Senate Executive Committee Meeting (2/15/2022)

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

- Minutes
  - *2/3/2022 minutes approved by unanimous consent*.

- Chair Updates
  - CSU Advocacy Day was last week. Met 5 local CA Senators. Cal Maritime reps were provided a list of talking points from the CSU. Moorhead, Pinisetty, President Cropper, and Julia Odom were among our campus representatives. The 'asks' were for salaries and GI 2025. This involved a considerable increase over the appropriated amount in the Governor's draft budget.
  - Pinisetty thought perhaps a misstep was not keeping the same person on the same issue for each Senator meeting, but felt that overall it went well and was received well.
  - Moorhead said he enjoyed it and that it would be nice to do it again in-person sometime.
  - General Senate Meeting Agenda: Dr. Chou on the health center fee, Ortega on the capital campaign, King Xiong about the DEI committee, AIC policy review, GE policy review (both votes), Wil Tsai and Christine Isakson on updates from ASCSU. Very busy agenda.

- Provost Updates
  - Safety incident update: Provost Schroeder followed up with Michael Martin [HR director] on whether there's a general safety review as a result of the safety incidents. Craig Dawson is doing a review of root causes for the recent cadet incident and a previous cadet overboard incident.
  - Moorhead said that there's a safety stand down for tomorrow with an invitation sent out yesterday. Not a lot of information as to why. He suspects it's because of the recent incident combined with the pressure from everyone on the issue.
  - Wyzykowski – ship ops instructor indicated the 'near miss' incident in the same area was about a week before the student's fall. The instructor said he reported it and did the requisite paperwork. Stacy Shonk was the instructor. McNie indicated Shonk was returning faculty and has lots of experience in industry.

- Regarding the Cadet Experience Strategic Plan
  - The Cadet Experience planning meeting occurred just before this meeting.
  - Alex Parker has been experiencing a significant dropout rate, particularly with women, in Oceanography (OCN). Students are getting very little experience in the boat basin and on boats. McNie's understanding is that there were talks with Steve Browne about developing a small craft handling course for Oceanography. Apparently this got 'stuck' somewhere, possibly with the Dean.

- Parker says that he's gotten feedback directly from students who have gone elsewhere in the CSU where they *are* getting the hands-on experience they desire. In McNie's view, we should be doing everything we can to hold on to those students, and they should be getting this experience that *could* be unique to Cal Maritime.
- Pinisetty agreed that this was important. Related his experience in trying to coordinate with Cynthia Trevisan [Chair of S&M] on this problem. Trevisan brought the concern to him in 2019. This was before COVID and their inquiry never quite came together because of the disruptions.
- Pinisetty noted that at least the Foundation and IRA funding came through to get a charter vessel for Oceanography to use.
- Moorhead suggested that maybe the OCN students could be part of the standard safety and small craft course. In his opinion, 10-15 extra students would not be a significant increase in workload.
- Yip – the obstacle appears to be at the Dean level. From what Yip was told, Dean Maier indicated that collaborating with the OCN program was not a priority.
- Provost Schroeder had heard about this and said that she recalls having the conversation with the Dean, but can't recall the details. She will have the conversation again. She ssked for some documentation of the issue. Yip indicated that Parker would have that, showing the evolution from when it was OCN minors to the current state of affairs.
- Isakson noted that Fred Reiman was offering weekend courses for non-license majors. Nice of him and that might be an opportunity. Isakson also reemphasized the importance of collaboration to improve student retention. Provost Schroeder noted that faculty retention would likely also be helped by collaborations of this sort.
- Moorhead said that the DL intro labs are a possible entry point for OCN majors as well.
- Pinisetty noted that Parker's issues (and other faculty issues with impediments to collaboration) should be advanced to Senate Exec directly. He thinks it would help, and he as Chair can talk to the appropriate people to make sure these things happen.

- Proposal of Students on the Ship for Freshman Year - Moorhead
  - Moorhead has concerns: Student staterooms are in terrible shape. Drawers don't work, paint chipped up, rust everywhere.
  - He talked to some students who indicated that despite the issues, they thought it was pretty cool to sleep on the ship for freshman year.
  - He invited any of us to come see. He thought students in reality would not be so thrilled about the room conditions.
  - McNie noted that some parents also objected to those conditions in previous years. Students were then moved to faculty staterooms, which then weren't ready for cruise.
  - Moorhead noted that some things aren't known to upper admin on ship, but it's a procedural problem. They should be aware, and these issues should be in the pipeline, because they do take time and money.
  - Some discussion as to why this procedural problem exists: some suggestion that no one is sure who should be paying. Is the attitude that there's a new ship coming so who cares? No, not an excuse. Moorhead noted engineers on ship are very busy installing new cranes and putting engines together. Sometimes the attitude is often out of sight and thus out of mind, not my problem.
  - Pinisetty and McNie will bring it up in their upcoming meeting with the President.

- Enrollments
    - Pinisetty shared that approximately 65 students left by the end of the fall semester.
    - Provost Schroeder offered to share the document that has details about who left, what majors, and why. This was appreciated, and yes please.

- Reform Resolution (Tsai)
    - Tsai said the task force has been meeting. They have gotten some informal feedback, a little written, but they are concerned that all faculty are not making their opinions known. Made an apt analogy to those silent students at the back of the class.
    - Pinisetty asked whether the task force's product was going to take the form of a memo instead of resolution.
    - Tsai supported a resolution and discussed his reasoning – essentially that it was the formal way in which the Senate was supposed to communicate with the President and the campus.
    - Pinisetty said the issue has come up at other campuses, and that some are doing a sort of a sense-of-the-Senate memo.
    - There was agreement with the idea that Senate communication on this issue should take the form of a resolution.

