



General Faculty Senate Meeting

Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Minutes

4/20/2023

In attendance:

Ali Moradmand, Ariel Setniker, Christine Isakson, Colin Dewey, David Satterwhite, Elizabeth McNie, Kitty Luce, Margaret Ward, Matthew Fairbanks, Mike Holden, Mike Strange, Nick Lewis, Nipoli Kamdar, Ryan Storz, Ryan Wade, Sarah Senk, Taiyo Inoue, Tamara Burbach, Wil Tsai, and guests.

1. Call to Order

- Chair McNie called the meeting to order at 11:00am
- *Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Senk, seconded by Senator Strange. Agenda approved by unanimous consent.*

2. Minutes Approval

- *3/23/2023 minutes were reviewed. Vice Chair Senk motioned to approve, Senator Tsai seconded. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.*

3. Senate Chair McNie's Report

- Chair McNie announced the intent to hold an emergency meeting prior to the end of the spring semester (4/27) to allow for review, debate, and votes on Senate resolutions. *Chair McNie motioned to hold the emergency meeting on 4/27, Senator Setniker seconded. Motion carried: 15 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining.*
- Chair McNie spoke briefly about the communication from the University on the intent to make Captain Bannister permanent in her position as Captain of the TSGB. The Senate Executive Committee was not notified prior to that communication despite its name being signed on the email. Chair McNie and Vice Chair Senk were consulted, which was mistakenly interpreted by administration as approval by the entire Senate Executive. Chair McNie noted that the objection here is only about the process, and is *not* an objection to Captain Bannister herself.
- Chair McNie spoke to the challenges the University faces, noting that organizational change is difficult. Any policy change requires many steps and consultations. We're at a point where we're seeing a lot of conflicting opinions on important issues - some advocating for rapid change, some

42 not seeing the need, etc. McNie encouraged patience, but that we have a lot of necessary change
43 and decision-making in front of us. As we deal with the new interim President, the A&S report
44 and all the other issues we face, some grace is necessary. We need to focus on what is best for our
45 students and our colleagues.

47 48 **4. Vice Chair Senk's Report**

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- 50 - Vice Chair Senk brought attention to her email that went out prior to the meeting. Though we
51 don't have time in the agenda today, feedback is needed from Senators on how Senate should
52 respond to the second LA Times article.
- 53 - Meagan Nance (Director of Inclusion Initiatives) asked that Vice Chair Senk report on some of
54 her work on a survey that is related to these issues. The ask to faculty will be 10 minutes of class
55 time for surveying exiting seniors and perhaps others. Many faculty indicated in Zoom chat that
56 they would be amenable to this.

57 58 59 **5. Provost Schroeder's Report**

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- 61 - Provost Schroeder reminded folks that Cal Maritime Day is Saturday. There is lots of faculty
62 participation. She's looking forward to it.
- 63 - Ariel Setniker is the new Director of Faculty Development. Many congratulations came from the
64 Zoom meeting chat.
- 65 - Department Chairs: ISS/GSMA – Ryan Wade. IBL – Nipoli Kamdar. ME – Wil Tsai. MT –
66 Tamara Burbach. ET – Keir Moorhead. The latter two are acting Chairs. Colin Dewey is off
67 working on a year of research, so Amy Parsons will be the interim C&C Department Chair.
68 Cynthia Trevisan is returning from sabbatical and will be Chair for S&M.
- 69 - Provost Schroeder said that there is some funding via the Chancellor's Office for improving
70 academic advising that will be launched next year.
- 71 - Provost Schroeder has heard some folks wondering why the President didn't say anything in the
72 LA Times article. There's been a team (including the President) that has been communicating
73 with LA Times reporters since last year. The reporters asked questions, and the administration has
74 been giving written responses. She said that typically on these kind of issues, it's best to put things
75 in writing rather than relying on verbal communication. There have been about 20 question and
76 answer cycles with the LA Times reporters, so communication has been extensive.
- 77 - Senator Inoue asked if these questions and their written responses could be shared with faculty in
78 the interest of transparency. Provost Schroeder said she would look into that and respond as soon
79 as possible.

