

Senate Executive Committee Meeting (2/2/2023)

Attendees: Elizabeth McNie (Chair), Matthew Fairbanks (Secretary), Ariel Setniker, Wil Tsai, Christine Isakson, Frank Yip, Victoria Haller (Student Rep), Jeffrey Mueller (ASCMA representative), and Provost Lori Schroeder.

Absent: Sarah Senk – attending a conference.

- Minutes Review and Approval
 - *The minutes from 1/19/2023 were approved by unanimous consent after edits for concision and accuracy.*
 - *The minutes from 1/24/2023 were approved by unanimous consent after edits for concision and accuracy.*

- Chair's Report
 - McNie talked about the town hall and its format. She has given feedback to administration on the proposed time split – she suggested more time for Q&A. She also stated that in-person is better than on Zoom for building trust and transparency.
 - She noted that in-person does have risks associated with it (for example, the meeting with the President last year in the quad didn't go well), but it's important in her view.
 - Haller elaborated on this, saying that what students are looking for is a little vulnerability and some acknowledgement that these are difficult issues.
 - Mueller related the sequence of events that led to the town hall being in the Zoom format (prompted by a faculty member's inquiry and some subsequent discussions with administration). Subsequent discussions with students and faculty indicated that perhaps it should be in-person instead. One point in favor of Zoom was that it would accommodate the Title IX coordinators.
 - Provost Schroeder noted that administration is trying to make this work, didn't change the format, and was working with students to coordinate what administrators thought was wanted. The subsequent asks for changes to the town hall format at this late date are making things difficult to accommodate. The Provost also stated that the administration is committed to continuing conversations on these topics, so this town hall will not be the last opportunity to speak to these issues.
 - More discussion of this. Mueller noted that the in-person discussions following the Zoom town hall may satisfy the desire for in-person Q&A and be more interactive and genuine.
 - Yip asked Mueller and Haller what they would like. Haller said that if it's Zoom, students need an opportunity to speak – the webinar format seems too passive. Mueller agreed – students should be able to ask questions. He knows that there was a proposal for questions ahead of time, but the result may be 'death by PowerPoint', which will likely not engage students.
 - Yip agreed. He asked Tsai whether Rizza could accommodate the Title IX folks via Zoom. Tsai – in principle, yes, though we might need to outsource to Keir Moorhead for proper A/V support.
 - More comments were made to the effect that Zoom is not ideal for a large discussion format. "A phone call with 20 people on it."

- Some discussion of the 5-6pm in-person discussion time slot. Mueller said that the idea was that it would be in Morrow Cove. Tacos provided. All the panelists from the Zoom town hall would be there.
- Haller said that the Zoom format could work, though it's important that the PowerPoint is light and students should have an opportunity to speak.
- Mueller said there was concern expressed from administration about 'Zoom bombers' or the chat becoming toxic, which is why the webinar format was settled on.
- Tsai – how many questions did you get in advance? Haller and Mueller said about 30-35, though after winnowing to appropriate and non-duplicative ones, perhaps 10-12. Tsai noted that there is a Q&A option within the webinar format, but they all go through the moderator.
- McNie and Mueller have been asked to moderate the townhall. McNie expressed confidence that students would come ready for a civil, productive conversation.
- Provost Schroeder emphasized the importance of this going well, and that the administration is invested in having it go well.

- **Other updates:** letter regarding the interim President went out, but not to campus. McNie will take care of this today.
- We have one volunteer for the planning committee on the University's administrative structure. We need to recruit more. McNie said she was kind of surprised faculty weren't jumping at this opportunity.
- There will also be service opportunities on watchstanding reform and other issues.

- Isakson talked about the Corps leadership selection process. They met with Commandant Taliaferro. She asked if students had input in the officer selection. The answer was no, which doesn't seem appropriate.
- Isakson suggested some student input – a vote or a peer nomination process. The committee would then review and make a recommendation based on a rubric. Taliaferro will actually make the decision.
- Haller clarified that there is student participation in the selections, but it isn't consistent and varies a lot by division. She noted that there was a recent email from Taliaferro asking for nominations – it seemed out of the blue and implied to her that there weren't enough applicants rather than the actual circumstance, which is that Isakson and the committee requested this change in process. Isakson offered to attend a meeting with students to explain the new process.
- Isakson also said there was a deadline, but apparently that was not expressed in the email from Taliaferro.
- Yip – who is on this committee? Chiego, Isakson, and Satterwhite. Yip - and who does the committee select? The top tier of officers. Yip - so the rest of the officers get appointed the old way (by the top officers)? Isakson didn't know, but thought that changing the process for those selections would be a good thing. The current process is not teaching the right lessons about how a workplace functions.
- There was general agreement from others that the process should change and having some rules and guidelines is important.
- Yip – should the candidates be asked to present to a wider audience (students)? The current state of affairs is that the candidate essentially needs to convince a few people, but they need to understand they will be serving a much broader constituency.

- Some discussion of a student vote being in the process. Acknowledgement that student voices should be heard, but leaving it to a popularity contest is probably not the best for equity and for what the Corps officers are meant to do.
- Faculty Service Load Data
 - Setniker is crunching the numbers. The presentation of this data is scheduled for next General Senate meeting.
- Elections
 - Senk and McNie will be running these.
- Community Day Planning
 - Meagan Nance and Senk are presenting the plan for Community Day to the Cabinet soon. McNie will also be there. They presented to ASCMA recently, and it was received very positively. “A breath of fresh air”.
- Open Floor
 - Yip – regarding equity in athletics programs. Apparently there’s a \$50 per diem for men traveling for sports, and \$30 per diem for women. This is a clear disparity. It seems like a Title IX issue. Others acknowledged that if this is accurate, it is a big problem.
 - McNie – Karen Yoder [Athletics Director] is working on a ‘return on investment’ report that Yoder is interested in presenting. She may be visiting us (or the General Senate) soon. McNie noted that she’s not sure what it is, but we could bring this up during that presentation.
 - Tsai – the ARC process for the Provost’s review is proceeding. Responses to the survey have been received.
 - Tsai - for program development, we need to know what is going on with GVAR. And we should make a concrete plan for the tweaks to the Senate by-laws that we’ve got planned.
 - Yip – Facilities seems to be an issue on a variety of little things. Navigator classrooms have been cold. Caution tape on classroom building has been there for months. Classroom building doors are often locked. Tech building has also had heat issues.
 - Isakson – adding to the list of action items: Faculty funds should be managed by faculty, not the Library Dean.
 - Setniker – she met with Chris Brown (Director of RIO). She has heard that the grant writer is in the Corporation, which doesn’t make a lot of sense. McNie responded that she has heard, but will confirm, that the grant writer will be moving into RIO soon.
 - Yip – we should speak with the Provost [note: Provost Schroeder departed prior to this comment] about resurrecting the faculty scholar lecture series. Setniker – Chris Brown is interested in co-sponsoring this. McNie – this has come up in speaking with the Provost. The Interim Library Dean may be coordinating.

- Meeting Adjourned