

## **General Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

### **Minutes**

**03/27/2025**

#### **In attendance:**

Chair Sarah Senk, Vice Chair Taiyo Inoue, Secretary Ariel Setniker, Julie Chisholm, Christine Isakson, Margaret Ward, Keir Moorhead, Amy Skoll, Aparna Sinha, David Satterwhite, Ian Wallace, Jennifer Metz, Kevin Calnan, Kitty Luce, Matt Fairbanks, Mike Holden, Sam Pearson, Tony McDevitt, Wil Tsai, Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty, and guests.

**Absent:** Nipoli Kamdar.

#### **Call to Order**

- *Chair Senk called the meeting to order after quorum was achieved 11:03am.*
- *Agenda approved unanimously.*

#### **Minutes Approval**

- Secretary Setniker reviewed the February General Senate meeting minutes.
- Discussion of adding the documents from the workgroups (Tsai and Sinha). No opposition to adding Tsai's document to the minutes as a link. Sinha did not immediately have a link available for her document.
- *Chair Senk – motion to instead post the documents on the website, separate from the minutes. No opposition.*
- *Minutes from 02/20/25 approved unanimously, motioned by Fairbanks, seconded simultaneously by 3 Senators.*

#### **Chair's Report**

- *Chair Senk presenting.*
- Summary of the result of the resolution Cal Poly Academic Senate passed in their last meeting. We will have four at-large representatives but also since we will be part of Cal Poly departments and colleges, we can also run for empty seats in our college (or PCS) caucuses after July 1. Chair Greenwood shared that elections for the Cal Poly senate take place once a year (in February) and there are no special elections for vacant caucus seats after those elections. If a faculty member or PCS caucus member (eg. Library, university advisors) wishes to run for a caucus seat at Cal Poly, you can self-nominate by submitting a statement of interest to the Senate analyst; if there is more than one volunteer per vacant seat, the Executive Committee is the deciding body.
- Cal Poly Resolution also includes designated Solano campus seats on every Senate Committee. Senk reviewed committee bylaws and sought additional information from Cal Poly senate leadership to prepare informational document for Cal Maritime faculty. Encouraged folks to review these committees and see if they are interested in serving. [Link to Chair Senk's faculty governance document in the chat and here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OI5HhW->

[J4Nbt5SVYFqJXPHnLWO4HzTa5JXK0KTeLOQU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/103VBbE5GPQElEnPxfFQx2bLavrka3eq6MTiw9Udx7HQ/edit?usp=sharing). Senk notes document is open to commentary but remember that anyone with the link can read it so be aware comments are public in practice. Email exec directly with sensitive questions.]

- Senator Skoll asked whether vacant Maritime-reserved seats could be filled by Cal Poly SLO campus people. Answer: no. Skoll also noted that there are a lot of these standing committee seats and hopes that folks will volunteer to represent us.
- Next subject: *proposal for an additional Faculty Senate meeting on 4/10*. Senk noted that we discussed adding an additional meeting back in January or February but need an official to vote to put this meeting on the schedule. *Voting by poll. 12 yes, 2 abstentions. Proposal passes.*

### **Vice Chair's Report**

- *Vice Chair Inoue presenting.*
- Representation on Cal Poly Senate details: 4 Maritime at-large Senators. 1 must be a licensed faculty. 1 will be elected to the Cal Poly Senate Executive Committee.
- Interested faculty should submit a statement of interest to Vice Chair Inoue by noon, 4/4. All Unit 3 faculty are eligible.
- Ballot closes noon, 4/11. After the top finishing license rep, the top 3 vote-getters win the seats.
- Another ballot will go out after this election to determine the Senate Exec member from those 4 at-large Senators.
- Senator Holden: What about a tie?
  - o Answer: run-off.
- Senator Sinha: Are licensed faculty limited to one seat?
  - o Answer: No, that's the minimum.
- Vice Chair Inoue's slides:  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/103VBbE5GPQElEnPxfFQx2bLavrka3eq6MTiw9Udx7HQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- Senator Luce: Is this process what we're doing in the future as well? Or is this a one-off?
  - o Chair Senk: It's a one-off process suggested by Senate Exec. Outside of by-laws obviously, since this is all new. Open to suggestions now for procedure to adopt the process.
- *Senator Isakson: Motion to put this process to a Senate vote for approval.*
- Senator Sinha: What will be the election process for the standing committee representatives?
  - o Chair Senk: The idea is that all these Maritime-specific elections would be run through this same election process with a brief statement of interest, etc.
- Senator Luce asked a question that clarified that this process is for the Maritime-specific seats, not if we run for seats through Cal Poly departments, etc.
  - o Chair Senk: We (the current Maritime Faculty Senate) will run the elections for the Maritime-specific seats and standing committee spots. Anyone who wants to run for a vacant college caucus seat must notify the Cal Poly Senate Chair and analyst **after July 1**.
- *After some discussion, the scope of the vote today was narrowed to just running the at-large Senator elections through this process. We will have a later vote on how to handle the standing committee representatives.*

- *Secretary Setniker ran the election by roll call. Motion passes. One abstention by Sinha. All others present voted yes.*

### **ASCSU Report**

- ASCSU Senator Chisholm: ASCSU in its AY 2025-26 Apportionment Resolution (Approved 03/25) includes the 2 ASCSU senators for Cal Maritime. The rationale is that apportionment is based on Fall 2024 data, prior to the integration. A large majority of ASCSU was in support.
  - o Resolution: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2024-2025/3726.pdf>
- ASCSU Senator Isakson said she would send a link to other ASCSU resolutions being considered and being voted on.

