

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (9/8/2022)

Attendees: Bets McNie (Chair), Sarah Senk (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Christine Isakson, Victoria Haller (Student Rep), Frank Yip, Wil Tsai, Keir Moorhead, and Provost Lori Schroeder

- Minutes Review and Approval
 - *Minutes from 9/1/2022 and 9/3/2021 were reviewed and approved by unanimous consent with minimal edits for concision.*

- Policy Review
 - *We endorsed the new student health leave of absence policy from VP Kathleen McMahon. Fairbanks motioned for a vote, Senk seconded. Unanimous endorsement.*
 - *We reviewed the USCG Licensing Programs Policy from Mike Kazek. McNie and Moorhead indicate they have no issues with the policy after their review. Moorhead motioned for a vote, Isakson seconded. Unanimous endorsement.*
 - *After the vote, Isakson pointed out: line 146 says students must complete all requirements within their final term, but sometimes they do their exams their second-to-last term (e.g. if they take exams in January but they don't finish sea time until they're on cruise in summer term). I know everyone knows that, but it's not reflected in the policy.*
 - *After further discussion, Senate Exec decided that our endorsement of the Licensing Programs Policy is contingent on the adjustments to the language cited above. Approved by unanimous consent.*
 - *Moving on to the Internship Policy.*
 - *McNie suggested a change, clarifying academic internships vs. internships of other varieties.*
 - *Provost Schroeder noted that a suggestion was made to eliminate the 'co-op' language and stick with 'internship' language for clarity.*
 - *Tsai said that the way this [the policy] is written potentially puts responsibilities on faculty coordinators beyond their skill set. He noted that the emergency plans and workplace assessments seem to be on faculty as the policy reads whereas it should be in the hands of risk assessors in administrators who have this expertise.*
 - *We decided to give feedback on the Internship Policy instead of endorsement at this time. It was agreed that we could endorse by email for speed (if needed) once our feedback is responded to.*

- Karyn Cornell and Safety on the Training Ship
 - *Karyn Cornell (President's Chief of Staff) is here. McNie outlined our desire to see a 'post-mortem' on the safety problems on the ship last spring and summer. Yip added that the safety culture and what led to these problems is also important and that the problems likely started prior to Spring 2022.*
 - *Cornell said that she thinks of this as a start of a dialogue on these issues rather than just answering some questions in this one instance. She updated us on the hiring process for the ship leadership. Captain, First Mate, the whole Engineering officer structure (Chief, Second, Third), etc. These hiring processes are underway. She emphasized that she wants a dialogue with and participation by faculty in these hiring committees.*

- Moorhead asked about the timing of the hires. He suggested having the Chief Engineer in place so that person can be involved in the hiring of the other engineering officers.
- Cornell agreed, saying that was the plan. Regarding deck officers: Captain is hired. First Mate would also be hired before the rest of the deck officers so they could be involved in the hiring of the other officers.
- Moorhead asked what changes were happening to prevent the problems we had with paperwork and certification of the ship. Moorhead noted that the Deans (emphasizing, no disrespect intended) simply aren't experts on these issues. He noted that even he, who holds a license, isn't an expert in these certification issues. Are we bringing in outside contractors or consultants?
- Cornell acknowledged the issue and said it would be part of the ongoing dialogue with us and others. She said it's not necessarily ideal to have consultants handling this every time. Isakson said that we're lucky to have 3 licensed folks here on Senate Exec and she's confident that having a specialist setting up the processes is important. Isakson pointed out that we don't have to stop and wait for one thing to be done before proceeding with the next. The 'post-mortem' and moving forward can be done in parallel.
- Yip firmly asserted that the President did not properly oversee former TSGB Captain Sam Pecota's stewardship of the ship's condition and safety culture.
- Cornell – what do you see as a way forward on these issues?
- McNie recommended proceeding with a specialist consultant who can unpack how to improve these processes. Isakson agreed.
- Moorhead noted that these incidents - to lose all our documentation so we couldn't sail, the sewage spill and botched clean-up for instance - is gross negligence. Other than changing personnel, what are we doing to prevent these things from happening again? He noted that he had been trying to send up flares on these issues and others but was getting no response or a belated response.
- Cornell reiterated that she's here to start a dialogue and hoped that folks weren't expecting her to have immediate answers to these questions, but that she was serious about getting them answered.
- Isakson explained our frustration around these issues, noting that this has been going on for a couple years with seemingly little movement on a series of incidents. Isakson made clear that the frustration here isn't directed at Cornell. Cornell expressed appreciation for that, and really wants to collaborate and continue this dialogue.
- McNie expressed her appreciation of that sentiment, and that we're here to help move forward and be productive together.
- Moorhead said that having more information on the Cabinet-level discussions on the ship's various problems would be helpful. We [Senate Exec and faculty] really want to know that we're talking about the same things and that there's an urgency at the Cabinet level to address these problems.
- Senk wanted to know if Cabinet had discussed having a 'post-mortem'-type examination. That would let faculty know that there's movement on this.
- Cornell said that the Cabinet does want to examine what happened and how to learn from it.
- On a separate subject – Day on the Bay, is it happening? October 9th is the plan. Cornell said it was contingent on having the appropriate personnel in place. The University wants to do it, but can't say with certainty that it will happen at this point.

