues due to which the student advising period has been moved. The Registrar has worked over the weekend and now the tentative schedule has been e-mailed to all Department chairs for their approval.

The student advising period has been moved to the week of Nov 5, 2018. Students have already been sent out an e-mail noting this change.

## **Employee Lodging Policy**

To avoid confusion on the dissemination and approval of all the policies in future the Senate Executive Committee have recommended to the President to assign a 'commenting period' that gives time for everyone to provide their respective feedback.

The discussions also yielded out about a flow-chart development that clearly lists all the steps that needs to be taken with specific timelines, for a policy to reach its final approval stage.