

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (1/12/2023)

Attendees: Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Victoria Haller (Student Rep), Ariel Setniker, Wil Tsai, Frank Yip, and Christine Isakson.

Absent: McNie and Senk are meeting with Karyn Cornell. Provost Schroeder is out of office.

- Minutes Review and Approval
 - Fairbanks proposes reviewing and approving the minutes when we've got the full complement.
- Secretary's Report
 - Sarai Alonso should be invited to speak with us about watchstanding and the Corps next week. *Fairbanks will follow up to make sure this is done.*
 - Interim Library Dean candidate interviews seemed good. Does anyone have word on a hire? Answer: No.
 - CommUNITY Day. Does anyone know if we have a volunteer as a faculty lead in the organization of CommUNITY Day? Fairbanks noted that this is a high priority and past due. Suggestions: Satterwhite? Kazek? Fischer? (For the last suggestion, he may not accept. He served last year and felt the committee got lost in minutiae.)
 - Tsai – what are the faculty responsibilities on the committee? If it's setting the content, then designating the faculty member co-chair may be excessive. Logistical details seem like a bad fit for faculty - staff are more familiar and have appropriate expertise.
 - Website, minutes, SharePoint site, etc. Your Secretary is behind but moving forward. Should be on track by sometime next week.
- Letter to CO on Interim President
 - Tsai drafted a starting point, which is awesome. Please offer feedback in the Google doc asap (by Tuesday). Fairbanks' opinion – we should look to send this by the 20th unless we're seeking Senate review, in which case the 27th?
 - Discussion. Prior to Board of Trustees meeting on 2/24 is ideal. So, the plan: letter draft from us to Senate on Tuesday, 1/17. Goal is to send on the 20th.
 - Tsai was appreciated for drafting the letter. Tsai noted that McNie and Senk contributed a lot as well.
- AA Policy on Office Hours
 - We should poke Senators on soliciting further feedback on the draft policy so that Senate can support/not support the draft policy in the January meeting. This should happen this week or next to allow time.
 - Isakson noted the CFA consultation requirement. She will also share with the ASCSU list to check in with other campuses. She mentioned other universities who exempt lecturers who only teach labs. *Action item: make sure Steve Runyon (CFA President) has a meet and confer on the policy on his radar.*
 - We need some clarity on whether we're working with a (near) final draft here or whether this is the feedback stage and it's going to come back to us at a later date after

adjustments. Isakson thinks no. Tsai was under the impression yes. *Fairbanks will follow up on this.*

- Isakson and Yip noted their objections to the current policy, and so they hope it's not the final version.
 - Also, did we get Dinesh's research on the other CSU's policies? *Check in with McNie and Senk.* Fairbanks thought Pinisetty offered to send his data during the last Senate meeting.
 - The difference in student population per class between us and other CSUs was noted as another reason why a office hour policy for faculty here might not need to match large CSUs.
- Classroom Technology Updates
 - Can we play a role in communicating to faculty about the upcoming upgrades? Fairbanks feels like there's a 'sell' to be made here, because from what he understands, the systems are quite different than what is currently in place.
 - Tsai says it's the control hardware on order, not the smartscreens. He said Jase Teoh wants faculty to have a role. He said that there's going to be a demo of the smartscreens that she's proposing to build out. We should follow up to see where/when this is.
 - The sentiment from those present is that a low-tech back up (good and plentiful whiteboards!) is a need. Tsai and Moorhead have expressed this strongly in the planning stages.
 - Also, does IT have the support they need for supporting the classroom tech? Because Jase's department isn't handling everything with those systems. Tsai – she is developing a process for updates, maintenance.
 - VP McMahon's Transition Out
 - Her list of things she would like to accomplish is commendable, and we should support as needed.
 - Four months seems a short timeline for replacing a VP of Student Affairs. Do we know if administration is already moving forward with a search? There's no advertisement on the campus jobs website yet.
 - Tsai – who's going to be the interim? We need someone solid. Yip – and who is making the appointment, the current President or the interim one?
 - Tsai – and who's handling her responsibilities? There's really no one left near her level in Student Affairs. Yip noted that the Commandant might be next up, but he's off on deployment soon.
 - Haller – it's important that students are involved in the future of the institution. The student leadership application process starting, and so that's going to leave a lot of inexperienced folks in those positions soon. The Corps and Housing position changes take effect later this spring. AS officers take office in the fall.
 - Isakson – who selects the Corps officers? Haller – Commandant Taliaferro. Then those top tier officers will select the next level down, then those in turn select the next level down.
 - Isakson noted that this is not what was done in the past. There was actually voting by students that was weighed against the results of an application and interview process.
 - Haller clarified that there is an interview process, but unclear what the criteria are and how they're evaluated. She noted Sarai Alonso has a lot of knowledge on this.

