

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (1/13/2022)

Attendees: Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Christine Isakson, Wil Tsai, Leah Wyzykowski, Frank Yip, Keir Moorhead, and Provost Lori Schroeder

- Provost's Updates
 - VP of Cadet Affairs McMahon and Provost Schroeder are sending folks to a FYE (first year experience) conference. Wil Tsai and Amy Skoll will be faculty representatives. Administrators attending will be Graham Benton (Associate Provost) and Mac Griswold (Dean of Cadets).
 - Provost thinks it's essential that faculty are involved in the outcomes and the content of an FYE, and that it's essential to view the FYE as teaching skills *and* teaching values that we've seen some lapses in over the last few months.
 - The workshop is 2/11 - 2/12 and is followed by a bigger conference that some Cal Maritime representatives will also attend.
 - Uniform standards are near completion. Roll-out next week, probably.
 - Pinisetty has asked that the faculty Title IX deputy position description be circulated, but actually Academic Affairs needs to create that in consultation with Cadet Affairs. There's going to be a high level meeting about it soon, but the description will not be immediately available.
 - COVID situation: rooms are being cleaned on the Golden Bear. COVID numbers among students are ticking up a bit. Not sure on the numbers exactly. Those rooms are being cleaned for *healthy* students willing to make space for isolation rooms in North. Apparently there were rumors that the rooms on the ship were going to be used as isolation rooms, which caused some concern given their proximity to classrooms and shipboard class activities.
 - Isakson – students informed her that contact tracing is happening and exposed students who have received their booster vaccine shots are being told to continue their normal activities if they are asymptomatic. Wondering how safe that is. Noted that we've already had a couple positive cases in faculty. Isakson said she would appreciate some transparency on the policy. Quite concerned about her colleagues' safety.
 - Provost Schroeder said she will check into this.
 - Yip – who is doing the contact tracing? Answer: Student Health and Safety.
 - Wyzykowski related her personal experience, which suggested that exposed students were being asked quarantine, though she noted that her booster shot was relatively recent.
 - McNie noted that this procedure [the one articulated by Isakson] does seem to be consistent with CDC policy as per the link that Tsai shared in chat.
 - Fairbanks noted his experience with students reporting exposure or possible exposure, but that there seemed to be a longer lag in processing the tests. Provost confirmed that the lab has been lagging somewhat compared to last semester.
 - Tsai mentioned he got a test on campus on Thursday, got his test back on Sunday. He said it seems like we should be trying to monitor testing results taken outside the campus system if possible. Pinisetty noted that HIPAA might be a problem there, but perhaps a voluntary or self-report mechanism. Provost recommended adding it to the website for reporting.

- Some discussion of this and getting it to happen. Provost mentioned that faculty can help by telling students who report to them to report to Student Health as well. It would have to be voluntary since it's health information.
- Gender Equity Committee and Proposed Standing Committee
 - McNie – Gender Equity was an ad hoc committee. Mission is done once the report from TNG is complete. She noted that TNG has been dragging their feet and not being very responsive on the requested information and revisions.
 - JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) committee is the proposal for a standing Senate committee. Do we want to create this committee and dissolve the ad hoc committee?
 - Proposed timeline would be to have the implementation setup for fall semester (2022).
 - Pinisetty – we would need 2-3 faculty to work on a policy if we expect to get anywhere.
 - McNie – agreed, but the first question is do we want to make it happen?
 - Pinisetty – personally support it. Let's discuss it in the General Senate, but let's get input from Senate Exec now. *Senate Executive members all indicated their support.*
 - Pinisetty – we need to make sure we have some clear objectives for the committee.
 - Tsai – Thinks the timeline is ambitious. Maybe the Provost could support the development with stipends over the summer for faculty working on it since time tends to be short during the spring semester.
 - McNie will prepare a slide for General Senate discussion.
 - Fairbanks – there would need to be a by-laws revision, yes? Answer: yep.
 - Tsai noted that the policy for the committee can be approved on separate timeline than the Senate by-laws revision, because the committee policies aren't in the by-laws by design.
- IRB Issues and Training
 - Isakson brought up the issue. Wanted to be sure that the trainings from CITI are still available. The Provost confirmed that the trainings will continue to be available.
 - Other issues with IRB were brought up – Currently it has no chair. Also no web presence. But we're properly registered with the federal government now, so we've got that going for us.
 - Agreement that these issues should be resolved as soon as possible.
- Student Evaluation Task Force
 - Julie Simons proposed a co-chair to serve as her replacement alongside Aparna Sinha.
 - Student evaluation task force didn't meet last semester. Probably can't complete work in time for spring evaluations, but maybe next semester?
 - Tsai – It's a wonky ratio to have two co-chairs and two members on the committee. Would need another member, but recognizes that it was hard to recruit last time around.
 - Pinisetty – who are the current members? Answer: Crawford, Skoll, Sinha, Shackman.
 - There were no volunteers from those present to be a liaison to the committee from Senate Exec. Pinisetty will reach out to Aparna to map out next steps for the task force.

- Senate Elections and Membership
 - Julie Simons needs to be replaced, because she's on sabbatical. Do we want a one semester replacement?
 - Fairbanks mentioned the other missing Senators, 3 positions open by his count. Simons' at-large position, a lecturer at-large position which any faculty can run for if a lecturer does not volunteer, and an ME representative to replace Tsai (who is now ASCSU rep).
 - Some discussion. Tentative plan is to replace Simons asap, and the others can wait until March (the regular election cycle).

