

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (1/24/2023)

Attendees: Sarah Senk (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Ariel Setniker, Wil Tsai, Christine Isakson, Frank Yip, Victoria Haller (Student Rep), and Provost Lori Schroeder.

Absent: Elizabeth McNie – attending a department meeting.

- Preamble
 - Community Day planning. Sarah Senk has taken this on and is moving at a considerable velocity. Many proposals for activities. Perhaps a community organizing theme with trainings to support student activism. Senk is organizing all this with ASCMA and other students.
 - Provost Schroeder noted the broader context of the Art&Sci report and the desire to make change at the University. How do we advocate and organize around these issues? The theme seems complementary.
 - One concern from Yip is that we don't want to over-program. Last year, it was simply too long.
- Minutes Review and Approval
 - Postponed until 2/2/2023, at which time we will have 1/19 and 1/24 draft minutes to review and approve.
- Vice Chair's Report
 - Early March for Senate elections.
 - Senk suggested postponing standing committee reports until February General Senate meeting.
 - Mechanical Engineering needs an election for department chair. Who else do we need to set up for Chair elections? Provost Schroeder knows all these dates via appointment letters. She will share.
 - Isakson suggested trying to get the Senate RTP elections back in sync (once per year). The terms are supposed to be staggered but are only staggered by a half an academic year right now.
 - There have been requests from Senators for discussion of service discrepancies within the faculty at the February General Senate meeting. We need to promote a positive, collaborative environment for this discussion.
 - Isakson suggested sharing hers and McNie's previous analysis, dated sometime around 12/2020 with the Provost. Additionally, we might want to anonymize the data somewhat. The acute problems at that time were that junior faculty did far more service than senior ones and that there's a large gender disparity with female faculty serving on average far more than male faculty.
 - Do we want to prepare a possible response to an upcoming LA Times article? The article's content is unknown at this time, and so we will wait for now.
- Provost's Updates
 - Provost Schroeder suggested that we invite Franz Lozano (VP of Finance and Administration) to talk to the Senate Executive or Senate about the campus budget. The

Provost gave a brief synopsis of the issue. CA state finances aren't looking great, so we're unlikely to get our budget request as a CSU, and eventually the CSU is going to adjust its funding to match our student FTEs. 2023 admit numbers look better, but we will likely still not get the funding we've been enjoying.

- Tsai wondered whether we want to speak to faculty and Senate sooner rather than later for transparency or whether we want to delay somewhat to make the messaging clear and accurate. He's not sure what is best.
 - Yip thought perhaps 10 minutes for Lozano on Thursday would be a good idea, but we should give him some guidance on what questions he should definitely have answers for. What is going to be triaged and how? Etc, etc.
 - Isakson suggested that perhaps options for creative recruiting and funding should be focused on. She stated that at least some funding for capital projects is from donors. Other attendees clarified that the big projects are generally state funding.
 - Isakson also brought up the fact that the impression within the CSU that we are federally funded as a military academy is costing us in terms of other funding opportunities.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that we did get the million dollar grant for the microgrid, but that doesn't really help the bottom line.
 - Some discussion of what we can share on Thursday. It was noted that a lot of things are not specific at this time, so we don't know what might get cut and when. More discussion of F&A funding, where that goes, and the fate of the Scholarly Activity Fund. This wandered fairly far afield.
 - Circling back to the budget discussion: We want to share something about the budget, but no one knows specifics, so...what do we do? The information is all very new. Provost Schroeder agreed to discuss this with Lozano and see what she might be able to share. She would be focusing on high level stuff and some of the possibilities. Tsai suggested assuring folks that whatever budget process would proceed via shared governance best practices.

 - Provost Schroeder noted that the interim Library Dean will be Robison. Contract for a year. Renewable if necessary.
 - For the new interim Dean of Letters & Sciences: She would like to get moving on this process. The shared governance process for naming this interim Dean maybe looks a little different this time around. She would like to invite any fully promoted faculty to come speak with her about their vision and interest in the position. Not really an interview. She would like to reserve the right to make the decision, but she would certainly be consulting with faculty on the appointment.
 - Provost Schroeder will mention this process in her report during Thursday's General Senate meeting.
 - Provost Schroeder moved on to discussing the Deans in the other Schools and the interim Chairs (Burback and Moorhead). Does it make sense for them to be offered an extension of a year? We suggested that they be asked if they're willing to serve, and if they aren't, perhaps then a proper Chair election should follow. Provost Schroeder will loop back to us if they agree, and we can communicate to departments. If there's not a consensus, then an election would be run.
- ARC Update

- We need more participants in the review of the Provost! Tsai will remind the Senate on Thursday, and we'll reach out through department chairs.
- Update on Town Hall
 - Yip – can Haller give an update on this during the General Senate meeting? Haller said either she or Jeff Mueller would be able to do this, though their meeting with Karyn Cornell to organize things is after the Senate meeting on Thursday.
 - Haller reported that the Compass has unified its efforts so the organizing subcommittee is now moving forward on the behalf of all student governance bodies.
- Interim President Letter
 - Senator Maggie Ward's comment on the draft letter has sparked some discussion. She makes the point that we're integrated with the federal government to some extent, and the President needs to have experience interfacing and advocating with state and federal officials and legislators. There was a good deal of support for adjusting our letter to incorporate these points.
 - More discussion. Changing some points of emphasis. Questioning some ordering and modifying. Editing, editing, editing.
 - Tsai also noted that the Board of Trustees has the Chancellor and several campus Presidents to replace, so we are likely in the queue. It's clearly on the radar of the Board of Trustees, but not the top. We need to consider the timeliness of the letter.
- Agenda for January General Senate Meeting
 - Fairbanks – are we proceeding on a resolution on the Senate's previous letter on the LA Times article? No, not at this time due to the town hall planning process.
 - Office Hours Policy? We proposed this as an agenda item for January back in December. Senk has asked what Pinisetty wanted from the Senate on the policy. He was hoping for feedback and a Senate endorsement if possible.
 - Isakson noted that it's a CBA issue. There needs to be a meet and confer on the policy with the CFA.
 - Tsai – so, let's consider the timeline here. Pinisetty has gotten some feedback. If he wants Senate buy-in, then he should probably present to Senate on what adjustments were made in response to the Senate's feedback. Then, the policy would go off to a meet and confer between CFA and administration, so faculty with further interest on the issue should be speaking with CFA reps.
 - Community Day – Sarah Senk has agreed to organize around this with ASCMA.
 - There was discussion of a resolution focusing on issues related to the Corps of Cadets. This would include the issues discussed in our last meeting, but also the lack of learning outcomes, the recommendations of Art & Sci report, and perhaps Senate support of a re-think of the model of the Corps.
- Meeting Adjourned