

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (1/18/2022)

Attendees: Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Christine Isakson, Wil Tsai, Leah Wyzykowski, Frank Yip, Keir Moorhead, and Provost Lori Schroeder

- Minutes
 - *Isakson motioned to approve 1/13/2022 minutes, Tsai seconded, 1/13 minutes approved by acclamation.*
 - *Isakson motioned to approve 12/21/2022 minutes, Tsai seconded, 12/21 minutes approved by acclamation.*
 - Other pending minutes to be reviewed postponed until next meeting.
- Chair Updates
 - We need to give Sianna Brito [the Senate's administrative assistant] a list of Senate duties so that we're engaging with that resource. Fairbanks will work up a list for discussion with Brito.
 - Discussion of General Senate agenda items.
 - New administrators Karyn Cornell (President's Chief of Staff) and Richard Ortega (VP of Advancement) will be invited to introduce themselves at a Senate meeting in the near future.
 - Jody Shipper (Interim Title IX Coordinator) will be introduced by Mac Griswold at Senate. Pinisetty will invite her to Senate meeting.
 - Pinisetty will be asking Grace Chou to present on the proposed health fee increase.
 - AIC policy will be presented by Taiyo Inoue (AIC Chair).
 - McNie will have a short presentation prepared on the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee.
 - Minutes approval will also be on the General Senate meeting agenda. Fairbanks will have the closed door minutes out to Senators later today.
 - Any other items for General Senate meeting?
 - Tsai asked about the Day of Dialogue. Suggestion was to have a faculty rep on that committee report out to Senate. Tentative date for the Day is still in March.
 - Provost – the new uniform and grooming standards are being presented later today.
 - Isakson – IRB issue: we need to solicit some resources for getting a presence online. Also, we should let Senate know that the IRB is now complete. Isakson will talk with Amber Janssen about a short presentation in Senate.
 - Regarding the internet presence, Veronica Boe is the contact person to get it rolling. Apparently when Veronica spoke with Khalid Bachkar (previous Chair of the IRB) previously, he didn't see the importance of a web presence.
 - Pinisetty asked Tsai if there was a student evaluation update? Tsai, no, I don't think so, but an update on A/V and Brightspace from Michele van Hoeck would be good at the Senate meeting.

- Yip – perhaps there should be something on the Senate agenda addressing the in-person ‘restart’ on 1/24. Faculty may have questions about why that date, what the requirements are, etc.
 - Provost Schroeder – originally, the logic for 1/24 was that it corresponded to the booster mandate deadline for students. Also, at the time, predictions were that COVID would be coming off its peak by 1/24. However, Cabinet will be meeting tomorrow about evaluating the current situation and whether the deadline should be pushed back by a week or so. Weekly evaluations going forward.
 - Yip noted that students and faculty are discussing the deadline for in-person. Rumors going around, so as much information as possible would be appreciated.
 - The Provost said that she would be sending out an informational email soon, ideally tomorrow to bring clarity on the issue.
- Provost Updates
 - Regarding the A/V role. It turns out that Royster Martin might be willing to come back part-time despite him being retired. This possibility raised the spirits of those in attendance by 12.5% on average, which according to Senate records is a pandemic high.
 - On the vacant tutoring position, the Provost indicated that she’s focused on it, but no concrete developments as yet.
- Open Floor
 - Moorhead – noted that he’s been in-person for two years. Disappointed in the general cleanliness of campus. Classrooms, bathrooms, etc. are filthy in his experience. Ventilation fans placed in classrooms are sitting unused in many locations. He’s been reviewing what the protocols say vs. the reality, and we’re not living up to the protocol.
 - Pinisetty – I’ll speak with Franz Lozano (VP of Administration and Finance) about these issues.
 - There is another new lead on janitorial services – Uber McCrary, who is the new Director of Facilities Operations.
 - Some discussion of COVID protocols and response times to inquiries with campus health and safety. Those present had a variety of experiences with this.
 - Isakson noted that counselors are still part-time and that there’s a large backlog (two weeks) for student appointments. Wyzykowski confirmed this.
 - The Provost has inquired about the process of hiring a full-time counselor. She believes the process is near complete. She encouraged Isakson to reach out to Kathleen McMahon (VP of Cadet Affairs) directly on the issue.
 - Provost Schroeder followed up on a question about what students are meant to do if they test positive outside the school’s testing regime. The thought in student health is that the daily check-in questionnaire will catch these. There was some discussion of the daily check-in questionnaires and whether they’re being filled out and also whether the questions encompass the case of COVID positive people with no symptoms.

