

## Senate Executive Committee Meeting (4/7/2022)

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

\* Had to depart for another meeting just before the Open Floor section below.

- Minutes
  - *3/24 minutes approved by unanimous consent.* Tsai motioned for approval, McNie seconded. There were small amendments to the record proposed and accepted.
  
- CommUNITY Day Reflections
  - Everyone gave their opinions and takeaways from CommUNITY Day. General acknowledgement that DeEtta Jones' presentation was less well received than the drama group amongst students (and this group). Attendance was quite good for the large group presentations. Some faculty experienced discussion groups who were reluctant to speak up. The point was made the message/material of DeEtta Jones' presentation was very good, particularly as it relates to a model of leadership, but there were some issues with how she implemented her presentation. Another discussion group lead by a Senate Exec member had a theme – students don't feel included/appreciated/respected in general (and they brought up many individual issues). Provost Schroeder gave congratulations to this group (and other faculty) for pushing for the Day to happen and helping the Day go well.
  - Tsai suggested a Senate resolution of appreciation and a call for continued engagement on these issues.
  
- Chair Updates
  - Pinisetty sent out an email to cruise faculty looking for volunteers for the Title IX liaison position on cruise. He asked if McNie knew anyone who might be interested and who we might reach out to specifically.
  - McNie said she didn't know of anyone interested (yet).
  - Moorhead said he was willing to help out with Title IX on cruise. This offer was met with much appreciation from attendees.
  
  - Pinisetty will be scheduling ARC meetings for the Deans' reviews. Please keep an eye on your email.
  - Pinisetty will also be sharing a document from the Academic Excellence strategic planning group. He and the Provost have made presentations on it to ASCMA and the Deans/Chairs meeting.
  - Pinisetty will also be sharing the progress made by the student evaluation question task force. This will be shared within two weeks. Great progress has been made.
  
  - Pinisetty noted the upcoming Senate officer elections. It is anticipated to be a quick process. A Zoom link will be forthcoming for Senators.

- Pinisetty also updated the group on the Senate RTP Committee membership. Holden, Malaquias, and Kamdar were the AY 21-22 committee. Malaquias needs to be replaced because he's GSMA Chair and will have faculty under review. Pinisetty reached out to eligible faculty for that open position. Taiyo Inoue has agreed to serve. So, the current line-up is Nipoli Kamdar, Mike Holden, and Taiyo Inoue for next year.
  - Tsai noted that we should get Mike Holden's feedback on the Brightspace shells for RTP and whether there are adjustments needed prior to next year's reviews.
  - There was some discussion of what happens when faculty go on leave and whether they're permitted to serve in certain service positions. It was agreed that Senate should have some clear information on this policy.
- Open Floor and Draft Resolution Discussion
    - Tsai, regarding feedback on resolutions after their first readings: I've spoken with my department about them. One thing that came up was whether Pecota's retirement should change the hiring resolution's language, perhaps by focusing it a little more on having a policy for interims and shortening it somewhat.
    - Yip noted that Michael Martin is also an example of the problem with interim hires that the resolution is addressing. He'd like to get the President's response to the resolution on the record. The practice [of making some interims permanent without an open search] is really problematic.
    - Others brought up the very recent hiring (with no search) for the TSGB Chief Mate, so the practice is still occurring.
    - Yip: yes, the resolution should make it so we're not guessing about who was properly searched for and who wasn't and how it was done. There should be a clear and open procedure for all.
    - Tsai indicated that the ME department feedback on the Curriculum Committee policy was positive. Also, no feedback on the reform resolution from ME. Pinisetty said there was some feedback sent from ET faculty that he'll pass along.
    - Tsai: say the resolution on reform goes through. How do we close the gap between faculty and student affairs folks? It seems like the two entities have very different views on the issues in the resolution (Commandants, Corps of Cadets, etc.).
    - McNie: An aside regarding the hiring resolution, Julianne Tolson was apparently a second interim CIO after Phoebe Kwan. Tolson was appointed to be permanent after 1.5 years without telling or consulting anyone in IT.
    - McNie: back to the reform resolution. I'm not sure how to close that gap [see Tsai's comment above].
    - Moorhead noted that we didn't really finish our conversation with Kathleen McMahon on the Commandant's Office. She presented information and said Commandants are now primarily in student services roles and listened to our comments. It seems like it's a way to hire people who aren't student services people into roles that have a significant student services role.
    - Pinisetty suggested that we need to carefully approach these issues and that our approach should be that these decisions (student vs. cadet, etc.) should be based on data.
    - Isakson noted that what we want to make sure we're *not* doing is having these committees and consultations which gather feedback and data and then proceed to ignore it. She agreed on the need for data-driven decisions.

- Tsai: I think it's less of accusing one another of being wrong or not understanding...it just seems like we're talking past one another. I really don't know what their perspective is on these things. I'm reluctant to suggest another task force, but it feels like there needs to be conversation, maybe over the summer, so we can really understand each other's position.
  - Pinisetty – yes, but we also don't want to waste faculty time if their feedback isn't going to be used.
  - Yip expanded on this point. Noting that efforts for consultation are often made, but too often data and feedback just get ignored. Perhaps we should have a meeting with Provost Schroeder and Kathleen McMahon about the many, many times this sort of thing has occurred.
  - Yip thought we should follow up with faculty on the hiring committee for the Commandant and see how they feel the process went. The point was made that some faculty may have skipped feedback step for the Commandant candidates because they assumed it would be ignored.
  - Tsai: If we are asking the Company Commandants to go beyond their initial hired roles into responsibilities associated with student affairs, then we need to make sure that either we are hiring people who bring that background to the office or are willing to pursue further training to develop them into this hybrid commandant-student affairs role.
  - More discussion of this. It was agreed that we should be discussing this with Cadet Affairs, but how we communicate effectively is a question. Commandants should have well-defined role, and it doesn't seem to be well-defined at this time.
  
  - Moorhead: regarding the new ship, we should keep a close eye on how staffing of the ship is handled.
  - Tsai: we want to be sure that staffing allows support for all academic programs on the new ship.
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- Meeting Adjourned