

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (2/10/2022)

Attendees: Bets McNie (Vice Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Christine Isakson, Leah Wzykowski (Student Rep), Frank Yip, and Provost Lori Schroeder

Absent: Dinesh Pinisetty, Keir Moorhead, and Wil Tsai. All are attending conferences.

- Minutes
 - Postponed to have more than a minimum quorum for approval. *Fairbanks motioned, Isakson seconded, motion passed unanimously.*

- Vice-Chair Updates
 - McNie asked Provost Schroeder about the seabag policy status. Provost said that what was supposed to happen is that David Taliaferro (Commandant) should be contacting McNie about the policy and discussing the issues raised: extra cost for non-licensed students, questionable new cover on the list, faculty representation on the seabag committee, and omission of raingear in the seabag for MT students.
 - Some discussion in particular of the garrison cap and its inappropriateness, both in terms of its slang equivalent and why it's being added to the uniform options in the first place. Comments were made that it does not seem appropriate to the merchant marine.
 - Yip commented that the fundamental issue is the process – not having a lot of faculty or broad student input and apparently ignoring or misunderstanding the VPs instruction to rethink the policy – it's a pattern, particularly coming from the Commandants' Office. He thanked Provost Schroeder for bringing these issues up to the appropriate people.

- Website Issues
 - Isakson related her experience in attempting to apply for funding from Advancement for class supplies of some sort. Link to application leads to a 404 error [page not found].
 - She noted that calling people about the issue is difficult. If they aren't in the office, then it goes to their assistant. Assistant may be overloaded or not exist.
 - Isakson asked how the process of hiring a new webmaster is proceeding.
 - Provost Schroeder wasn't certain on the specifics of this hire. She indicated that the "great resignation" [a nationwide phenomenon] is doing a number on a lot of departments at Cal Maritime.
 - Some discussion of what the best process would be for handling these issues with the website. A few ideas came up, but it was acknowledged that most people simply don't have the time in the day. Isakson suggested adding a student worker for at least the basic stuff.

- Scheduling Issues
 - Discussion of the ASTF's [Academic Scheduling Task Force] work and the campus electing not to buy the CourseDog software to assist with these ongoing problems.

- Provost Schroeder said that there's a consultant coming in to get an outside perspective on the scheduling process. They've got a long list of appropriate people that will be consulted with. The Provost also cited Herring [AVP on enrollment] coming in and the desire to not have her shackled to a particular piece of software if she wanted to go another way.
- McNie – not related to scheduling, but thank you for introducing Natalie Herring to campus. McNie noted that Robin Bates [DEI officer in HR] still not being introduced/announced to campus. Provost Schroeder said she had spoken to Michael Martin [HR director] about it very recently, and it should be forthcoming.
- Ship Safety Incident
 - Senate Exec members asked for an update on the recent incident in which a student fell through a hole on the ship and was seriously injured. Provost Schroeder was told by Marine Programs that there is not a culture of ducking under the tape on the ship. McNie indicated that the Provost was not given correct or credible information.
 - Situation was that the student went under the caution tape to get cleaning supplies from a cabinet that shouldn't have been on that side of the tape. No one was sure why the cabinet was there. Also, they said that they weren't sure whether someone directed the student to go under it.
 - Other discussion on the incident: apparently there was a 'near miss' in the same spot late last semester. Other comments stated that other students have been ducking under the tape in the same area since this most recent incident, which is alarming despite the additional safety measures taken on the site.
 - Provost Schroeder will approach HR to ask about the safety issues and how Craig Dawson is handling them.
 - From faculty side, McNie will consult with her department on their concern as faculty working on the ship. She indicated that this may result in a call from faculty and/or Senate for a safety audit.
- Provost Updates
 - Provost Schroeder: looking back to the incidents last fall and bad behavior by some cadets in particular. She referenced the MariTimesUp resolution written by Dewey and Yip. The Provost said that a good FYE [first year experience] is one way of changing campus culture over time. To have an academic component and have time dedicated to it, a 1 credit weight to the FYE would be good.
 - The Provost said that she and Graham Benton are getting pushback from Chairs on giving up that 1 credit. Benton noted that we can do a lot of work on improving the FYE, but if we don't have that weight, that stake in terms of credit, then we may not get the changes we would like.
 - The Provost asked whether we would be willing to speak with Departments/Chairs on the idea's behalf.
 - McNie related her experience. She said that the presentation of it was perhaps the issue – there were not a lot of specifics. McNie was the only member of her department to vote

for it. Another abstained. McNie noted that faculty will also be skeptical if it [FYE] continues to be housed in the Commandant's office.

- Isakson – noted that courses have to go through the Curriculum Committee typically, will have a lot of detail, and may or may not be approved. FYE presentation simply asked for the 1 credit, but didn't offer specifics appropriate for getting that credit.
 - Provost noted that the Curriculum Committee would be part of the process. The FYE conference attended by Tsai, Benton, and Skoll is meant to produce a product, so members of the FYE committee should come back with something quite specific.
 - Yip commented, supporting Isakson/McNie's points, and noting that the Commandant's Office has had a variety of FYE-like programs over the years that have generally not worked well and thus have lost a lot of credibility.
 - General agreement on the committee that a well-developed FYE is important. We would support it and work to promote it once it is more developed.
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- Open Floor
 - Yip noted the “dire” enrollment situation. We need to acknowledge it and confront it. Natalie Herring should be invited to the General Senate meeting to introduce themselves and give a frank assessment of the situation. McNie will pass along the idea to Pinisetty for the agenda.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that Maria Hernandez, our interim AVP on enrollment and retention, is also staying on part-time to make sure the ‘hand-off’ to Herring goes well.
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- Meeting Adjourned