- Tsai – I’m drafting the Senate letter on appointed faculty positions (IE coordinator and faculty dev coordinator). Tsai wanted to know whether there are other positions to be included in the letter. Answer: No.
- Tsai also wanted to see if anyone had specific asks they definitely wanted to include in the letter. No responses to this. Tsai said he would be wordsmithing the letter a bit and would then share it with Senate Exec.
- Tsai – also, there should be a reminder to Senators to give feedback on the ASCSU resolutions that his presentation/slides had. He should be there in Senate to mention this, but might be in ASCSU meetings.
- Tsai also suggested a slide with upcoming deadlines for faculty.
- Tsai asked Wyzykowski how the students are doing. Wyzykowski related that it’s still early and that COVID anxiety is low, so much so that many students don’t seem to care much, and pandemic fatigue is high. She recognizes that is not great for faculty but wanted to report what she’d heard. Yip thanked Wyzykowski for her candidness.
- Yip asked about HR and whether they were fully staffed. He noted that the physicist tenure-track position and the ET position aren’t posted and haven’t made it out to the various placements. He also noted that there are student-specific stipends that aren’t making it through the process. Yip indicated that he’s genuinely concerned about these issues – they’re fundamental.
- Provost related that she’s also very concerned. She’s pushing very hard to make these things happen in a timely way. She noted that even some of the listings that have gone up have errors. This issue has been repeatedly brought up to HR head and the President.
- Some more discussion of this. It was noted that the timeline is already way behind the usual timeline for the physics position.
- Tsai noted that the 3rd party site has the physicist position, but the csum.edu site doesn’t have it. Seems like a process problem. Should check to see if the professional associations have the posting like APS (American Physical Society). He wondered if HR would be willing to offload some of this to someone else to make sure it gets done.
- Pinisetti – the intention of the new software HR has is meant to automatically push these ads to the various websites. Not familiar with the details, but that was its intent.
- Some discussion of hiring student workers for research. Yip related to Isakson that HR doesn’t seem to know what to do and doesn’t follow-up to make it happen. “You ask, and you hear nothing back.” Alex Parker has had this experience as well.
- Isakson asked about the status of the finance department. There have been delays for some items on her end. Isakson had heard that much of the department had left. Provost wasn’t certain, but stated that it was functioning, but that there was difficulty in staffing the existing vacancies.
- Pinisetti noted he has a long list to bring up with Lozano, McMahon, and the President.
- Yip – emphasized the importance of research positions for students. It’s a really high impact practice for keeping students in STEM and succeeding. Imagine being a student who is ready to go with some project and just...can’t.

- Pinisetty noted that the ARC revisions are in process. McNie has some ideas on how to improve the questions, so she will be in the lead. It is also likely that we should revisit the policy itself in addition to the instrument. For example, the size of the committee at 5 is probably too large to staff consistently.
 - Pinisetty mentioned that Provost should be hearing from Nordenholz (ARC Chair) soon. Feedback currently being reviewed by the Deans for correcting errors of fact, etc. Tsai said that the timeline for sharing with Provost might be more like 1-2 weeks.
 - After some checking, the deadline for finalizing the report and sending to Provost is actually February 25th
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- Meeting Adjourned