- There was more discussion of this process. Haller noted that the new officers select the other new officers. The previous officers don't have a role.
 - Haller said that the watchstanding issues are a symptom of the overall problems in the Corps. Perhaps watchstanding would be solved if the Corps was reformed.
 - Isakson - discipline letters don't have contact people for arranging extra duty, etc. This is a problem, particularly for first years. *Communicate to Siobhan Case?*
 - Tsai – the student handbook. Can we get a list of what the process is for revision and distribution? Haller noted that it's informal. It seems like the Commandants can do it. It seems like Corps officers can do it. She noted that, for instance, this semester is Friday salt and peppers for some reason. Though it's a small thing, it does matter. Students can get demerits for dress code violations.
 - Returning to VP McMahon's impending departure: Tsai – can we ask for an exit strategy? What is the plan? We should ask. A timeline would be helpful. Yip concurred – who's going to have which duties delegated to them?
- Outlook for the Semester
 - Yip is worried about the situation we're in, where the VP of Student Affairs and President are on their way out and yet the University needs action on a variety of pressing problems.
 - Yip said we should have a special General Senate to discuss the LA Times article.
 - Isakson noted that we haven't made an externally-facing statement (resolution, etc.). People might have the impression we as a faculty aren't bothered by the article's content.
 - Yip – what incentives do McMahon and Cropper have to fix these problems given their upcoming retirements? We need Senate to discuss these issues. These months are critical, particularly given the enrollment cycle we're in. What can faculty be doing to prevent a vacuum in leadership over these next months?
 - Tsai wonders whether our conversation should be with the CO. What levers do we have to pull? What are the realistic possibilities for us to get action?
 - Isakson noted that our actions do have impact even if the President doesn't leave early. It makes a statement to external parties.
 - Yip – who would we talk to at the CO? Tsai – not sure. Chancellor Koester or her Deputy perhaps.
 - Tsai – we could definitely adapt our letter into a resolution in the January meeting. We have a proposal for a special General Senate meeting. What other action items?
 - Haller noted that AS has formed a subcommittee to pursue the town hall that AS requested. VP McMahon reached out last fall to voting board members to have a meeting to talk about what the students want. No one could meet because of final exams. McMahon has persisted and expanded her call for a meeting with student leaders. This would be a closed-door meeting, a listening session. No one seems to know whether this replaces a public town hall that's been requested. It's confusing, and student leaders are stuck on how to respond.
 - Tsai – communication is key. Closed door meetings don't alleviate the issues with lack of transparency. Public meetings are more productive. They should be a regular thing. They should be ready for negative feedback, but it's important to hear.
 - Haller – AS hasn't heard anything about the President attending the town hall or being in the meeting proposed by VP McMahon.

- Yip suggested that students emphasize their original ask, and that a closed-door meeting isn't that and can't replace it. We want to hear them elaborate on the things they said they are doing or want to do.
 - Tsai noted that he's more interested in a town hall type discussion rather than a special Senate meeting, which would mostly be faculty talking to faculty.
 - Haller – logistically, the students can only directly communicate with other students by email. Should we communicate directly to the President or his office? Could he reasonably claim ignorance of the request in the current state? Yip – no, he can't do that, but communicating to the President/Karyn Cornell on scheduling the town hall is a good idea. Tsai – town hall 'rules' are typically negotiated and should be.
 - Tsai – so, the action items are...? First, let's get Senk and McNie to weigh in on the proposals we've discussed.
 - There is apparently a rumor that there is going to be a follow-on LA Times article. No knowledge of its subject material.
 - Isakson – Last thing before we go: I'd like to do a Chair survey on hours spent on scheduling at beginning/end of semesters. She thinks the data will support the need for proper scheduling software.
- Meeting Adjourned