

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

In attendance [all via remote connection]: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Keir Moorhead (Vice Chair), Sarah Senk (Secretary), Steven Browne, Christine Isakson, Elizabeth McNie, William Tsai, Mike Mahoney (Provost), Sianna Brito (Academic Support Coordinator)

I. Chair's Report on Faculty Elections

- Chair reports that Nipoli Kamdar won the election for Faculty Development Coordinator.
- Chair reached out to Michele to see if the runner-up would like to serve as interim coordinator for the semester that Nipoli is on sabbatical.
- Mike Holden won the Senate RTP election 18 votes, Nordenholz received 17, Snell received 17: Katherine, Steve Browne, Mike Holden. Next year we have to hold elections to replace Kathryn Marocchino.

II. Senate Executive Committee Elections

- Committee discusses how to conduct the secret ballot over Zoom.
- Tsai says we could poll over Zoom, running a poll one at a time, or alternatively, we could create a series of Microsoft forms for each election. Tsai confirms the votes would be confidential as long as the poll is set to be anonymous.
- Browne notes that new Bylaws specify that nominations are also supposed to be anonymous, so committee plans to have members of Senate send nominations to Sianna Brito over email in real time. Sianna will collect the nominations, report them to the Chair and Tsai who will coordinate the anonymous polling to conduct the elections tomorrow.
- To minimize confusion, we will conduct elections for each position in order, so to begin people will send nominations for Chair to Sianna, then we will hold the vote for Chair, and so on until the at-large positions are filled.
- Browne reminds committee that voting will accord with the ASCSU model of ranked voting. (Details are included in the new bylaws.)
- **Action items: Chair will send email asking that all incoming senators read through the new bylaws before the meeting tomorrow.**

III. Questions about the Plan to Return to Campus

- Committee expresses concern regarding the plan to return to campus, presented yesterday, (April 21) during a Zoom meeting with the Provost Council regarding COVID-19 planning.
 - o Mahoney reports that the President contacted the Governor's office a week ago, but Mahoney has not heard anything since. Senate Executive Committee members ask if Mahoney can clarify how the President depicted the university in order to justify an exemption to CDC recommendations. What characteristics about Cal Maritime would qualify us for an exemption? Mahoney reports that to his recollection, the President characterized us as "unique." President told the governor we have an importance in the economy. Mahoney reports he would be surprised if the governor's office approved an exemption.
 - o Chair notes that in yesterday's presentation the COVID working group seemed aware that social distancing is impossible in our face-to-face classrooms. Asks if the the Chancellor's office know about that? Mahoney speculates that the Chancellor

would assume that we would be unable to maintain social distancing in labs, because everyone knows that.

- Chair reports to Provost that while faculty appreciate the amount of work that went into the planning, faculty were disappointed that the plans did not take into account faculty feedback. Faculty are the ones who have to teach the classes, and it was disappointing that they were not included during the planning process. The other issue that was not mentioned involves the dates for cruise-faculty and increase in workload; planning committee didn't seem to take into account the workload issue. Cruise faculty get burnt out on cruise itself, but now in addition to that they have to be in quarantine, they have to teach classes, and their work hasn't stopped during the switch to online instruction.
- Moorhead requests clarification because students have reported they have already received orders about move-out dates. It seems like we're moving already on a plan that isn't published, that hasn't been distributed to all faculty. Mahoney reports that other campuses have moved students out of res halls; it's something we need to do no matter what (a lot of cadets want to get their stuff). McNie clarifies that the problem is that we just heard the plan yesterday and were asked for feedback, and today it seems like the plan has been implemented. Mahoney points out that this (getting stuff out of residential halls) is not in the purview of academics.
- Mahoney reports that the President communicated the request to the Governor's office over the weekend and hopes we will hear from the Governor's office soon.
- Mahoney reports that he related the questions (80 in total) to the Cabinet yesterday and they discussed them.
- Senk asks if there is a plan to disseminate answers to the people who asked those questions? Mahoney reports that Cabinet is meeting today at 1500 to continue discussing them. Senk asks if there is a date by which we can expect answers to the question. Mahoney reports that there isn't a set date yet given the amount of work that still needs to be done.
- McNie says we aren't getting a lot of messages as faculty about what our options are for cruise or face-to-face. Responses at the Senate meeting last week included a note about how the CBA would handle it, or how the university would consider things on a case-by-case basis. Mahoney has communicated to the president that we don't know how many faculty members might be in high-risk groups that make it difficult for faculty to return to work. It's possible that even if the exemption is granted the Governor will not allow anyone over 65 to return to work, and several cruise faculty members will be affected. The President is aware of this, Mahoney apologizes for not communicating clearly about this matter and will take it to the Cabinet as well but reports that at the moment they do not have a specific plan about this.
- Mahoney says that if the governor tells us to hold off, we can delay answering these questions, but if the plan is approved, we'll have to get answers right away.
- Committee requests information regarding questions that were forwarded to Michael Martin
- Isakson asks about plan to share the Cruise plan with faculty. Are we waiting to survey faculty until we wait for the Governor? Mahoney reports that in the near term we're waiting for the governor, but if we don't hear anything we'll need to get out the plan by the end of this week at the latest. Christine if that means sending out the plan to faculty and students for feedback or rolling out the plan.

- Tsai requests one master calendar that we could look at to see these things in motion, eg. when the quarantine is supposed to start. Pinisetty reports that yesterday's presentation created confusion regarding the dates.
- **Action items: Mahoney will report these comments to Cabinet in a meeting this afternoon.**

IV. Additional Discussion: Commencement

- Mahoney notes that he received an email from an upset parent about graduation
- Senk reports that students have expressed dismay about a virtual ceremony and have said they would prefer to attend a full in-person ceremony, even if it's delayed a year. Senk asks Provost if it would be possible to arrange for students to officially graduate this May (with or without a virtual ceremony) but have the option of participating in a special honoring ceremony during Commencement 2021. Mahoney reports that it is likely that this will happen. He will discuss with the President but notes that the main cost of commencement is setting up the tent, so to add additional students is a negligible cost. Provost will need to get approval from President but suspects that there will be no objections to an optional in-person ceremony coinciding with the next in-person Commencement.

Meeting adjourned.