

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

In Attendance: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Keir Moorhead (Vice Chair), Sarah Senk (Secretary), Christine Isakson, Elizabeth McNie, Wil Tsai, Cynthia Trevisan, Mike Mahoney (Provost), Sianna Brito (Academic Support Coordinator)

Absent: Steve Browne

1. ROTC Program Discussion

- a. McNie reports that Kathryn Marocchino brought to her attention some concerns regarding ROTC students transferring from Cal Maritime due to an apparent lack of support for that program. McNie invited Cadet Rico to present.
- b. Rico reads statement from fellow cadets, reports that IBL and GSMA seem to have no conflicts between ROTC duties and school duties. But all Engineering majors have transferred (or plan to transfer) to other universities. Cal Maritime has not been able to support students' attempt to become Naval Officers. (Examples include being unable to wear Physical Training clothes, conflicts with Formation. Commandants have stated that ROTC is not to interfere with Corps activities, including Formation and inspection, refusal to provide parking passes to freshmen.) Perception among students is that Cal Maritime does not support the ROTC program. The result is that out of the recent cohort, all but two students have transferred or plan to transfer to another university. Students report that Cal Maritime advertises ROTC but formally treats it as a "recreational activity," and does not accommodate students to actually allow them to participate it.
  - i. Moorhead asks how many formations would be missed. Rico reports that all will be missed because of PT requirements MWF mornings.
  - ii. Rico reports that students have to get special dispensation from individual faculty members to miss Thursday classes since they must be at UC Berkeley all afternoons on Thursday.
  - iii. Isakson asks if there is a way to negotiate regarding the PT schedule. Rico reports that previous CO came to negotiate with Cal Maritime President, but no negotiation was reached.
- c. McNie thanks Cadet Rico for coming. Committee will investigate whether or not accommodations are possible and, if not, will recommend that the university does not advertise the ROTC.
- d. Trevisan suggests that as a university we need to make up our minds whether or not we are committed to supporting the program, because the fact is we are a small university and don't have 15 sections of the same required class for these students to choose from; if the one required section happens to be scheduled on a Thursday afternoon, those students will be unable to attend class.
- e. Tsai suggests that if we are going to keep ROTC that we need to integrate with Strategic Sealift Officer Program.
- f. Pinisetty advocates for making the accommodations that are within our power, talking to the Commandant's office and President's office about what accommodations can be made. (One possibility might be to reschedule the PT on MWF since missing all formations is not an option. But "wearing a track suit to breakfast" should be permissible.)

- g. Isakson notes that ROTC is often how students are earning their scholarship money, and they may not have the opportunity to go to a different university. Isakson recommends giving the same accommodations that we give to Athletes.
- h. **Action Items:** Committee requests that Provost talk to Admissions to ensure that message is consistent, and that unrealistic expectations are not being set. Tsai also requests that Provost find out what happened two years ago during a meeting between Cal Maritime Leadership and ROTC leadership from Berkeley (on the grounds that without knowing what happened at that meeting we can't know exactly how to proceed.) Stopgap solution is to engage the Commandant's office: codify that at a minimum students have the same rights as student athletes.
  - i. Mahoney will discuss advertising with Admissions and confirm that advertising is honest, and that the program is not recommended for certain majors.
  - ii. Mahoney will request information about events of the last Cal Maritime / UC Berkeley ROTC meeting two years ago.
  - iii. Pinisetty will discuss Corps accommodations with Taliafero.

**EDITED 3/12 TO ADD Follow-Up:** Provost sent follow-up email shortly after the meeting saying he spoke with AVP Graham Benton about the ROTC situation. Benton will confer with Admissions about the statement in the catalog regarding being in ROTC and enrolling in a high-unit major. Provost notes, however, that the statement in the current catalog warns potential cadets that the combination of ROTC and several of our majors: <https://www.csum.edu/web/academics/navy-rotc>. Committee members agree over email that the web page is clear about expectations for participating in ROTC, but wants to confirm that the message sent in person by admissions counselors is equally blunt. McNie followed up with Cadet Gee who suggested holding off on any meeting with the Berkeley CO at this time as he is confident then can work on the PT issues independently.

- 2. Emeritus Policy
  - a. Chair has received additional feedback over email from Browne, McNie, and Trevisan.
  - b. Committee agrees to put forward the policy for a vote.
- 3. COVID-19 Preparations
  - a. Chair requests that committee encourages departments to fill out the emailed form regarding the possibility of moving classes online.
  - b. Moorhead reports that it may be possible to use the simulator online for a semester with a fee.
  - c. Trevisan reports that a faculty member requested access to a document camera to use at home. Trevisan recommends investing in equipment that faculty could borrow for use at home.
  - d. **Action item:** Trevisan will contact Michele van Hoeck and Khaoi Mady to see if the university can purchase equipment.
- 4. Nominations for Budget Committee
  - a. Chair reports that he has notified new members of the budget committee that the previous faculty members (Chisholm, Lewis, and Strange) resigned after submitting

the Report on Non-Instructional Spending, and has encouraged new members to reach out for input from the former members regarding their concerns.

- b. Chair reports that administrative members on the Budget Committee expressed concern that former members did not attend all meetings. Committee discusses the importance of conveying to the Administration that meetings must be scheduled at a time when faculty members can attend, and in particular to ensure that meetings are not scheduled during times when faculty members teach classes.
  - c. Isakson recommends asking the new committee to report regularly to the Senate.
  - d. Chair reports that this is consistent with the new bylaws, and we will rely on those members to bring information back to the Senate so that we can be aware of faculty concerns in real time.
5. Faculty Development Coordinator
- a. Provosts notes that the Faculty Development Coordinator is going on sabbatical and asks if the position is permanent since he is only aware of one person serving in the role for the past several years.
  - b. Chair reports that it not a permanent position, but that the last time an “election” happened was in 2017. Chair explains that “the way it works is that Michele [van Hoeck] puts out a call, and for a number of years Nipoli Kamdar has been the only volunteer. Since then it has never been advertised.”
  - c. Isakson asks if it’s just one person who decides or if it’s an election, and recommends that since there is reassigned time and a stipend involved, the position is high stakes enough to necessitate more than one person deciding.
  - d. Mahoney notes that Kamdar is doing an excellent job, but asks whether it’s fair that the position has become permanent.
  - e. Senk agrees, but adds that one of Gary Reichard’s recommendations during our meeting about the Chair policy is that we avoid situations where only one person appears on a ballot because it has the effect of suppressing participation by interested faculty members who may want a chance to hone new skills in a campus leadership position.
  - f. Committee agrees that we should hold elections as we used to do for the position, and the terms should be renewable so that someone who is doing an excellent *can* continue to be elected by faculty. To be consistent with the new by-laws, which require people on sabbatical to find substitutes to fill the roll while they’re away, the Committee noted that if Nipoli wins, we can also hold an election for an interim position for the semester when she’s on sabbatical.
  - g. Committee recommends updating the policy to clarify that the Faculty Development Coordinator should be a two-year position for continuity (rather than a one-year position), and that every two years there should be an application process, but that the position can be renewable.
6. Department Chair Elections
- a. Isakson requests update on IBL Department Chair position.
  - b. Mahoney reports that the President has been traveling and has not made a decision yet.

Meeting Adjourned.