## **General Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

## **Minutes**

**09/19/2024**

In attendance:

Chair Sarah Senk, Vice Chair Taiyo Inoue, Secretary Ariel Setniker, Margaret Ward, Keir Moorhead, Aparna Sinha, Kitty Luce, Matt Fairbanks, Nipoli Kamdar, Sam Pearson, Tom Oppenheim, Tony McDevitt, Wil Tsai, Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty, and guests.

Absent: Julie Chisholm (representing at ASCSU), Christine Isakson (representing at ASCSU), Amy Skoll, David Satterwhite, Joel Aldrich, Kevin Calnan, Tom Nordenholz.

**Call to Order**

* *Chair Senk called the meeting to order at 11:04am after quorum was achieved.*
* *Agenda approved unanimously.*
* *Minutes from 04/18/24 motioned by Senator Ward, seconded by Senator Tsai. Approved unanimously (Senators Fairbanks, Kamdar, Moorhead abstained).*
* *Minutes from 08/29/24 motioned by Senator Tsai, seconded by Senator Sinha. Approved unanimously (Senator Kamdar abstained).*

**Chair’s Report**

* *Chair Senk presenting*

**Shared Governance Update**

* Just received permission from CO to share draft of shared governance workgroup
* Thank you to everyone who contributed feedback to inform these questions during the faculty retreat
* Workgroup categorized integration areas into the following:
  + Curriculum Alignment and Integration
  + Shared Governance
  + Operational Complexities
  + License Programs
  + Faculty Parity and RTP
  + Accreditation Concerns
  + Financial and Logistical Support for Senate and Working Groups

**BoT Meeting Prep**

* Phase 0: Audience is the Board, Journalists covering Higher Ed, CalPoly colleagues, CO, ourselves – let's focus on presenting Cal Maritime positively
  + Opportunity for faculty to drive conversation about what Cal Maritime is
  + If interested, Chair and Vice Chair can help write letters to BoT
  + This phase also includes some internal planning
  + Books on university mergers have been ordered by Christine Isakson and placed on the reserve shelf
* Phase 1: November to Fall 2026
  + Cal Poly has a moratorium on Curriculum Committee due to backlog from going to semesters from quarters – so curricular alignment won’t be happening for us immediately in November if the merger were to go through
* Phase 2: Fall 2026 and Beyond
* What is in the realm of possibility now that wasn’t a year ago?
  + How \*should\* we shape the curriculum?
  + How do we maximize use of campus?
* What are big issues we can tackle now?
  + Reviewing and comparing policies
  + How can we begin adjusting curriculum to prepare for new ship
  + What does fac participation for summer sea terms look like

**Vice Chair’s Report**

* *Vice Chair Inoue presenting*

**Standing Committee Updates**

* AIC: Taiyo Inoue and Kevin Calnan were appointed for two-year terms, joining David Satterwhite who is current chair
* Curriculum Committee: Ariel Setniker has been elected chair
* Senate RTP: Tom Nordenholz is the School of Engineering rep, and will serve as chair
* There is now a vacancy for a senator at-large on general senate – election coming
* Department Chairs: please initiate conversations with faculty about departmental expectations about RTP – from experience, there is sometimes a mismatch of what’s presented and what’s expected – we all agree that it’s written down, but language is interpreted many different ways by many different brains
  + These will be useful conversations to contribute to crafting your department’s identity

**Board of Trustees**

* September 24 at 9am time for public comment – limited to one minute, can be delivered via Zoom, or written comments can be emailed in advance
* This is an amazing opportunity to share the amazing and unique educational experience that Cal Maritime offers with the board, Cal Poly, and public at-large.
* Why give public comment?
  + There is tremendous uncertainty about many details – this leaves a vacuum which could be filled with speculation and misinformation
  + It doesn’t help that we are a “hidden” gem meaning the public doesn’t know what we do
  + This gives us a chance to tell our own story in our own way, fill the vacuum with faculty-driven stories about our strengths, our distinctiveness, and our value to the world
* This is a \*high priority, all-hands\* scenario. If integration is voted down, there is no plan B.
* Talk to your senate leadership because we can help – we have 30 talking points prepared
  + It’d be useful to coordinate so that we can hit all these points at least once

**Executive Dean’s Report**

* *Executive Dean Pinisetty presenting*
* Outreach
  + SF Fleet Week – Oct 12 and 13 please volunteer, reach out to Jay Harcum
  + Maker Faire Bay Area Oct 18-20 Mare Island – reach out to school deans for volunteering
  + Recruitment events – admissions staff, deans, alumni
* Faculty Development
  + FD Funds have been distributed to department chairs
  + RSCA applications open
  + Scholarly Activity Funds report will be sent out
* Budget Overview
  + CSU funding was increased by $246 million in base General Fund appropriations
  + Offset by a one-time $75 million cut resulting in a net increase to the CSU o $171 million
  + Cal Maritime received a net base increase of $2.2 million
    - Increases – health premiums, liability and property insurance, bargaining unit compensation
    - No additional funding – mandatory cost increases (utilities) or campus strategic initiatives
    - $1.8 million for FY 2024-25 base allocations
    - $433,000 for revisions to the FY 2023-24 base allocation
  + Cal Maritime received the following reductions
    - One-time reduction of $387K (Cal Maritime’s share of the $75 million cut to the CSU budget)
    - Permanent decrease of $384K as part of the CSU enrollment reallocation plan (Target: ~1418 FTEs)
    - Unfunded compensation of $1.5 million
  + Cal Maritime budget adjustments
    - Campus budget deficit of $2.1 million
* Senator Pearson: let’s splice together testimonials, demos to put videos together for outreach
* Senator Sinha: Will you be invited to any of the working groups related to integration?
  + Dean Pinisetty: only one working group with the two presidents and Graham Benton, we met once and worked over email – purpose was never to plan, but to identify issues that might come
* Chair Senk: Remember last year that budget cuts were contingent on the enrollment, does our increase affect that?
  + Dean Pinisetty: No, because our goal was 1418 and we are at 844
* Bets McNie: the fact that we don’t get. funding for out-of-state students – does that affect our recruiting?
  + Dean Pinisetty: no – while we have less funding to recruit in person, we are not constrained in recruiting from out-of-state
* Senator Fairbanks: It’s pretty frustrating for the folks who ran around successfully recruiting but not meeting the target and still getting a cut. We could’ve done 200% better and still get a cut.

