

Senate Exec Meeting (9/3/2021)

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Frank Yip, Christine Isakson, Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Wil Tsai

Absent: Margot Hanson (pre-existing conflict in schedule)

- Senate Meeting Scheduling
 - General Senate dates look good to those present. (third Thursday of each month during the Academic Year)
 - Tuesdays before General Senate meetings and all other Thursdays for Senate Exec meetings.
- Resolution on Moving Senate and Non-Instructional Business Online
 - McNie moved for a vote. Tsai seconded.
 - Vote is 6-0 to approve the resolution.
- Resolution on Teaching Amid the Pandemic in Fall 2021
 - Isakson noted that we should speak in terms of what faculty want/need rather than what we can persuade administration to do.
 - Tsai shared a draft resolution from the ASCSU on this issue.
 - An interesting Resolved: department chairs in collaboration with faculty should be in control of modality.
 - Other Resolved's address other aspects including communication, allaying concerns with accreditation, etc.
 - *Do we want to re-draft ours to model ASCSU's?*
 - Yip – administration has put across that they think faculty just want to teach online to not work, which is nonsense, but there should be quality control. Who does that and who must be consulted to teach a course online isn't clear, but must happen. Unfortunately, absolutes have taken over, some faculty wanting complete autonomy and admin wanting total control.
 - McNie – perhaps ‘sunset clause’ making it clear to administration that we don’t want this in perpetuity, and the conditions that will dictate the policy’s end?
 - Pinisetty – student perspective: they’ve already gotten housing, laid out for other expenses, signed up for *in-person* classes. How do we handle this factor?
 - Isakson – we need to weigh this against the safety of faculty and their families, and it shouldn’t outweigh those concerns. Many faculty will teach in-person, but those still concerned will have good reasons for not returning in-person.
 - McNie – yes, we don’t know faculty’s situations, health conditions, and their choice to not return should be respected.
 - Pinisetty wondered how this would be administered. Would HR then be evaluating these cases?
 - Some discussion on having General Senate weigh-in and also the expectation that the resolution will be rejected by administration.
 - Should acknowledge in the Whereas's the faculty who are happy to return will be returning and acknowledge that the percentage in-person will be much higher than last year.

- Tsai suggested that we show a draft to the Triad/Diamond.
 - Further discussion of the resolution: how to evaluate quality in online teaching, how granting online status to courses should be determined in departments without Chairs, how much to model the resolution on the ASCSU resolution, and the practicality of implementation given our proximity to the start of classes.
 - It was agreed that the resolution text should be distributed today.
- Parking Discussion
 - Tsai – why are we a part of this process? We're asked to sort of approve/endorse, and then what happens?
 - Policy seems vague and doesn't resolve a lot of open questions about parking.
 - Meeting Adjourned