

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (10/14/2021)

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

Absent: Lori Schroeder (Provost) and Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair). Both are attending a conflicting presentation by the consulting group Art & Sci.

- Minutes
 - **9/30 meeting minutes approved.** A couple grammatical adjustments. McNie motioned for approval, Tsai seconded. No objections.
- Educational Enhancement Award
 - McNie – this hasn't been awarded for three years, so we have an accumulated backlog of 6 WTUs to be awarded. There needs to be a Senate committee that awards these units, and we need to staff it. They need to develop a rubric and also render a recommendation for who the award goes to.
 - Hanson – perhaps we should look to other CSU's. They may have an existing rubric for this.
 - Tsai – could the Faculty Development Committee take this on? There's some mission overlap there.
 - McNie – Steve Runyon (CFA President) pushed back on that idea when it was proposed. He thought there should be a more diverse body.
 - Discussion on who would take on the research of how other CSU's do this.
 - Yip – asked who had received it and how it was awarded in the past. Answer – Colin Dewey was the last recipient. Perhaps he [Dewey] has insight on how he was selected at that time. Yip agreed with Runyon's thought on having a more diverse committee.
 - McNie – so the action item is perhaps Pinisetty looks into the other CSU's policies, then we'll look into staffing our committee.
- Update on Reported Hazing Incident
 - Pinisetty contacted Captain and Commandant by email. Their response was that no students stepped forward to report the incident, and their response was to adjust the policy and have more checking of these spaces that could be locked from the outside.
 - Yip – we need a written response to a set of written questions from Senate Exec on this issue. This is a serious occurrence that warrants documentation.
 - General agreement among attendees that this response is unacceptable and that the cause of the hazing and preventing hazing in the future remains unaddressed.
 - Hanson – noted that our school is seemingly built on decades and decades of hazing. [She's been reading/listening to the oral histories.] Seems like it's a tradition that needs to be broken.
 - Yip – yes, and it seems we're backsliding into a previous era on the subject.
- Mural Policy Update

- No formal approval of it. Feedback was given from administration, Aparna adjusted it, the committee tried to meet to approve, but the Captain didn't show up. The spirit of the policy was followed on cruise though.
 - Proposal: a letter that asks for approval and notes the long, long delays (since 2019).
 - Tsai – what's the hang-up with the policy? Why hasn't it been signed?
 - McNie – the President wants Captain to have final authority instead of the decisions being made by committee.
- IRB and Need for Faculty Staffing
 - Khalid Bachkar has stepped down as Chair. Reasons are unclear. Fairbanks noted that he's on the IRB, and this was the first he'd heard of it.
 - Isakson noted that she would be interested in serving on the IRB. Some discussion of whether tenure is required. Fairbanks' impression was that no, it is not required.
 - Tsai – Maybe a general call, for which Isakson could volunteer.
 - Yip – this is an important committee to be certain human research is ethical. Appreciates Isakson's volunteering.
 - McNie and Pinisetty will move forward with a general call for service and will check with Khalid Bachkar on his interest or lack thereof.
- Scholarly Activity Task Force
 - McNie – this has stalled, partially because Evan Chang-Siu left. Alejandro Cifuentes-Lorenzen is on it. Yip and Julie Simons are de facto members.
 - McNie – so what do we need to move forward?
 - Yip – we need representation from other Schools. We know what is good for Sciences and Mathematics, but less about Engineering and MTLM research and creative activities.
 - McNie – I'll look into recruiting those people – hopefully individuals with experience in the campus processes for research and grants.
- Student Evaluations Task Force
 - Tsai – There is not enough time to revamp the evaluations by December, but perhaps we can have Cynthia Trevisan's language added to the evaluations. Timeline [for a revamp of the evaluations] would be spring or next fall.
 - Tsai – other issue is what the charge is for the task force. Just the questions? Or the larger issue of how to handle offensive comments in the reviews?
 - McNie – What is Cynthia's language? Tsai and Yip clarified that it's language to encourage students to take the evaluations seriously and professionally. It was added in response to offensive comments on evaluations a few years ago.
 - McNie – a next step would be the Executive Committee or us and Julie Simons to get together to decide the charge for the task force. She noted that part of her wants to have the larger scope, but she doesn't want to dump more work on Simons than she was signing up for.
 - Hanson – in addition to the questions, I think we should charge the task force with looking at the larger issues (response rate, etc.) to do with online evaluations.
 - Some discussion on what form the group should take. Tsai suggested a task force with a final written report.
 - Tsai, Hanson, and Simons will work on developing the charge of the task force. Then a call for service to the faculty will follow.

- AIC (Academic Integrity Committee) Policy status
 - Not yet signed by President. Provost has taken on being a go-between between President and Taiyo Inoue [AIC Chair and policy author]. We really need to get this moving.
 - Yip – noted that those faculty involved are quite frustrated with the process because of the delays and many requested revisions.
 - Tsai – is the hang-up still cadets vs. students in the language of the policy? If it applies to the grad school as well, then students is the more accurate moniker.
 - No one knows whether the student/cadet issue is still an issue or whether there are other issues.
 - McNie – we'll ask the Provost about the timeline on Monday.

