

Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020

In attendance: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Keir Moorhead (Vice Chair), Sarah Senk (Secretary), Steve Browne, Matt Fairbanks, Christine Isakson, Elizabeth McNie, Cynthia Trevisan, Wil Tsai, Frank Yip [all via remote connection]

I. Review of Health and Safety Plan

- McNie reports on progress of “Health and Safety Plan 5_21_20” document. Runyon and McNie will be reaching out to faculty to identify specific needs in each classroom. Plan is to maintain social distancing in the classrooms where it can be maintained. Looking at testing everyone who comes back in mid-June, working out the details of what happens if a student tests positive, what happens to them academically, because they’ll be quarantined and may be sent home. Right now, the group is transitioning from the planning part to making a training plan. Biggest hurdle right now is getting classroom specifics.
- Senk notes that earlier today she spoke with CFA Rep Julie Chisholm, who expressed concerns about faculty being asked to talk to HR individually. Concern that faculty will feel pressured by administration.
- Committee asks whether the subject of the individual meetings would be health concerns or bargaining. Our understanding is that the individual meetings are about health concerns that Chairs recommended faculty don’t disclose to anyone but confidential HR.
- Browne notes in the Zoom chat: The deans asked faculty if they would return. The CFA recommended that we don't provide an answer to the question because we don't have enough information.
- McNie adds: Part of the challenge is what comes first? Completing health and safety plan? Recognizing it is a work in progress. Sooner we can complete it, the better. Faculty need to know what’s being proposed before they can say if they feel comfortable.
- McNie will ask AVP Graham Benton to forward the preliminary plan to CFA to keep everyone in the loop.
- McNie notes that the plan is focused on return to face to face and dockside, the committee hasn’t yet gotten to fall planning
- Testing will take place June 14/15. Before that there will be screenings. (Tests will only happen once due to the expense and logistics. Company will set up in O-lot to do all the testing at once. Committee’s feeling is that they don’t want people trickling in slowly because then they’ll have to do testing and training day after day.) Pinisetty notes that students have asked why they have to return if their classes don’t start until Day 5. Moorhead notes that we haven’t seen revised schedule, so that might not be a problem anymore. There may be some schedule manipulations they can do to get everyone into classes sooner.
- Pinisetty notes that Phase 3 will be a challenge. McNie says she is unsure if there will or won’t be testing. Isakson adds in the Zoom chat that “it seems to make sense to test for each phase.”
- Trevisan asks when this plan will be shared with all faculty. McNie says she is hoping to finalize and disseminate to everyone on Thursday.
- Senk congratulates the committee for the “tremendous amount of work” they’ve done to create this document. McNie notes that the bulk of the work was done already, and that

Graham Benton did the lion's share. Notes that this is considerably more specific than the presentation we all saw a month ago.

- Moorhead asks about inventory of health and safety equipment. McNie says it will be split between janitorial staff, housing folks. Janitorial service will be tasked with putting them in classrooms. There will be material for daily cleaning in the classroom. How will this work? Janitors will be hired to do all the cleaning before we get started; then there will be cleaning on a daily basis in all classrooms and labs; then faculty and students will be asked to clean their stations when they arrive and when they are done, so every work station gets cleaned continuously during the day.
- Pinisetty notes it's important to note the concentration of the solution being used on the welding shields. Apparently, certain levels of concentration can cause itchiness; one of Pinisetty's faculty (D. Grover) who teaches that class did a home experiment to try it and reported back. Pinisetty asks McNie to remind committee to look into it. Moorhead notes that welding lab will be the trickiest because students have to wear leather welding gloves, which will be shared. When you're welding you don't want to wear meltable or combustible materials. Pinisetty clarifies students will *not* be sharing gloves. Every student will have own gloves, and no sharing of helmets. They are ordering helmets for everyone. Fairbanks notes that this sounds like a nice silver lining for the welding lab.
- Moorhead also notes that latex allergies can be quite severe, and if we're issuing latex gloves or have them in the rotation for cleaning work areas, that might be a key question to ask people. Eliminate latex from the areas frequented by people with allergies.
- Fairbanks notes that reading section 6 made it seem like there's been no contracting of tests. Needs clarifying. McNie says they've narrowed it down to two vendors and are in last stages of contracting.
- McNie notes that mental health resources will be available to all students when they're back on campus.
- Fairbanks asks about quarantine protocol. McNie adds that campus will have resources to quarantine people for 2 weeks. Will work in conjunction with Solano County, who may decide that if a student lives within a half an hour from campus and lives alone, they may be sent home. McNie adds they will be encouraging students to practice social isolation before returning to campus. Committee agreed today to a letter with the consequences of a positive test needs to go out to students in the next couple of days.
- Yip asks if one test will satisfy concerns. McNie adds that in addition to testing students will be subject to daily screening. McNie reports that Donny Gordon has conveyed the intention that the campus will function like a "citadel." Once everyone is in and tested, they are working out protocol for things like food deliveries from off campus. Still unsure if that will be allowed.
- Yip asks after students who test positive finish their 2-week quarantine if they'll be tested again for confirmation. McNie will ask and report back.
- Moorhead asks what happens for faculty who are just coming back for dockside. McNie will ask and report back.
- McNie reports that once the decision is made about whether or not students must remain on campus. If the rule is that they cannot leave at all, consequences will be specified. Problem is that faculty and staff come and go every day, so "we don't have a pure citadel, we have a porous one." School has agreed to pay for local residents' room and board while they're here.

II. Questions for VPSA Candidates

- Executive Committee will be meeting with VPSA candidates for 30 minutes
- What do we want to know:
 1. **Why Cal Maritime?** (as a softball question)
 2. Relations with academic affairs: **Describe a time when you have partnered with faculty and academic affairs to achieve an objective.**
 3. **Follow up: What are your expectations for faculty in the lives of students?**
 4. Collaborations across silos: **What are your ideas for enhancing our leadership program in conjunction with the Commandant's Office?**
 5. We have a couple years of data now that show there's a drop-off in students around their first semester. We've lost a number of students because they find that after one semester they find they don't "fit in." **What initiatives would you propose to promote equity and diversity, and to make all students feel like they fit in on campus?**
 6. Retention/student engagement: **We are working to improve our student retention. Can you give us some ideas as to how you would approach that challenge?**
 7. **What ideas do you have for improving our campus climate? Our students are really stressed out with their high-unit majors and expectations that come from participation in the Corps of Cadets, watch-standing, etc. What ideas do you have for helping students balance these different aspects of their educational experience?**

III. Additional Business

- Committee discusses university communications. Concur that Friday night – particularly late-night – is for strongly worded letters, email bombs, and mic drops, *not* HR matters and invitations for faculty input. The optics of sending late Friday night emails are not good; every white house sends out bad news on Friday afternoon; it looks like you're trying to send something when no one is around to respond.
- IBL: Do we still want to write a resolution? Committee discusses briefly. Plan to write something up. Will resolution be about demanding clear policy for deans and chairs OR to ask the President to reconsider the decision? (Can do both.)
- Provost Search: Committee discusses protocol for search decisions. Is it normal for the search committee *not* to see the campus-wide feedback? Apparently during Dean searches the committee saw the feedback; now all feedback goes directly to the President. Committee will investigate for future searches to confirm whether or not this process is appropriate.

Meeting adjourned.