- First Year Experience (Tsai)
    - Tsai said the conference was really good. Mac Griswold, Graham Benton, Amy Skoll, and Johnny Ferguson was a great team. Interestingly, Amy Skoll has some student affairs experience in her past.
    - Going forward, it needs to be a joint venture between Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and students. Tsai felt that AA was essentially going to be 'point'.
    - One takeaway from the conference was that campus buy-in was important and having a credit weight for the FYE was important to drive that.
    - Tsai briefly discussed the various categories of knowledge and experience that should be part of an FYE.
    - Indicated that we probably need to rebrand and distance ourselves from the existing program. Make it clear that it's new. Noted the barrier to getting majors (departments and Chairs) on board with a 1 credit course.
    - Class sizes should be small – 20-24 was suggested.
    - Tsai shared that the most effective people in leading these sessions are students. Extra hours of instructor lecturing is not usually effective according to what was learned at the conference.
    - University of South Carolina has a giant playbook, and we're likely to build off that playbook (with appropriate citations).
    - We need a specific plan and then an effective pitch to Senate, Departments, Deans, etc.
    - Some suggestions from Senate Exec: Pinisetty said it should be presented to Chairs and Deans meeting. Provost has already laid some groundwork there. Others recommended learning outcomes for the program and the proposed FYE 'course' would be important.

- Isakson – I'm definitely in support of a good FYE. One of the issues is when we have the FYE being a credit, it has to make it through the Curriculum Committee process. That's a challenge. She noted the initial presentation from AVP Benton to IBL was mostly 'trust me' on the SLOs, etc.
- Tsai, speaking personally, we probably don't have time for the full Curriculum Committee process for Fall 2022. Probably should use a provisional course structure to give the program a couple years.
- Provost Schroeder – the idea of dedicating one credit puts a stake in the ground for faculty ownership of this program. Also, speaking from experience at other institutions, we don't need to roll out everything at once. Not all or nothing. Just need to build momentum and have a phased introduction.
- Yip – agreed, and noted that the credit-bearing idea should establish a faculty stake in the program and that's a good thing. It would also allow the establishment of SLOs, etc, which have been lacking from the current and past Student Affairs implementations.

- ASCSU Updates for General Senate
  - The big issue/blowup in ASCSU was revolving around Chancellor Castro and Title IX problems.
  - Tsai and Isakson are wondering whether that should also be our focus in presenting to Senate. Tsai outlined the basics of the Castro saga. ASCSU is in an uproar about it. It has some unfortunate reflections on our campus issues that came to the fore last semester.
  - Isakson also spoke to this issue and the supposed impartiality of Presidents' reviews.
  - McNie – read the story about Castro and was very disappointed. Noted he must have a great PR team. Published letter was masterful in deflecting and not taking responsibility. She's very much in favor of pursuing the issue however we can. Otherwise, it seems there's nothing to prevent him from doing it again.
  - Yip noted that this seems to be a culture, both statewide and here, of sweeping things under the rug in this manner and it has to stop.
  - Provost Schroeder indicated that in the statewide Provosts meeting, the issues there paralleled our discussions here. Noted CSU General Counsel's office seems to be biased toward settling and avoiding these issues rather than transparency and actually addressing the problems.
  - Continued discussion: Noted that the motivation seems to be preserve the name of the institution, but these things do much more damage when they eventually come out. Pinisetty and Tsai noted the process seems deeply flawed. This was ostensibly done to protect the Fresno campus, but now it's tarnishing the whole system given Castro's current position.
  - Some discussion of whether the Trustees should have been aware of these issues when vetting Castro as Chancellor.

- Open Floor
  - President's coffee hours have been set. Dates will be shared. Hopefully the Provost will also be able to attend them.
  - Education Enhancement Award received a few applications. The review committee will be reviewing the applications and making recommendations very soon.

- Title IX faculty deputy solicitation: no responses yet. Pinisetty will remind faculty. Fairbanks noted Julie Simons and Sarah Senk might be interested (and would be good candidates) but are on sabbatical. Fairbanks clarified that he was not volunteering them, but that it was worth checking in with them on the subject.
- McNie – on the TIX coordinator search: Job description has shifted somewhat to something that she views as appropriate. Job re-posted. They still have two candidates interested, but no new applications as yet.
- Faculty volunteers for writing the JEDI committee policy? McNie – not a one. She will take it on and try to get the policy in shape for the fall term. Pinisetty noted that Simons might be interested if she was around. Ian Wallace was also floated as a possibility. McNie/Pinisetty will reach out.
- Tsai – Commandant search: Where are we in the process? Are there going to be public forums with the candidates? Pinisetty will check with Parker, a faculty rep on the search committee, on this.
- McNie said Parker spoke to this in an earlier meeting. He noted that the background of candidates has been maritime but not with student services backgrounds. There are applicants, but the pool doesn't have a lot of student services skills.
- Pinisetty – I'll propose a public forum for candidates when I meet with VP Kathleen McMahon.
- Yip wanted Pinisetty to also bring up the policy for establishing student Corps leadership. What adjustments have been made to ensure more diversity and inclusion?
- Yip – seabag update policy from McNie? McNie said that David Taliaferro is away, but that things seem to be moving in a good direction.

- Meeting Adjourned