

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (3/30/2023)

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

Absent: Frank Yip

- Minutes Review and Approval
 - *Postponed by Secretary.*
- Chair Updates
 - McNie summarized Yip's resignation, and that she values his presence on Senate Exec. She offered to speak with him about the causes of his resignation, and he declined. McNie said that she's not entirely sure why.
 - Senk offered some additional context. A good student in Oceanography is leaving the University because of the Corps. She suspects this may have had a role in precipitating his actions.
 - Some discussion. General feelings of regret that this has occurred were expressed.
 - Further discussion of the fact that the University needs change, and we need to work together in Academic Affairs to advocate for the appropriate actions.
- Corps of Cadets
 - McNie noted that she and Yip have similar endgames in terms of what they would like to see for Cal Maritime.
 - McNie said that the Art&Sci survey was striking in that alumni in particular were very pro-Corps in its current state and do not see the University being in an existential crisis.
 - We need to think about how to articulate the fact that the University *is* in a crisis and form a consensus behind the appropriate steps to take.
 - McNie said that the President (Cropper) is very unlikely to make any changes along these lines before he leaves.
 - McNie feels that rushing to make a statement on the Corps and making a plan for any changes is not something we should do. In her opinion, it's not going to happen on a timeline for implementation in Fall 2023.
 - Isakson said she understood what McNie was saying, but why is there an assumption that we can't do this for the Fall? McNie responded saying that some adjustments are within our grasp as faculty (watchstanding, learning outcomes, etc.) but fundamentally changing the structure of the Corps seems like something where the President would have to make the call.
 - Isakson followed up, noting that we need to think about Corps of Cadets and whether it is the University or a feature of it. McNie noted that alumni firmly believe that the Corps is the University. Isakson also asked how many meetings McNie and Senk have had with the President in 2023 and whether there were notes of those meetings. McNie – yes, I think so. Sarah and I have notes from those meetings.
 - Further discussion of this. Isakson advocated for sharing the survey results so we can all be working with the same information. It was noted that some of the responses are...unprofessional in their tone and language. Also clear that many respondents had

not read the A&S report prior to responding. It is clear, however, that some will be upset by any changes. The point was also made that alums are very important, but that they are only one opinion, and alums everywhere generally like their University to stay the way they remember it.

- Tsai noted that the interim President appointment may give the perception that we're doubling down on the military nature of the Corps. He also noted that enrollment info is public, and we could share that to support our messaging on the problems we face. He said that we could propose piloting an opt-in Corps in one of our smaller majors. Tsai acknowledged that this idea came out of a recent discussion he had with Alex Parker.
- Senk said that communicating the summary of the survey is important, but we will need to also carefully articulate that we're not sharing the raw results because of some of hateful language, etc.
- Senk said that she spoke to Parker yesterday. Parker pointed out that we're meant as educators to not do harm, and we have strong evidence that the Corps is doing harm. We don't need to burn it down, but we need to try to mitigate the harm we're clearly doing.
- Senk noted that the President said that watch is the purview of the faculty. She advocated taking a position on this as a Senate – taking control of watchstanding within departments.
- Provost Schroeder – you all have a lot of power as faculty. You control curriculum. If watch is curriculum, then you could consider (in the Curriculum Committee) stating what watchstanding is and asserting faculty control of it. She would support this. Separately, she wonders if instead of an emergency Senate meeting, or maybe in addition, having a roadshow of Senate and Academic Affairs reps going to department meetings to inform and dispel myths regarding the A&S report.
- Isakson noted that watch is a specific thing, and we may want to consider not contorting other activities for non-license majors into that mold. She did not agree that the Corps was inherently harmful, but that the current Corps structure and administration is not good. She said that there used to be no commandants and things worked very well.
- Fairbanks clarified that Parker wasn't saying that the Corps was overall harmful, but specifically in Oceanography he has strong evidence that is a net harm to the program.
- McNie agreed with many of the points made here. She noted that many students find the Corps to be helpful, fulfilling, and important to their education. We need to acknowledge and accommodate that viewpoint, and support and revitalize those aspects that are helping our students, and we also need to consider the opt-in model.
- Setniker noted that she does think time is of the essence. This is affecting people now. She stated that Yip is not the only faculty that is supportive of the opt-in Corps, and some people are despairing that anything will be done.
- McNie thanked everyone. Said that a resolution (1) outlining the crisis and (2) asserting watchstanding (or the professional development that non-license programs do) is the purview of the faculty seems like a good way forward.
- A detail of note – if we allow non-license ME students to opt-out of standard watch, are there enough engineering students to cover watch? Tsai said he has a meeting with Moorhead in which he will ask this question, but he suspects there wouldn't be enough engineering students doing watchstanding.
- More discussion of watchstanding and whether it should be controlled at the department level or whether it should be at a CC/Senate level. Setniker suggested that perhaps the appropriate title for these programs is a practicum. There was agreement, though some

trepidation about the framing of it and making sure it fits our 'maritime university' identity.