**Introduction to Jerusha Greenwood, Chair of Cal Poly SLO Senate**

* Worked with some members of faculty over the summer, had some great discussions and happy to answer any questions

**Senate Bylaws Revision Discussion**

* *Chair Senk presenting*
* Currently our bylaws state that we have advisory power only, that we serve at the pleasure of the president – SLO, for example, has legislative power
* We are about to embark on a lot of changes, and we do not have time to wait for the current 7-step process to approve our resolutions, policies, etc.
  + Some of these steps do not exist anymore (CLC), and as it sits, ASCMA must approve faculty senate policies
* Jerusha: set policy for faculty issues, and also provide advisory policies on things like finance, the integration with Cal Maritime, etc. - these sit on the desk of the president awaiting for a response (gets feedback from cabinet on his response, then he will write a memo that comes with his response to senate: accept, approve, acknowledge receipt, or reject (veto))
* Proposed changes:

**CHANGE 1**

* CAL MARITIME: “To the extent that authority derives from powers granted to the Faculty Senate through its recognition by the President”
* SLO: “We, the faculty of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in order to meet our academic responsibilities, hereby establish this Constitution of the Faculty for our governance”

**CHANGE 2**

* MARITIME: Bylaws changes only “shall become effective upon approval by the President”
* SLO: “The Academic Senate is empowered to adopt bylaws for its governance.”

**CHANGE 3**

* ADOPT THIS FROM SLO “when the President disapproves Senate legislation, s/he shall inform the Senate in writing within sixty days from the date of transmittal of the compelling reasons for disapproval”

**CHANGE 4**

* ADOPT THIS FROM SLO: “the Academic Senate is empowered to exercise all legislative and advisory powers on behalf of the General Faculty. These legislative powers shall include all educational matters that affect the General Faculty (e.g., curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards). Advisory powers shall include, but not be limited to consultation on budget policy, administrative appointments, determination of campus administrative policy, university organization, and facilities use and planning.”

**CHANGE 5**

* **ADD A DEFINITION OF SHARED GOVERNANCE:**
  + Per the AAUP definition of shared governance: “The role of the faculty is to have primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. The responsibility for faculty status includes appointments, reappointments, decisions not to reappoint, promotions, the granting of tenure, and dismissal”(AAUP).
  + **Key Elements of Shared Governance:** 
    - Legislative Power: Faculty have primary responsibility for decisions related to academic matters such as curriculum, academic standards, methods of instruction, research, faculty appointments, tenure, and promotion, and - in line with the AAUP - “those aspects of student life that relate to the educational process.”
    - Advisory Role: Faculty contribute meaningfully to discussions on budget allocations, administrative appointments, and strategic planning, with their recommendations given serious consideration by the administration.
    - Transparency and Accountability: All parties are expected to engage in open dialogue and ensure that decision-making processes are transparent, with clear channels of communication and accountability for actions taken.
    - Decisions affecting the academic mission are made jointly between faculty and administration, with a focus on shared goals for the institution’s future.

**CHANGE 6 [optional] [***suggest delay to focus on PRIMARY problem***]**

* **ADD DETAILS ON HOW FIRST AND SECOND READINGS WORK**
* Senator Tsai speaks largely in favor of Options 5 and 6 – critical to have these. Further, given the integration, if we can adopt these practices, it will really benefit us going forward
* Senator Luce: suggest an extra meeting if needed, waiving a first reading for substantial changes to bylaws makes me a bit nervous
* Senator Tsai: it would be appropriate for this document to have a first reading – but check with ASCSU about the timeline – we can waive first reading if we have enough time to get feedback from our constituents
  + Does this meet our requirement for a first reading (asking Parliamentarian)?
* Parliamentarian Fairbanks: this was not on our agenda as something we’d be considering, so doing it after the fact feels inappropriate
* Chair Senk: let’s have everyone talk with constituents to gather feedback
* Senator Luce: this is substantial as it defines how we operate

**Open Floor**

* Senator McDevitt: heard that funding from MARAD for pier has not been formally approved potentially – who should I contact to follow up on that?
  + Dean Pinisetty: initial estimate for pier construction was $102 million – but went up to $350 million over summer, and President Dumont is currently lobbying for more funding from MARAD
  + Still looking for Fall 2025 start, may go through Spring 2027
  + Dean Browne: main issues are environmental studies and various permits

**Meeting Adjourned [~12:16 pm] (unanimous)**