

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2020, 12 PM

In Attendance: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Elizabeth McNie (Vice Chair), Sarah Senk (Secretary), Matt Fairbanks, Christine Isakson, Cynthia Trevisan, Frank Yip, Lori Schroeder (Provost)

I. Chair Reports on CLC Meeting

- Pinisetty reports that CLC reported on campus construction projects. Sim Center project completed. Mayo Hall design is completed; they're trying to get permits. Project estimate is 24.5M completely sponsored by the state. We're not spending a dollar from our pockets on that project.
- iMod buildings estimated completion date is December 2020
- Chair reports that President offered to present to Faculty a detailed update about construction at a Senate meeting. Could present at Exec or at General Senate.
 - o Fairbanks: making it clear how these projects are financed is a good idea.
 - o McNie: given that the campus recently purchased a property on Georgia Street, faculty would be interested in where the money is coming from and how it's spent and the rationale.
 - o Pinisetty: Building is 201 Georgia Street, update at CLC was that the Foundation paid for it.
 - o McNie: do we know anything about the Corporation Board? If it's anything like the Foundation Board, it is not representative of California demographics. Chair says it should be up on our website.
 - o Trevisan notes that Assis Malaquias is now the faculty representative on the Foundation board.
- Chair also reports from CLC meeting that WASC Interim Report is due by March 2021 and Exec will have to help Graham Benton out with the Shared Governance update.

II. MT Curriculum Redesign

- McNie: message articulated to me that I should return to this body is that the committee is aware that there are strong feelings associated with this curriculum redesign, and that is all there really is to report. Additionally, McNie learned that there was a deep and pernicious misunderstanding that there was a secret second vote. McNie is finding it very difficult to persuade a few members of the committee that this never happened.
- Isakson asks, "where did they get this idea?"
- Chair says they got this idea from the fact that Amy Parsons reached out to members of the Curriculum Committee after the meeting to clarify their votes. Chair explains that the reason Amy wanted to clarify that votes were recorded accurately because there were accusations made after the meeting that voting was not clear; she followed up with individual members to confirm that no mistakes were made. It was *not* a second vote. It was clarifying that people understood the motion and that their votes were recorded accurately at the meeting.
- Isakson notes that confirmation was absolutely necessary due to the fact that the meeting took place over Zoom and people *were* confused about what was happening. This was the first time a Curriculum Committee meeting took place over Zoom and

it *was* confusing, and Amy was doing due diligence confirming that records were accurate.

- Senk notes this is all documented in Senate Executive Committee minutes.
- McNie regrets that it is difficult to stop the spread of misinformation.
- Yip wants to note that this sounds like a refusal to engage, and this has been the Science and Math Department's perception of the MT curriculum revision process, that from the beginning the MT design been conducted in secrecy, without consultation with S&M. Yip notes that the Curriculum revision process requires consultation, that it is reflective of all of us because we are not peerless; we stand in comparison to other maritime academies. Yip believes it is "lamentable."
- McNie notes this is a minority view, that "conspiracy theory" is not widespread.
- Yip says that this whole process seemed to be driven by a minority, that "we are under minority rule here. The delivery of curriculum is under minority rule."
- Chair says he will start the conversation. Wants to go ahead with the next plan, which is for Senk to approach the S&M Department, Pinisetty will approach Deans and Chairs, and McNie to talk with MT department about how we can improvise new curriculum, perhaps mimicking some team-teaching models used in the School of Engineering.
- McNie says she is done communicating with the department on the matter of the revised curriculum.
- Chair says he appreciates the efforts, and he will be the one negotiating things going forward.

III. The Qualtrics Problem

- McNie reports she's hit her limit on the Qualtrics problem: it's unprofessional as a social scientist to be sending out Survey Monkey surveys.
- Provost reports that she asked Chief Information Officer if we could proceed with our own contract. She will follow-up but does not anticipate a short-term solution.

IV. Evaluation of Online Teaching

- Chair has to consult with Benton to find out how only scantron evaluations work. Chair is hopeful that other CSUs will have evaluations we can adapt, tailored toward online classes.
- Chair will ask Benton if we can start moving forward, looking at a set of questions. If there's an option to make changes, we can do it. But it's something Benton must initiate.
- Trevisan asked about plan to move to online surveys permanently and how to incentivize students to complete the evaluations.
- Senk suggests we as faculty should oppose this, that student response rate drops, that even if students are incentivized by a withheld grade they tend to spend less time filling out qualitative comments, etc.

V. Standing Committees

- McNie will follow up with all Standing Committee chairs to make sure they submit a monthly report.
- Pinisetty reports we already have an update from Steve Browne.

VI. Empty Lecturer-at-Large Seat

- Senk reports we need to conduct an election for the empty Lecturer-at-Large seat.
- Exec will send out a call for service announcing the position is open and we are seeking nominees. Nominations close the week after the announcement. Election will take place using Microsoft forms.
- Pinisetty will follow up with Julianne and Cody Lewis to see if the Senate Email address is ready.

Meeting adjourned.