### **Executive Dean's Report**

- *Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty presenting.*
- Pinisetty said that recruiting and admissions events and efforts are going well. Ahead of last year significantly on applications.
- Pinisetty said that we have 'intent to enroll' data rather than recording deposits now, so numbers of students meeting that condition are up, but it is a distinct bit of data from the number of deposits recorded in previous year.
- Advising: 4/1 - 4/11. Course registration: 4/14 - 4/24. There have been some delays due to scheduling issues.
- A Cal Poly person will be stepping in as Registrar in the near future. Currently being brought up to speed by Julia and Shari.
- Pinisetty noted the transition in the Cal Poly Provost position. Reiterated info from the campuswide email on this subject.
- Pinisetty asked for any questions. Question: can the website be updated on the registration dates? Answer: It will be updated.
- Senator Sinha asked about the department chair situation for next year? Answer: this is in process. Pinisetty is meeting with the Cal Poly Provost and then Deans. Likely two weeks from now for an answer.

### **Update from Rachel Fernflores and Q&A**

- Dr. Fernflores outlined some personnel shifts.
- Sarah Best has taken a leave of absence for next term. Senate has recruited Shannon Sullivan-Dancer (ssulliva@calpoly.edu) from Fernflores' office to fill that position.
- Dr. Fernflores noted that the Cal Poly standing committees don't meet in the summer. They're all important, but she noted Curriculum and Budget/Long-Range Planning as committees we definitely want representation on.
- Catalog for the fall: we use Acculog, Courseleaf for Cal Poly SLO. Current thinking is that we'll keep that difference for the coming year but merge to Courseleaf in the following year.
- A consulting firm working with Dr. Fernflores did an impact of the integration on the semester conversion. Dr. Fernflores noted that integration and conversion will be messy in the short-term. However, the PeopleSoft stuff needs to work. Can't be messy. That's a high priority. Dr. Fernflores is happy to talk to anyone about the analysis and its results.
- Questions? None for Dr. Fernflores at this time.

- Senator Sinha: backtracking to the Google Doc Senk created and shared earlier. Are these requirements for eligibility for some positions drawn from Cal Poly policies?
  - o Chair Senk: Yes, drawn from their policies and the recommendations of their Senate Exec. However, these are guidelines right now, because it's drawn from Chair Senk combing through their website and talking to their Senate.

### **Cal Poly Senate Merger Resolution First Reading**

- *Chair Senk presenting.*
- Senk outlined the reasoning for brevity in the resolution. In short, it's not complicated in its intent or function. Focused on response to the Cal Poly resolution that it references. Other issues regarding integration can be handled by other resolutions.
- Senator Tsai noted that that should be a distribution Resolved at end.
- Senator Fairbanks asked how further feedback would be gathered. Senk settled on that Senators should make suggestions and comments via comment and review function in SharePoint. Feedback should be submitted prior to 4/3 (a week prior to the 4/10 Senate meeting). Senk noted that the draft has already been distributed to all faculty.
- General commentary in support of the resolution. However, no complicated discussions, so we find ourselves with some extra time here.
- Chair Senk moved the subject to other faculty governance issues. She asked a question to Dr. Fernflores about representation on University-wide committees. Dr. Fernflores said that it has not been discussed but would anticipate support for Solano campus representation. Those discussions will happen in the coming year.

### **Discussion of Solano Campus Faculty Governance Structures Going Forward**

- Senator Isakson asked what will be happening with faculty development on our campus.
- Senator Chisholm has been concerned about the possibility of a coming vacuum at the admin level within Academic Affairs. Noted that most or all Deans will go. We will have this superintendent and CEO/VP, but nothing between them and a couple department chairs in ET and MT.
- Executive Dean Pinisetty noted that the current plan is that there will be no Deans on this campus.
- Senator Chisholm is wondering if people are ok with this. She was thinking of surveying faculty on this issue of local administration representation. Her back-of-the-envelope calculation is that about 75 WTUs of release time being lost as this admin integration goes through.
- Senator Tsai sees the possible Senate caucus as a separate thing from the administrative structure. The survey should distinguish between the two. Chisholm agreed.
- Senator Chisholm asked Pinisetty for a list of which positions are being eliminated. Pinisetty said that he would send a list. Pinisetty also noted that Deans/Chairs are being asked to enumerate their duties so that in his discussions with Cal Poly Provost, he can justify campus administrative support in Academic Affairs.
- Senator Wallace: his perspective from Student Health services. Noted that things are very sparse. For example, when one nurse goes out, there's no front desk coverage and it sends him and others sprinting around all day. With no Chief Medical officer here, there's no one to cover these instances. He noted police is hiring a deputy chief, which indicates some thought to these administrative issues is happening, just not yet in Student Health/Services.

- Senator Fairbanks: do we know when the possible release time for administrative work will be determined? Pinisetty: within the next two weeks.
- AVP Benton: noted the different deadlines for admin and academic integrations. Pinisetty is working with Cal Poly folks on what admin support, etc will be needed going into the academic integration.
- Some discussion of how other structures/offices will integrate. Impacted groups include: International Experience, RIO, Graduate Programs, Academic Integrity Committee, Athletics, Model UN, and Cybersecurity team. Scholarship and fellowship coordination – some of these scholarships require a faculty campus rep. Quite a few things to be determined, and we need to be compiling these and making sure planning is going on regarding them. Senk is making a list, though she will also survey faculty for more.

### **Open Floor**

- Senator Isakson: legislative updates. CA legislators appear opposed to the Governor's budget cuts to CSU. There's also legislation regarding the first-two-years-free at community colleges that is currently in place. Isakson has been advocating for the CSU to share in this program, though details are undetermined.
- Senk noted the Common Reader. It's a first go, so just a few carefully selected readings, but there will be an upcoming training for discussion leaders.

**Meeting Adjourned [~12:15 pm]**