

Senate Exec Meeting (1/28/2021)

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty, Christine Isakson, Bets McNie, Frank Yip, Cynthia Trevisan, Matthew Fairbanks, and Lori Schroeder (Provost).

- Working out the calendar for major Senate committees, Senate, etc. General consensus that Dinesh's proposed meeting dates should be fine.
- Senate Exec needs to replace the Secretary due to Sarah Senk's leave. Also the ASCSU rep.
- There was some discussion on whether we should appoint or run elections. For ASCSU, the consensus seems to be that we should, because it's a two year term (remaining). Dinesh will run that election, then pause a bit, then run a 3 year election for Cynthia's expiring term. (to avoid confusion)
- Secretary duties will be split for the time being: Dinesh on scheduling, Matt on minutes and in-meeting stuff, and Christine on web.
- How will the course release work for ASCSU? Not sure because of Sarah's partial year this year.
- Discussion on off-site meetings in March (see agenda). Committee largely expressed preference for the later set of dates starting 3/15.
- Research resolution. Next steps. Setting up a committee to review and plan. Bets: what kind of committee? Dinesh: ad hoc I believe. Should we have a faculty from each School to represent faculty on the task force/committee?
- Ad hoc committee would report to Senate Exec/Senate.
- Membership: Admin/Finance rep, SPEL (maybe Veronica Boe), three faculty...any others?
- Bets: What's the name of this ad hoc committee?
- "Research Development Task Force"? Maybe *Scholarly Activities Task Force* to be slightly broader, encompass more faculty scholarship. General agreement.
- Response to the resolutions: Dinesh and Bets met with Provost and President yesterday. Talked about responding in a timely manner to Senate resolutions. Brig and Lori came up with a tentative plan for resolutions.
- Dinesh shared the draft. Pretty straightforward – who gets a copy of the resolution, meeting is scheduled between President and Senate Chair (and a couple others), President confers with Cabinet, a written response is drafted, signed, forwarded back to Senate and interested parties. Timeline – within four weeks.
- Frank commented that there's a lot of titles. His comment was mostly to point out that the President's Office has expanded quite a bit to where there are all these people in the Office and they are not even the whole complement.
- General agreement the procedure and timeline looked good. Bets wanted to reserve the right to request a quicker response in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- Chairs policy: Dinesh went through the timeline he followed. Faculty who sent in comments – Steve Browne, Margot Hanson, Matt Fairbanks, Colin Dewey.
- Christine mentioned that the IBL rep did not share it with the department, so she would, and would appreciate Dinesh taking comments past the original deadline.
- AIC policy. We need to vote on this in our first meeting. The process for approval has been lagging a bit. General agreement.

- Murals policy is in a weird place, where Sam Pecota implied that the committee had voted and the Cabinet needed to vote (and didn't have time right now). Bets clarified that the committee had not voted. She will follow up with Sam.
- A brief mention of the response to the IBL response. The last draft that we have currently is the version that Sarah and Bets prepared. The plan is to polish it up within the Senate Exec. Committee and then send it to all Senators for final feedback.
- VP McMahon is here to present on the Student Affairs reorg.
- Mentioned the res life staff layoffs. Commandants pivoted to take a role in res life. McMahon views this as an opportunity to examine the structure of Student Affairs and everyone's role.
- Pointed out that the mental health of students is of concern and of paramount importance.
- Noted the departure of Kristen Tener. Complimented her abilities and that she served as a de facto Dean of Students.
- They're currently hiring for a Dean of Students to replace Kristen Tener.
- Student Affairs is involving faculty in some working groups (mentioned Bets' participation).
- Commandants: noted the fits and starts of the office, but that work continues.
- Org chart. Dean of Students is vacant, but would oversee res life, EOP, ASCMA, CARE Team, conduct officer. Also would have a company commandant under res life. Also would be hiring to some vacant positions in res life (a Director, and two coordinators).
- Commandants would be a separate arm. Health Center, Career Services complete the top level.
- Each Company (~250-300 students) would have a team of people (faculty ambassador, company commandant, res life person, etc.)
- Priorities: corps of cadets, orientation, assessment of outcomes, first year experience, and some others.
- Frank asked about the motivation of putting athletics directly under the President. McMahon mentioned it happened before her time, but understands that this happens when the President deems certain areas in need of support.
- Frank asked about the Commandant's office and the addition of the deputy commandant. Why? Is it necessary? McMahon said that she thinks the role is necessary, and that the commandant has a lot of things to do (serves on more committees than almost anyone at the university, etc.)
- Company commandants would be serving as 'case managers' for about 300 students each.
- Frank talked about his concern of adding positions and being efficient in the use of these people. Whether these positions are necessary, whether efficiencies are being taken advantage of, etc. McMahon thanked him for his feedback.
- Bets – noted the optics of laying off the two highly trained res life people and then the commandants moving into those roles. Noted that McMahon inherited this situation. Bets also noted there's a question of competency of the commandants in those new roles. Also noted the salary differential between commandants and the former res life staff, the commandants' salaries being significantly larger.
- McMahon noted that the commandants do have differing amounts of training, and that was supplemented by mental health training.
- Frank and Christine expanded on Bets' concerns. Christine also wondered whether this operational change was going to be permanent.
- McMahon noted that we're quite unique – not a regular CSU, not a military academy. Looking for an approach that integrates these. They are going to be hiring some more 'traditional' (not maritime academy) res life personnel.

- Dinesh commented, noting the three school organization, establishing structure before any of the goals were achieved. Wonders whether the Student Affairs structure will also come too far before the goals.
- McMahon – Res Life director this year. One or two RLCs in the following year. No other positions on the immediate timeline.
- McMahon wanted to know what other faculty bodies would be good to present this information to so that communication is clear.
- Frank talked about making sure not to be bound to ‘traditional’ (i.e. historical Cal Maritime) structures. He believes that this group can give candor regarding whether faculty and students would support and believe in the reorg’s goals and structure.
- McMahon shared that she has been thinking outside the box (has a lot of experience at different universities). Bets and McMahon noted the changes from the previous structure, where commandants tended to occupy the level above the res life folks. General consensus that this was a good adjustment.
- McMahon – noted that the career counselors were in line to be moved under the Deans, and that hasn’t happened. Apparently the communication between those and the Deans was the problem, and so they’ve made some changes and postponed any sort of structural change.
- McMahon exited and we had some discussion. Noted the vast improvement of this presentation over the last Student Affairs reorg proposal.
- Meeting adjourned. Slightly over time.