80 81 82 **6. Resolution on Cal Maritime's Existential Crisis (First Reading)**

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- 84 - Vice Chair Senk presenting. Background: it appears that many respondents to the A&S report
85 survey didn't understand or read the A&S report. This resolution is meant to offer some
86 clarification.
- 87 - Senator Luce noted that it's important to say that we're looking to strengthen existing programs
88 as well as expanding programs. Senk thanked her for this and noted that similar comments came
89 from Senator Strange on that subject.

- 90 - Senator Kamdar asked a question about the A&S study. Did they get prospective engineering
91 student feedback? Senator Tsai answered yes, but his recollection was that the sample was too
92 small for outside of state, but did survey in-state. Dean Dinesh Pinisetty also responded,
93 clarifying that actually, they didn't survey out of state because the sample pool was too large.
94 Essentially that the survey wouldn't be representative. There was some confusion articulated on
95 this point, so clearly some further review of the A&S report is required for answering this
96 particular question.
- 97 - Some discussion of the A/B 'options' mentioned in the resolution. Senator Dewey said he
98 thought was that the A option was essentially rhetorical, that it wasn't tenable. Senator Inoue
99 read out the relevant part of the executive summary of the A&S report, confirming that A was
100 not a viable option.
- 101 - Senator Isakson – wasn't the assertion from A&S that there's a dwindling market for maritime
102 students and that we've essentially attracted all the prospective students specifically interested in
103 that? We can't say that we've got all the possible maritime-focused students and also say that no
104 one knows who we are.
- 105 - Senator Dewey responded, saying that the maritime-focused folks do know of us, but we are
106 broadly unknown. These are not contradictory.
- 107 - Senator Isakson acknowledged this, but cited her own previous experience as a deckhand who
108 didn't know about Cal Maritime, and suggested that there are others like her who wouldn't know
109 about us. Senator Dewey responded, saying again that isn't precisely what the report concludes,
110 and he doesn't agree with her conclusion.
- 111 - There were some comments in chat on this issue as well. Some comments corroborated
112 Isakson's assertion that there are people interested in maritime that aren't aware of Cal Maritime.
113 Others noted that this might well be true, but that the pool of these students is small, shrinking,
114 and is difficult to market effectively to. However, the report encourage broader and more
115 effective marketing of Cal Maritime, which should help all programs, new and old.
- 116 - Chair McNie closed the discussion, noting that it's a first reading. Senators should send further
117 feedback so that the resolution can be edited for its second reading in the 4/27 meeting.

7. Appointment of Interim President Resolution (First Reading)

- 122 - Vice Chair Senk noted the sensitive nature of this resolution. We want to convey to the
123 Chancellor's Office disappointment for the process for appointment because no input was gathered
124 from campus. She noted that some feedback advocated for stronger language than is currently in
125 the draft.
- 126 - Chair McNie noted our time constraints. She encouraged use of the chat, email, and the SharePoint
127 for feedback on this resolution draft.

8. Resolution on Reform of Watchstanding (First Reading)

- 132 - Vice Chair Senk presenting. She summarized the background on this resolution. Noted the
133 President stating recently that he believed and has believed for some time that the faculty have
134 purview over the learning outcomes associated with watch and thus authority over the program.
- 135 - The resolution calls for majors to determine what is necessary and proper for their students.
- 136 - Senator Kamdar suggested slowing down the process. At this stage in the semester it creates
137 uncertainty and/or panic with students. We need to approach this deliberately.

- 138 - Senator Inoue – students have not been included in this process?
139 - Senator Kamdar – no not in our department and certainly not with the idea that it would be
140 implemented on this timeline.
141 - Senator Inoue noted that his experience is that students are generally on board with examining
142 watch. He noted its negative impact and lack of relevancy to many non-license major students.
143 - Vice Chair Senk clarified that the resolution doesn't require changes in the Fall, but it gives the
144 departments autonomy to consider watch activities that are appropriate for their students. It does
145 not dictate any timeline for this and also doesn't require any changes to the existing watch program.
146 - There were many, many more comments on this subject in the meeting chat, but much of their
147 content is redundant with the comments included above.
148 - Chair McNie closed the discussion so that the Senate could adhere to its agenda for today.
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151 9. Revised Curriculum Committee Policy (Second Reading)