- Administrator Review Committee (ARC) Update
 - Tsai – things are in limbo for the time being. Looking to Ex Comm (Senate Exec) for guidance on membership (5 or 3 person committee). Also need guidance on who should drop off the ARC and need Pinisetty to run the elections.
 - McNie – thoughts on 3 vs. 5 members for the committee?
 - Tsai – one person ends up with a lot of technical stuff, but maybe could get away with 3 workload-wise.
 - One member per School was suggested. Hanson noted that explicitly excludes library. Language of 'no more than one from each School or Library' was agreed to be better.
 - Tsai – leery of an actual policy revision to change the membership numbers, because opening it up could invite requests for further revisions beyond the number of members.
 - Yip – I think we should offer language and the President can sign or not, but he's worried about the precedent of the President red-lining stuff until the policy is quite different. We should offer the policy as is, approve or no.
 - Hanson – this is time sensitive, so perhaps the policy modifications can wait.
 - Tsai – ok, I would recommend two rotate off, and then run elections for those.
 - Tsai – do we want to continue with SurveyMonkey or Qualtrics, which we now have access to. SurveyMonkey is isolated from campus, which could be an advantage, but SurveyMonkey has the spam filter issue. McNie recommended Qualtrics given all the wrangling to get it.
 - McNie – another issue that came up during the last round: the President thought that some of the questions were biased or not appropriate. McNie said that in the spirit of cooperation, perhaps we should look these over as a faculty.
 - Yip – we should first ask the President which questions he objected to and why. The vagueness of his feelings about the questions is unacceptable.
 - Hanson – noted her appreciation of Aparna Sinha and Matt Fairbanks crafting the original survey instrument.

- TSGB Sewage Incident
 - Occurred when ship was coming into port after the second cruise. There was a sewage overflow down over multiple decks. A female cadet was asked by faculty (who were asked by ship's officer or officers) to do this and was the only cadet asked to do this initially. There is a Title IX investigation into this incident.

- Tsai – do we want to give Julie Simons a time slot in a General Senate meeting to talk about this and other Gender Equity issues? Can give a heads up to the Provost. We need to openly discuss these issues in the interest of transparency.
- McNie – I'm reticent to jump into this because we don't have a lot of information. We also don't want to disrupt the Title IX investigation. Anecdotally, other students have also reported later helping to clean up.
- Isakson – noted that Craig Dawson called off the clean-up (by students) and demanded a professional cleaning when he learned of this practice. There's also the broader issue of the Ship Ops course, during which this clean-up was apparently happening.
Inappropriate.
- Yip – these courses have learning outcomes, yes? This seems like it can't fall into what the course is actually trying to do.
- McNie – asking questions about how this cleaning was consistent with course learning outcomes, that seems fine. But very worried about stepping into the other issues given the active Title IX investigation.
- Isakson noted another instance of female students being asked to do cleaning that wasn't safe during cruise.
- McNie noted that she's outraged about this incident, but feels strongly that caution is warranted and reiterated the point on us having scant information.
- Isakson – agreed, but we need to press on the issue of the Ship Ops class. For example, students are essentially be asked to do hazardous janitorial work. Totally against OSHA standards.
- McNie – noted that this spill sat unaddressed for a month. Unacceptable behavior by ship's staff.
- McNie – devils' advocate: we only have ship's personnel to handle these incidents at sea. No professional cleaners available.
- Isakson – yes, but there are staff/faculty who are trained and equipped to handle these things. Or should be. There's a procedure.
- McNie – noted that Craig Dawson's response was appropriate.
- Isakson – however, the ship's staff don't seem to have notified people in a timely way.
- McNie – devil's advocate: what is our role as Senate in this incident?
- Some discussion that we're definitely involved on the course itself, but perhaps questioning Craig Dawson, ship's staff, etc. is not really something we need to be doing.
- All present feel the sentiment to pursue the issue due to its seriousness, but the safety of students and the course curriculum issues should be our focus. General agreement on this despite our general sense of outrage.
- McNie will ask questions on the curricular and student safety issue to the Monday meeting with Provost.
- Isakson – noted that lecturers in Marine Transportation may appreciate some boundaries on what students can be asked to do during Ship Ops. Getting a policy down would really help.
- McNie – first step, info from Provost on Monday, and then proceeding dependent on the response.

- Open Floor

- Isakson – Tamara Burback has asked that we consider a statement similar to the letter Isakson sent out to Senate Exec concerning hazing, harassment, sexual assault, etc, and how we strongly stand against these things in all forms.
 - General agreement that this is something we'd like to take on.
 - Hanson - Frank Yip has drafted a resolution concerning the hate incidents on our campus.
 - Isakson – can this make it on the agenda for our next General Senate meeting for a first reading?
 - Hanson – perhaps, though time is very short. I think Yip would like make that happen though.
 - Discussion of whether to merge this with the previous item or whether to make two separate resolutions.
 - Isakson will talk with Tamara Burback about how she would like to proceed.
 - Hanson – any updates on the General Education chair position staffing? Library has some issues to bring before the committee.
 - McNie – will be calling a meeting of GE in a week, and at the meeting a chair will be selected.
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- Meeting Adjourned