- Tsai pointed out that there will be time needed to build out the policies and procedures for Academic Affairs to handle these things. There's clearly a tension between wanting to move quickly and needing time to put this stuff in place so that everything functions properly.
 - Tsai noted that our communications on this and other subjects needs to also address the Chancellor's Office. What has become clear is that the general perception of Cal Maritime is that it produces mariners, thereby missing the broader academic programming offered by Cal Maritime. Much work remains to correct this misperception.
 - Senk noted the President said that there needs to be a foundational common identity for Cal Maritime. If not the Corps, it needs to be something else. We need to offer an alternative.
- Interim President Appointment
 - McNie noted that the new interim President is an ex-Navy officer from outside the CSU system. Should we consider having an orientation meeting with the new President and what should it contain?
 - Fairbanks said that since the interim is here for a couple years, informing him about how the Senate and administration interact (resolutions, etc.) is one fundamental thing.
 - Haller said that the questions she's hearing from students are not so much about the person, but more along the lines of when he's arriving, whether he will be reaching out and introducing himself, etc. Provost Schroeder outlined what she knows, which is that transition will be over the summer, but of course we can't have two Presidents at once. There may be a campus visit previous to that transition.
 - McNie said that she knows that he will be hired as a consultant for a month prior to his appointment for training at the Chancellor's Office. (CSU structure, policies, etc.)
 - Isakson spoke up and said other than the current state of the University, crucial information to relay to him is what the merchant marine is. We should have license departments present a condensed version of what it is that their programs train students to do. Sort of a crash course.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that the new President doesn't have extensive higher education background, which presents opportunities and challenges. Regarding how that interfaces with our need to change in response to A&S, she believes that if faculty and Academic Affairs speak in a coordinated way on this, the President is likely to take that seriously and could lead us through these necessary changes.
 - McNie thinks we need to quickly articulate a few things that we definitely want President Cropper to accomplish or act on prior to his departure. She's not sure about meeting in person to articulate these things, because she's not certain it would as effective as something written.
 - Senk – one thing we could ask for is changing the aspects of the Corps that are the biggest pain points. Watchstanding for instance and its scheduling.
 - Tsai – another thing is the Cozen O'Connor report on Title IX and acting on the recommendations in that report. We also need to publically explain how these things are being implemented.

- Tsai said that Captain Bannister is doing a lot of good things for marine programs. How do we continue that momentum?
- Isakson – another issue is watchstanding equity and how to be an equitable leader. She noted the practice of signing another person in as standing watch, which is not appropriate.
- McNie – another item is orienting the new President and advocating for making that meeting with the Faculty Senate Exec happen.

- McNie is on the Corps working group. She hasn't been able to attend consistently, but they're working on the learning outcomes for the Corps. Taliaferro re-presented those outcomes to the working group. They were unchanged from when we gave feedback previously. The working group has been tinkering with them. McNie wants to share them with us and get our feedback. She views them as an improvement but thinks they're not ready for prime time.
- Haller – what's the make-up of the working group? Answer: Keir Moorhead, McNie, Kathleen McMahon, the Dean of Students, three Commandants, Alicia Porter, Craig Johnson, some AS reps, and some non-license program students. Good representation across campus.
- Setniker – are these learning outcomes based on the current Corps structure? McNie – yep. Setniker responded that perhaps writing outcomes linked to that structure isn't the best use of time given that the structure is possibly in flux.
- Isakson – her feeling is that one of primary foci of the group should be watchstanding equity. That really needs to be fixed.
- Learning outcomes (first), uniforms, and watch are in the plan for examination by the working group.

- Open Floor
 - Haller – an update on AS elections. Ryan Okada was chief of staff this year. Now elected President. He's a rising junior MT, 2D. There was a tie for VP, so there will be a run-off. Hulti for the third position (Director of Student Affairs). Also MT 2D. These folks select other board positions within AS except for the AS senators.
 - Senk said that she will propose using the AAC&U outcomes on leadership and tailoring them to the maritime university paradigm. Thousands of education PhDs have put these together. Let's leverage their expertise. McNie said she would email out the learning outcomes as they currently exist.
 - Tsai suggested that we need an ally in CLD so that we're not duplicating efforts.
 - Senk suggested Lennon Prothro-Jones and Meagan Nance. They have relevant training and are highly motivated and effective.
 - Update on the selection of the Faculty Development Coordinator? Answer: the Provost has the info and just needs to write the appointment letter.

- Meeting Adjourned