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153 - Amy Parsons is presenting. She shared the text of the policy.
154 - She noted that the role of the Curriculum Committee (CC) in program reviews has been removed
155 from the policy.
156 - She also noted a change to permit GVAR being satisfied within programs but in consultation with
157 writing experts.
158 - Senator Tsai – when we got this policy, I thought the GVAR policy would be revised in response
159 to the GVAR working group's recommendations. Its absence changes what we're voting on here.
160 - Parsons noted that the policy is huge, and the thought was that we leave it as a simplified version.
161 She has no problem, however, with pulling the GVAR policy out and approving it separately.
162 - Senator Tsai, with the various changes to curriculum, we should perhaps have separate policies for
163 each so that we're not embedding all these in the CC policy.
164 - Senator Burback supported this. She said that there's a lot of question marks in the policy, so it
165 seems to her like it's not ready for voting today. Also not sure about the changing designations
166 for GVAR certification.
167 - *After some discussion, Senator Tsai motioned (seconded by Senator Burback) to remove the*
168 *section on GVAR. 11 for, 1 against, 3 abstaining. Motion carries.*
169 - *Senator Tsai motioned to approve the CC policy as amended, Senator Dewey seconded. 14 for, 0*
170 *against, 1 abstaining. Motion carries, and the new CC policy is approved.*
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173 10. Resolution for Reform of Academic Advising (Second Reading)

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175 - Chair McNie presenting.
176 - Senator Ward commented that it would be great to emphasize the need for training and would
177 advocate for a level of review to make sure new advisors' work is correct. She said that advising
178 is best learned by doing, so this level of review is an important one.
179 - Chair McNie noted that there is some text to address these concerns in the resolution but that
180 guidelines need to be developed. Other thoughts?
181 - Senator Tsai agreed with Ward's comments. It's worth having Chairs and other authorities
182 working within departments to make sure advising is done well.
183 - Senator Kamdar strongly agreed with the resolution's call for no first year faculty doing academic
184 advising. She pointed out that more experienced faculty often end up doing the work or correcting
185 mistakes.

186 - *Senator Tsai motioned to approve the resolution. Senator Moradmand seconded. Motion carries*
187 *unanimously.*

11. Resolution on University-Wide Service (Second Reading)

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192 - Chair McNie introduced the resolution.
193 - Senator Burback asked who will be regulating the minimum two committee positions? Chairs?
194 And then what happens if it isn't met? More teaching or something?
195 - Chair McNie noted that consultation with CFA would be required on the idea of alternative
196 assignments. She also said that the Senate is advisory, not a regulator, so there isn't anything
197 punitive behind this recommendation.
198 - Senator Holden commented that this is too narrow, and RTP already looks at what people are doing
199 and whether it is sufficient to satisfy retention requirements.
200 - Senator Kamdar supported Holden's assertion. By focusing on this because we can count it, we're
201 ignoring a lot of service that people do that is not recognized in this manner. She noted academic
202 advising. She also said this resolution is prescriptive, the min/max requirements, etc. might be
203 good guideline, but it should be presented that way. Lastly, she asserted that this draft resolution
204 has already caused a great deal of negative sentiment on service loads, which isn't helpful.
205 - There was considerable discussion of the resolution expanding on the points above. Some faculty
206 feel that their service work isn't being properly valued.
207 - Senator Dewey said it was well intended and the data is revealing, but the prescriptions in the
208 resolution shouldn't be there if they can't be enforced. Workload is determined by department,
209 RTP, and the CBA. CFA consultation section should be struck. He listed many different things
210 that people do that is service but isn't measured by the data set used by this resolution. He agrees
211 with the call for a clear calendar for calls for service on these committees.
212 - *Secretary Fairbanks motioned to table this resolution. Vice Chair Senk seconded. Motion carries*
213 *unanimously.*

12. Appendix J Revisions (Second Reading)

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218 - Chair McNie noted the purpose of this resolution, which is to clarify what 'counts' as what in
219 terms of service, teaching, and research, and also to specifically call out DEI work as important
220 in the categories of RTP review.
221 - There was a brief discussion of the revised language. It was clarified that the policy does
222 explicitly state that if a department doesn't have an Appendix K for RTP, then Appendix J is
223 followed. Some small edits were made to the Appendix for clarification.
224 - *Senator Tsai motioned to approve the Appendix as amended. Fairbanks seconded. Motion*
225 *carries unanimously.*

13. Open Floor

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230 - Senator Tsai motioned to adjourn. Senator Moradmand seconded. Motion carries by unanimous
231 consent.

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14. Meeting Adjourned [~12:20 pm]