- Proposal for Fee Change for Student Health
 - Pinisetty – Grace Chou has a proposal for an increase in student health fees.
 - Tsai – how big of an increase? In his mind, if it's small – Senate Exec weighing in by itself is fine. If it's big – maybe the whole Senate needs to weigh in..
 - Pinisetty said the justification in his estimation is strong, but he doesn't know the numbers.
 - The proposal was presented to student leaders. Wyzykowski said it was something like 10% with automatic increases for inflation afterward. The justification as she recalls it was that currently the student health is not self-supporting and required additional state funding to function properly. Student leadership did not support it, noting that a small campus was unlikely to self-support a student health office.
 - McNie – not sure we can debate now without more information, but the change seems significant and should see the full Senate.
 - Pinisetty – agreed.
 - Pinisetty also mentioned that Advancement would like to present to faculty on the Capital Campaign presentation, but which venue is appropriate? Some discussion of this.
Conclusion: this should be presented to the full Senate.

- Open Floor
 - Tsai – ARC process is on track. This year will complete the first full 3 year cycle. It's a logical time for revisions, etc.
 - Tsai – also, regarding the Title IX meeting Provost Schroeder mentioned. In addition to Michael Martin on DEI, there's a Robin Bates, who might be helpful. Provost agreed and will see if she could be looped into the process.
 - McNie – noted Robin Bates still has not been properly introduced to campus by HR. Also, the interim Title IX coordinator should be introduced to Senate as well. There was some discussion regarding how to make sure these things happen.
 - Brig Timpson's replacement was announced. They should also be introduced to Senate.

 - Moorhead – regarding the trapped student on cruise incident: has anything been done?
Response from attendees: improved training and increased checking of those spaces was the response, but no one is sure if this is codified.

 - Fairbanks asked about the status of Senate standing committee policies. Response: General Education committee is in second reading. Curriculum Committee's goal is for a first reading in February.

- Pinisetty – for Keir and Bets, can we have cruise committee policy first reading during this semester? Response: likely, though would probably wrap up the process after the summer cruise.
- Pinisetty will work on sabbatical policy and have its first reading this semester, which he is doing because Wade (the committee chair) doesn't appear willing to write it.
- Provost – AIC policy updates? Pinisetty - need to check in with Taiyo Inoue first, but yes, soon.

- McNie – I'm concerned the some faculty positions (like International Experience (IE) coordinator) seem to be permanent. Isakson chimed in to indicate her concern with this.
- Some discussion of the IE position and how it has changed in recent years to release time only rather than extra pay for the faculty member in that position. That change was not greeted warmly. In addition, there's been some communication between Pinisetty and a CSU-wide person who coordinates IE, but that's not really Pinisetty's responsibility. Situation appears to be quite complicated.
- McNie observed that the faculty development position is one that routinely goes to the same people. Bottom line is that faculty would like a voice in these appointments.
- Provost – what would be useful is a letter from Senate stating this. That could really help in making changes to the process.
- Isakson – wonders if the IE position should be voted on by faculty. Also, IBL and GSMA and OCN departments/faculty should be important inputs to the selection since they send their students on those trips.
- Provost noted that it is an appointment, but definitely should have faculty voice included.
- Isakson – our department doesn't have a structured way to have input into the process for IE except through our Dean, who isn't faculty. Provost agreed that the situation was odd, and usually IE is coordinated by someone full-time.
- Some discussion of the lack of learning outcomes for IE prior to last year.
- Yip – perhaps the solution is since Academic Affairs controls these programs, Provost Schroeder could formally solicit feedback on these things. Provost – agreed, that's a good idea.
- Who is on the IE committee in Senate? Answer: no one yet. McNie noted we have the same number of faculty this year, but more committees on which faculty need to serve.
- Pinisetty – perhaps a slide for Senate meeting on membership on committees? Need to see if people are interested in, say, serving on JEDI before we create it.
- Tsai – perhaps we can craft a letter to support the initiative for faculty input on the faculty development and IE positions.

- Yip – what is happening with tutoring? Is it still being coordinated by the Registrar?
- Provost – we just haven't had appropriate applicants to these positions, unfortunately. And we're apparently competing with a lot of institutions for these trained people. Perhaps, at least for scheduling tutors, we can get someone temporary.
- McNie – I know someone, but they couldn't serve full-time. Provost – honestly, we'll take anyone qualified to try to solve this problem.
- A call to faculty to provide possible candidates will go out to try to help with this situation.

- Moorhead – another issue: classroom work requests. Voiced his disappointment with the state of the classrooms. Things broken, etc.
 - Some discussion of this. Point was made that we need people to actually fix things. Deans are meant to be coordinating these issues and have been given dispensation to get people to fix things (facilities, IT, etc.). Point was also made that direct requests to these departments (facilities, etc.) sometimes went unfilled, so Deans were brought in to push the appropriate departments to get these things done.
 - Provost mentioned that the A/V position and the maintenance issues has been put to Marc Goodrich, and that the solution may be to outsource some of these tasks to make sure they're being handled.
 - Moorhead has been advising Marc on that issue. With Khaoi Mady gone, people are also concerned that the learning spaces refresh might go by the wayside. Tsai, Moorhead, Mady, Michele van Hoeck, Ariel Setniker, and Sam Pearson were on the learning spaces committee.
 - Yip – I can't recall what the primary issue was in getting a dedicated A/V person for the University.
 - Yip's question prompted a broader discussion. Apparently, after a great deal of pressure from department chairs, Senate Chair, the Provost, etc, the A/V position is coming back over to Academic Affairs which makes sense and may help. However, the Provost made the point that there are a lot of positions open here and in the CSU, and we're having difficulty hiring in this area.
 - Moorhead noted that when the A/V position went over to IT, they were trying to hire a help desk generalist that would stretch into A/V, and the salary was not competitive.
 - Tsai suggested updating the Senate on A/V issues. This was agreed to.
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- Meeting Adjourned