

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (10/19/2021)

Attendees: Christine Isakson, Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Wil Tsai, Margot Hanson, Frank Yip, Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair)

- Administrative Review Committee
 - We need a way forward. Nordenholz contacts Deans and then what happens?
 - Tsai and Browne (current ARC members) are willing to roll off the Committee and then run for their positions. However, adding a female member to the committee would help alleviate the lack of gender diversity on the Committee, which has been a topic of conversation since the beginning.
 - The timeline Tsai gave Pinisetty calls for a start of the process this week. Could maybe push it to next week, but beyond that we're going to have problems. Faculty would, for instance, be filling out the surveys over the holidays or during finals, so participation might be low.
 - Question – is the Deans' responsibilities document finalized? Pinisetty – yes, need to talk to HR to get the official job responsibility document for the survey.
 - Some discussion of who would be able to review which Dean. Clarified that anyone can participate in each of the 3 reviews, though it is voluntary.
 - McNie – to clarify, I need to recruit a member for ARC, preferably a female candidate? This was confirmed.
 - Pinisetty noted that female faculty are already generally overburdened with service, but this is an important committee to have diversity on.
 - Tsai mentioned that the call for service should be clear that the position is not evaluative, administrative only. The ARC analyzes and communicates the review but doesn't review the administrators directly.

- Other Committee and Senate Business
 - Research committee recruitment continues.
 - GE committee chairperson: McNie will be declining to do it as she is already overcommitted for service. However, there shall be an election, and there will be a chair.
 - Hanson – noted that it might useful to have the documents in process on the website. This was in reference to the GE committee policy, which is stalled after its first reading, because there is no Chair of the committee to lead that presentation and discussion.
 - Pinisetty – need to improve sabbatical policy. Ryan Dudley Wade is chair, but wants to step down, and will after this review is done this semester.
 - Pinisetty – what about the Curriculum Committee policy? McNie – subcommittees working on the new form and the new policy. Not ready to present to the General Senate. Pinisetty – a first reading perhaps in November or December? McNie – can nudge the subcommittees, but the workload is high, and I don't feel comfortable pressuring them. So, maybe?
 - Cruise Oversight Committee – right now, Keir Moorhead and McNie only. They will be meeting shortly to plot a course. Because they're on the Cruise Committee.
 - Pinisetty – commented that time is flying. [general agreement]

- Pinisetty – need to publish the committee work study/data soon (this is in reference to the work McNie and Isakson did to compile faculty work on Senate and University committees).
 - McNie – it needs a quick update and then she needs to contact departments for their department committee work assignments. Pinisetty – notes that different committees have differing workloads. That should be indicated in the data. Perhaps based on meeting frequency? McNie – that’s doable.
 - Fairbanks – stated that it probably shouldn’t be based solely on meeting frequency. Foundation Scholarship committee, for example, meets very little, but entails lots of non-meeting time reading student essays. Pinisetty agreed, and noted IRA as another of these committees that have significant out of meeting work. Some allowance for this should be made if possible.
- Resolution on Changing the Toxic Culture and Indifference at Cal Maritime (Yip presenting)
 - Introduction is a statement of sentiments.
 - Next are paragraphs describing incidents and the insufficiency of the administrative response.
 - Next summary and statement on what these incidents represent.
 - Resolved’s have a series of statements of our positions, actions we’re willing to take, and recommendations for actions to be taken by the campus at large.
 - Distribution list is very broad, including CSU-wide individuals and institutions.
 - Yip showed the attached exhibit for the resolution (the photo of the SS Black Rifle Coffee).
 - Pinisetty stated that the faculty member who noticed the above and reported it had their name shared by a Commandant (by forwarding an email) with O2x. O2x then checked the faculty member’s LinkedIn profile. When asked about this oddity, the Provost and VP McMahon said that the Commandant’s office were tasked with handling the issue when it was brought to their attention.
 - Yip noted that asking them to remove the coffee and taking down the Cal Maritime post on social media was the only discernable action. Provost said there would be follow up, but we haven’t seen anything.
 - Tsai – it would be good if the faculty member would be willing to openly come forward so that the issue can be discussed directly.
 - As far as a presenter for the resolution, Colin Dewey was nominated in absentia.
 - Pinisetty said a process should be established for vetting these contractors. This sort of thing should not repeat. The amount of money involved is very large. It seems we could find a better and cheaper alternative.
 - Pinisetty – what’s the plan for distribution of the draft? Yip – I’ll send it to you and it should go out to Senators. Also will go out to AS and King Xiong. Hanson – also Robin Bates, our new DEI lead in HR. Yip – agreed.
- Agenda Items for General Senate
 - Pinisetty wants to finalize the agenda for distribution very soon. Isakson requested a placeholder for her and Burback’s resolution for a first reading.
 - Confidential advocate can’t make it. Maybe Robin Bates for a brief introduction to General Senate?

