

Senate Executive Meeting, 4/15/2021

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Elizabeth McNie (Vice Chair), Frank Yip, Cynthia Trevisan, Christine Isakson, Matt Fairbanks (Secretary), Lori Schroeder (Provost), Margot Hanson

- Minutes Approval
 - **2/11 approved** with slight adjustments (bold comments)
 - **3/4 approved** with bold comments deleted
 - **3/11 approved** with no edits
 - **3/18 approved** with bold comments removed and small adjustments made by Pinisetty.

- Chancellor's Visit and CLC Offsite Update
 - Dr. Miller will be the moderator on the second day of the off-site. Participants will be divided into small groups and work from different rooms in Compass Room.
 - Pinisetty mentioned that the invite to the CLC meeting that went out to Senate Exec was sent with scant notice (15 hours).
 - Provost mentioned that's a problem that needs to be addressed. Brig Timpson is leaving the University, so things are in transition in the President's Office.
 - Skipped to Dining Center Update

- Dining Center Update
 - Eric Cooper, Shannon Stel presenting.
 - Plan has been unanimously passed by the Food Advisory Committee. Unofficial support from Triad.
 - Keeping the current concept of the 'marketplace'.
 - Sushi station will continue and expand. Added seating on the first floor. Made to order sandwiches. Additional hot food options.
 - Lots of changes this year in response to faculty, student, and staff feedback.
 - Stations for vegetarian options and a reduced-allergen station will be available. They had a nice layout map for the first floor of the dining center.
 - Mezzanine level will be somewhat disrupted due to accommodating the Bookstore's temporary home.
 - Bistro will re-open. Similar hours and offerings. Hours will expand slightly to accommodate students who have 7am classes.
 - Morrow Cove will re-open. The burritos there are apparently a cultural touchstone in the student population. New: Instacart model for pickup to alleviate lines in peak hours.
 - Cash balance program continuing. This includes notifications for students spending at a pace that might reduce their balance to zero prior to semester's end. Balance will roll over to spring semester 2022.
 - Noted that they are consulting with a lot of campus groups to build consensus.
 - Hanson – a couple questions. This is the plan for the fall? [yes] The pub would be where? With what restrictions? Cooper – restrictions would be appropriate for the COVID conditions at the time.
 - Yip – sustainability concerns on packaging for to-go items? Cooper – have consulted with Recology to check on waste produced. Also, visually, the waste under this plan is much smaller than the fall.

- Yip – would there be seating in the Bistro? Cooper elaborated on this, noting that it would be restricted as necessary, but the plan is for at least some seating.
- McNie – complimented them on their sensitivity to the sustainability and diet issues. Cooper noted that there would also be kosher food in partnership with Touro University.
- A/V Support, VPAT Process, and Infrastructure Plans (Julianne Tolson, CIO)
 - Pinisetty presenting the issues. A/V support struggles – particularly during pandemic. This has been problematic - little support, and some big problems in some converted classrooms (Compass, Rizza).
 - Pinisetty - VPAT issues: noted that the program is good, isn't going away, but we need some consistency and some clear expectations on requirements and timeline. There were some particular issues with software used for adapting to pandemic teaching.
 - Lastly, continuing WiFi issues in Maritime North and in the faculty offices.
 - Tolson – staffing has been a challenge. Some quarantines, some personal leaves, etc. They do have a new person who is great, but they were an emergency hire. Apparently, he was a candidate for the A/V position. Two positions are currently being advertised in that role. These positions are upgraded somewhat to the information tech consultant staff level, which should help fill them and get qualified candidates.
 - McNie – regarding hours of A/V support: there was talk of expanding these to help with evening classes, morning classes, etc. Tolson – schedules would be staggered to help with this, and she will also be training and acquiring some student assistants to help with after-hours events, classes, etc. Noted that IT tries to work toward the class schedule, but currently working with two people from 7am to 10pm.
 - Isakson – so what can done to help you and support you to deal with these issues? Tolson – help desk! This is monitored and coordinated every day. Isakson – I was thinking about acting more pre-emptively. For example, how to deal with these 'problem' rooms. Tolson – first thing, please report them to IT! Sometimes I hear about problems that I haven't seen on the IT support side, which is tough. Tolson also noted that some areas (classrooms, etc.) are being opened up unbeknownst to IT, so any issues there are unexpected and sometimes unknown to IT.
 - On VPAT – unfortunately, it's not Amazon, so we can't 'shop' easily. There is an effort at the Chancellor's Office to list certain common software programs, but this is unlikely to be applicable to all our situations. All the VPAT applications came through just one person on campus, which makes the process slow and burdensome. Tolson will have a presentation on the VPAT process that she would like to present to us next week or as soon as possible.
 - Pinisetty – would be wise to present that to General Senate so there can be more input and disseminate the information more broadly. Pointed out that certain grant monies on campus have timelines and limits that make VPAT applications limiting. Julianne noted that the order from CSU is that we always procure the most accessible technology, essentially regardless of cost. She recognizes that can be a problem, but thinks there are ways to evaluate software for its accessibility prior to committing to purchase.
 - Last item: the Wi-fi situation in student and faculty areas. Maritime North in particular.
 - Tolson shared a floor map of Maritime North (see below).
 - The access points for Wi-fi in Maritime North were done with haste and placed outside rooms in common areas, and the walls prevent signal propagation. Plan is to move the access points into rooms.

- A vendor used previously thought the peach/orange colored areas on the maps would be ok for use. Clearly not the case. Tolson also pointed out that they didn't anticipate the load that would be placed on the Wi-fi in the current semester.
 - Tolson said that there is a plan to have more wired connections. A vendor has visited and will be giving us a quote on this work. Don't share this in case the cost is prohibitive.
 - The project is slated for the summer because of room access requirements.
 - Many comments of approval in chat.
 - Pinisetty – would faculty be able to report issues with Wi-fi using the same system students use? Tolson – it's a little specific to students, but she will update it shortly.
 - One last question – Qualtrics? April 15th! It's in procurement, but apparently the license will be available today. No Level 1 (driver's license, SSN, health information, etc.) information allowed in its use.
- Student Room Inspections
 - Yip outlined the inspection regimen. 7:20am. Students expected to be in uniform, standing outside their rooms. Who vetted this? What's the purpose? Why?
 - McNie noted this came up in the ResLife working group and that this is the time they're meant to be ready for formation. Also meant to be a wellness check.
 - Pinisetty will speak with Kathleen McMahon (VP of Student Affairs) to see if she can come and speak with us about this issue.
 - Hanson – that's a good idea so we can give more time to this.
- Open Floor
 - Hanson – Senate committee reports? Are we forgoing these? Pinisetty – no, those have been lagging, but planned for upcoming General Senate Meeting.
 - Yip – student evaluations? Are we on track? Response was that it (probably) was. Would communicate with Khaoi Mady and Graham Benton to be sure.
 - Trevisan – what about this presentation from Dean Neto? Response was that Dean Neto wanted to present to smaller groups first, but the Provost said that there is no haste for these reclassifications. The presentation is meant as education, and then it would fall to the Curriculum Committee to consult and implement these things.
 - Hanson – Are we going to be discussing the response to the President's response to the IBL Chair resolution. Response – McNie will be presenting it during the next General Senate meeting.

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