

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (4/14/2022)

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Christine Isakson, Leah Wzyzkowski (Student Rep), Frank Yip, Wil Tsai, and Keir Moorhead

- Minutes
 - *4/7 minutes approved by unanimous consent*, after several amendments and clarifications to the record. Yip motioned for approval, McNie seconded.

- Chair Updates
 - Pinisetty mentioned that Kitty Luce and Amber Janssen may be joining us later.

 - In the meantime, he shared the draft policy for sabbatical leave. It includes a clear timeline and flowchart for reviews.
 - Pinisetty also mentioned that Ryan Wade will be resigning as Chair of the professional leave committee effective at the end of the academic year. We will need to staff that position for next year.
 - The draft policy includes a mostly blank rubric for review of sabbatical proposals (this is to be agreed upon by the committee members after they review).
 - Pinisetty also noted a clarification of the post-sabbatical report policy. There are now some standard questions to answer, some guidelines, and a process for reviewing that report.
 - The first reading of this policy is scheduled for next week's General Senate meeting.

- Discussion of Library Department Chair
 - Luce and Janssen have a couple documents to share with us with the aim of having a Library department chair.
 - When they reviewed the department chair policy and job description, they realized that there are a variety of things that simply aren't happening in the Library, because they don't have a Chair.
 - Their first document describes the functions of the Chair and which of those are happening, aren't happening, or are happening in a limited way.
 - Big items: there is no Chair level of RTP review for librarians and no official representative for the Deans and Chairs meetings.
 - Other items: work assignments/schedules, scheduling of WTU-bearing classes, faculty input on staffing (e.g. replacements of librarians that are on sabbaticals), and a faculty voice in curriculum decisions that affect the library department (e.g. GSMA curriculum changes).
 - There is more detail in the document they've put together.
 - Janssen clarified that they're here to ask for faculty support in this effort.
 - McNie noted that she's reviewed the documents - appreciates their clarity and their completeness. We might start with a resolution that communicates the Senate's support for the initiative.
 - Kitty Luce indicated that Graham Benton appeared supportive after seeing the evidence they put together. This was something of change, because he had been thinking (initially) that it was a non-starter.

- Pinisetty asked about whether campuses have this structure. Luce and Janssen have done some research on this. The CSU campuses are split on this point - some have Chairs and some do not. From their review, newer campuses typically have a Chair, older ones usually do not. In Luce's and Janssen's view, this is due to librarians historically not being viewed as full faculty by administration.
- There was some discussion of how to address questions of the department size (quite small) and the need for a functional Chair in various policies (sabbatical process, etc, etc.).
- Isakson indicated her support and said she could ask ASCSU folks for information on how this proceeded on campuses.
- Tsai: should we be discussing this openly? Has it been discussed with Michele Van Hoeck (Library Dean) Answer: No, they wanted to establish that there was faculty support first.
- Fairbanks asked whether the proposal would be for less WTU buy-out for the Chair due to the small department size at this time? Following on this, McNie thought that building faculty support might be helped by this adjustment given the large differences in say, the MT Chair workload and a Library Chair workload in scheduling, etc.

- So, how do we proceed? Tsai and McNie came back to the resolution idea. Do we want to push the resolution to the fall given that we're a week out from the last General Senate meeting of the academic year? Do we [Senate Exec] want to discuss this with the Library Dean?
- McNie suggested that Luce and Janssen communicate to the Dean that the Senate Exec supports the proposal. If there's pushback, then perhaps we accelerate the resolution. If it's well received, then perhaps we can proceed in a more relaxed fashion. General agreement that the Dean should be informed and included in the conversation.
- *Senate Exec unanimously supports exploring the establishment of a Library Department Chair and the development of a resolution.*

- Open Floor
 - The next Senate Executive meeting conflicts with the University budget priorities meeting. There was agreement to cancel the Tuesday meeting and attempt to re-schedule.

- Meeting Adjourned