- Isakson asked which letters to reference in her resolution. The MMP union letter was agreed to be a good one – represents a wide variety of industry officers.
 - Pinisetty asked Provost Schroeder if she had updates for General Senate. She wasn't sure. She would contact Pinisetty later today with any items.
 - Fairbanks – we should follow up with our resolutions from the beginning of the semester and the President's response to them. Pinisetty said that he would distribute the President's responses along with the agenda.
- Update on Art&Sci Consulting Process
 - Pinisetty – Provost Schroeder, do you want to give us an update on the Art&Sci consultants meeting?
 - Provost Schroeder – nothing conclusive as yet, unfortunately. Some of the data they have gathered does prompt some questions. They looked at admitted students for Fall 2021 (matriculated and no). What would have made a difference in matriculated numbers was the basic question they were asking. They're also going to look at the students who inquired but didn't apply. Among some students we're apparently considered a safety school, and some didn't remember being admitted. Students who matriculated were generally very happy with their decision though. Some moments of cognitive dissonance – some cultural aspects were negative (quasi-military), but then later a question indicated students preferred a highly structured environment. The Provost recognized that the issue of regimentation in the student body is a hot button one with faculty. This is going to be a year-long process with a final report that should allow us draw conclusions and make decisions.
 - Some questions on the numbers of the non-matriculated students. Apparently about 80 out of 120, which was noted as an impressive response rate for students who did not come here.
 - McNie – when will we receive the report? She also wanted to say that it is really important to survey current students about their feelings on things like the degree of regimentation and structure, and those terms need to be very carefully defined, and we need to know what the students think those terms mean as well.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that they (Art&Sci) are being very careful about their survey and the definition of terms like that. The consultants will also be looking at 2022 to get more numbers in the survey. She also wanted to mention that half the steering committee for the consult is faculty (Dinesh Pinisetty, Alex Parker, Amber Janssen, Tamara Burbach, Colin Dewey, and Ryan Wade)
 - Some discussion on what these preliminary results are telling us. Pinisetty noted that Stas Allen related a story that his counselors in high school discouraged him from attending Cal Maritime, which is concerning in terms of our reputation.
 - Tsai noted that apparently school counselors are getting information from students, but not from admissions. We need to make sure our new AVP in student enrollment management is active in sharing that information. He's on the hiring committee, so send ideas and questions his way.
 - Isakson noted that she has a student who would be interested in presenting on our school at his high school. Others noted that faculty have been doing this sort of thing as well. Mike Holden in Engineering was mentioned as an example.

- Provost Schroeder noted that we are bringing up a lot of points and suggestions that are best practices in enrollment management. Good that we're thinking along these lines together.
 - Some discussion of the engineering program. A thought that the ship needs to be at least somewhat decoupled from the program to avoid the space caps that comes with it. Tsai is working on these issues in the Mechanical Engineering department. They need hands-on training, so he's been talking to wind energy companies among others.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that she was heartened to hear our interest and involvement. Admissions had previously implied to her that faculty were not interested. Those present in this meeting indicated that this was not the case.
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- Meeting Adjourned