

## Senate Executive Committee Meeting (09/07/2023)

**Attendees:** Elizabeth McNie (Chair), Sarah Senk (Vice Chair), Ariel Setniker (Secretary), Mike Holden, Provost Lori Schroeder, Dean Alex Parker.

**Absent:** Christine Isakson, Wil Tsai, Margaret Ward.

- **Visit from Dean of Letters & Sciences Alex Parker concerning Follow-Up to Watchstanding Resolution**
  - Looking for guidance on what Senate sees for department directions following watchstanding resolution, urgency was felt due to Office of the Commandant changes as well
  - Compromise between commandants and departments was the memo sent out – MPM to do 8 hours of watch
    - Confusion came with Office of the Commandant not wanting to oversee MPM watch
  - Office of the Commandant has come back to memo – working with Craig Heineke
    - Important that this is done correctly so we don't fall back to where we were
    - Departments do need the fall to make a plan
    - From Retreat, it is clear Senate wants to help departments form plans, but not sure how to do that
  - Senator Senk comments that commandants responded to memo as 'anything new will not be administered by commandants- surprised that they would not oversee watch on the ship.
  - Dean Parker comments that accountability seems to be the problem – commandants concerned about logging hours and tracking objectives.
  - Chair McNie confirms that Commandant Moore directly said he did not want to be responsible for watch in meeting prior to beginning of semester.
    - Accountability should still be in hands of commandants – that's their experience and part of their job.
    - Objectives should be in hands of faculty, and Senate is happy to contribute, though responsibility is not Senate's but in the hands of the departments.
  - Senator Senk concurs; discusses plans for working group coming up – will offer examples of professional development. Working group should finish up recommendations by end of semester.
  - Dean Parker likes the idea of another options for OCN, especially pertaining to Community Engagement.
    - Would like to see a Senate Policy codifying university hourly requirement and solidifying commandants' role – student leaders are paid to schedule watch.
    - Would be helpful to know whether OCN, ISS, IBL should be giving Senate check-ins etc.
  - Provost Schroeder not sure this has to be in policy – would be happy to work in space between AA and CLD.

- Here is what the current Cadet Handbook says about Watch: “On average, Deck and Engine cadets must fulfill a commitment of 12 four-hour watches per academic year, summing up to 48 four-hour watches over a four-year enrollment period. As for MPM cadets, their Professional Development will encompass a total of 2 four-hour watches per semester, focused on either Deck or Engine watches. The Office of the Commandant reserves the right to adjust the Formation and watch aspects for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. These adjustments could encompass extra safety protocols or the enhancement of campus well-being and cadet life.”
    - Chair McNie states Senate’s role is support, not policy, especially being in a state of flux on campus.
    - Office of the Commandant needs to be pushed on accountability.
    - Senator Senk suggests inviting commandants and getting clear information.
    - In tight budget times, should commandants really make argument that they don’t want to oversee watch? Resources will need to go elsewhere.
    - Senator Holden remarks that Office of the Commandant is an entirely different branch, so we can only make recommendations. Perhaps something needs to come from top-down to instruct commandants to work together with faculty.
    - Next Steps:
      - Invite Moore to ExCom
      - Pause on policy
      - Report from Deans & Chairs meetings
      - Senator Senk: policy on cadet handbook changes
    - Craig needs help with assessment tool and what his job is
- **Meeting Adjourned [~11:30]**
  - Quorum lost