- Moorhead – regarding the staffing for the Day: please don't ask faculty to do it for free and then also pay licensed mariners from outside Cal Maritime (i.e. from other unions or ship management companies). Cornell – noted.
- Appreciation was expressed for Cornell coming to the meeting, and she departed.
- General Education and the ICAS Recommendation for AB 928 Compliance
 - Senk is presenting on the issue.
 - Colin Dewey is our world languages council rep. That body, and others related to GE programs, are writing resolutions in opposition to the ICAS recommendation. Their position is that campuses should have more autonomy in determining how to meet the requirements of AB 928. The strategy is to express their opposition to ASCSU and affect their feedback to ICAS.
 - Things are moving quickly at the ASCSU level. ASCSU needs to give ye or nay in November. They are now asking for feedback via a resolution passed today, according to Tsai. The offered responses to campuses are: (1) support, (2) no consensus, and (3) a specific recommendation for meeting the requirements in an alternate way.
 - Senk noted that in the planning process, the CSU wanted to enshrine the Golden 4, which was interpreted as keeping a specific courses rather than keeping specific learning outcomes.
 - Tsai encouraged us to append the rationale to our resolution on this subject so that it meets the feedback requirement.
 - Fairbanks expressed some anger with the process by which this has occurred, noting that the ICAS' proposed solution was being drafted last winter/spring [Fairbanks originally asserted this was it was complete, but was corrected by Tsai. Thanks!] but only finalized just as ASCSU went away for the summer, and now campuses are being told to either agree with the recommendation or solve the problem for ASCSU/ICAS.
 - Some discussion of how to proceed and whether a separate resolution was required to respond to the prompt given by ASCSU.
- Recapitulating the Discussion with the President, Continued
 - There was a question regarding the resolution response process. It was clarified that the President wants to run the draft response by Senate Exec first, then it could be re-drafted if we say, for example, that the response really wouldn't fly.
 - Some discussion of the resolution response process. Consensus that the process has potential and worth giving a try to see if it improves the resolution and response process.
 - McNie continued the review of her notes. The idea of tying budget effectiveness assessments to IWAC was proposed in their conversation
 - Senk, Tsai, and others expressed great skepticism on this and noted that really isn't what IWAC's mission is. Completely different.
 - Institutional research would be a good place to do this sort of budget effectiveness assessment. It's an important function, and it needs to be done. Perhaps more support in that office is needed to carry out this function.
 - Senk noted that there's continual confusion on what IWAC does and also fundamentally what assessment is. A conversation about problems, for instance, is not an example of assessment.

- McNie and Senk also talked about how important it is to educate campus on the budget. Perhaps certain past presentations did not help this situation. It was acknowledged by the President this is an issue.
 - Regarding the “More Work Remains” resolution. The President talked about the things being done and that have been done over the past months. Not necessarily in response to the resolution, but certainly related. He noted Community Day, bias and Title IX trainings, TIX liaisons and TIX program review and improvement, reviewing Corps of Cadets (effectiveness, value, etc.). McNie said that last thing is big deal if it goes forward.
 - Yip observed that we need a faculty consensus on the Corps, which will likely require a lot of work on our part.
 - McNie continued the review of their discussion with the President. They discussed the administrative hiring resolution from last spring semester and the possibility of a policy governing the process by which high level administrators could proceed from an interim to permanent position.
 - The President requested some grace for Cabinet members as they work through these initiatives/problems.
- Open Floor
 - Tsai noted he’s not seeing a timeline on resolution responses, and we should press on that. Also noted that using a consultant on the Corps review would be a long timeline if the data gathering process was similar to Art&Sci.
 - This previous comment spawned a discussion of the Art&Sci consultants’ report, when it would be released, and its conclusions.
 - Senk – the draft resolution from the GE committee says ASCSU should work with ICAS to modify the plan. That maybe doesn’t respond to the ASCSU prompt well. Perhaps this will require a second resolution? Isakson and Tsai agreed.
- Meeting Adjourned