

## Senate Exec Meeting (3/18/2021)

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty, Margot Hanson, Matt Fairbanks, Lori Schroeder (Provost), Frank Yip

- Retreat Dates
  - President Cropper had an emergency meeting with MARAD, so the Tuesday retreat was cancelled. We're discussing the appropriate date for rescheduling this.
  - Provost – I feel that the faculty's input needs to be considered first here because of faculty's teaching schedules.
  - Dinesh – we're still thinking two days for the retreat, yes?
  - Provost confirmed. Focus of the first day is budget, then the second day focusing on the leadership ethos activities. Open to re-thinking this if we have a creative approach.
  - Margot – useful to have some 'momentum', so two consecutive days is good from my perspective.
  - Matt asked if there were budget deadlines that would factor into the scheduling. Provost – not that I'm aware of, at least, not until very late spring or early summer.
  - Frank suggested that we work out the best two day sequence over email for the Senate Exec members.
  - Dinesh – the second day was still scheduled for in-person? Provost – yes, currently, though that's a 'hopeful' thing.
  - Dinesh – the change of formats (online then in-person for the two consecutive days) seems tricky, difficult.
  - Provost – I wonder about having a full day of meetings about budget? Is that necessary?
  - General consensus that the budget discussion is unlikely to really need or want that amount of time. Various comments regarding the lack of efficiency of previous budget-focused meetings.
  - It was suggested that the information on budget be shared beforehand so that we can be informed and have good, evidence-based decisions and discussions during the actual meetings.
  - Margot and Dinesh noted that in these retreats we are planning for the next few years and yet a lot of information is looking backward.
  - Dinesh added that the thing that often is missed is the assessment portion – did the strategic plan work? Did priorities change? Were benchmarks met?
  - Provost – noted that she had that same issue at her last institution, and they ended up having a point person designated for this.
  - Some discussion on the split in modality between the two consecutive days. The consensus seems to be that there can be a split (and should be, no backsliding into all in-person).
  - The point was re-emphasized that previous retreats were a “colossal” waste of time. Efficiency is key.
  
- Miscellaneous
  - Frank – is there anything we should know about the MARAD meeting from the President?
  - Provost – nothing as yet.

- LRPG Consult (Matt presenting)
  - Matt presented the questions posed in Monday's LRPG – Academic Pathways meeting. First, whether the AS policy for online instruction (AS 01-003 Technology-Assisted Modes of Instruction Policy) was sufficient for handling cases where faculty wished to teach online in Fall 2021 semester. Additionally, the question (more broadly) of how to handle faculty needs and preferences in terms of teaching modality in the Fall was posed. Do we need a new or modified policy to handle these circumstances?
  - Frank offered that he doesn't think the policy should be used. It is set up to handle course modality adjustments for pedagogical reasons (i.e. faculty thinks online would be more beneficial, etc.).
  - Dinesh concurs. Thinks that perhaps faculty should work with the Chairs to decide on modality. Health issues and other justifications for online teaching are private and should remain so as much as possible.
  - Provost – agreed with these points, though put across that it shouldn't be 'preference' rather an 'accommodation'. Not sure whether it would be a policy or whether the Health & Safety Task Force would make the judgement that the campus is safe for in-person teaching.
  - Frank noted that perhaps we shouldn't go from 0 to 1, for example, we should have policies or procedures that promote not having 40 students stuffed into a 40 person classroom.
  - Provost – the science is now saying 3 feet spacing in classrooms is sufficient. Perhaps we should re-assess the classrooms to see which can accommodate the class sizes with these constraints.
  - Frank – noted that he's sympathetic to faculty who are concerned after the experiences of this semester and last without sufficient spacing or a space that was not superior to Zoom in terms of A/V, etc.
  - Margot – concurred and noted that these discussions and processes should be established now and it sounds like maybe that hasn't happened yet?
  - Provost – yes, though I'm pushing to bring the evaluation firm (or at least their dataset) back to answer questions about sufficient distancing in classrooms.
  - Provost – who should be in on these evaluations? Chairs and Deans? Facilities? The outside firm?
  - Dinesh – Chairs/Deans don't really have the expertise. We also need to move quickly as schedules are due very soon and these decisions need to be made.
  - Matt offered that faculty could be consulted through Chairs on where they would see capacity and distancing issues in certain classrooms.
  
- Faculty vs. Academic Senate
  - Provost was approached by someone in the Chancellor's office about the Faculty vs. Academic Senate naming scheme.
  - Dinesh didn't think it made much of a difference, but the scrutiny means we should settle on something and make it consistent.
  - Dinesh attempted to determine what the formal difference is between the two and found it very difficult. Consultations with other institutions also did not bring clarity.
  - Dinesh then called up Steve Browne, and Steve didn't know, and Steve suggested we consult with Chancellor's Office. What should we do?

- Margot – we made the decision to change to Faculty because the previous by-laws included personnel beyond faculty, and the new ones wanted to specify the scope of the body to be issues relating to faculty.
  - Frank – so we don't know what the Chancellor's office thinks about the difference?  
Answer: no.
  - Frank – odd that the links that reference Academic Senate on the website are apparently undelete-able.
  - Frank – I think we just need to be consistent.
  - Dinesh – I'll bring this up again when we have the rest of the members of this committee. Perhaps the by-laws need to be adjusted to be more consistent (Academic Senate appears more than once) and re-submitted to the President.
- Senate Elections
    - We need to make a decision on this. Need to designate a category 1 or 2 for each Senator (in terms of when their election will be, because they're meant to be staggered, but everyone started at the same time with the new representative Senate).
    - The by-laws note that if department rep numbers change, the current Senators finish out their term. (Example: MT is losing a rep this coming year because of a small dip in faculty numbers, but that doesn't immediately remove current reps.)
    - Frank – should be done by random lot amongst the various groups (by department, at large a separate group, etc.) He's done some thinking about how to implement this.
    - Dinesh noted that Julie Simons and Sarah Senk won't be returning in the fall (sabbaticals), so that may make the process simpler.
    - Dinesh noted he can't use the "all faculty" list for voting links, because it goes to all kinds of non-faculty people. So, he'll need to construct the list, then run the elections.
    - Dinesh – heads up, we got 3 applications for the ASCSU position, so that should make things interesting.
- Good of the Order
    - Dinesh – please send me topics for the next General Senate meeting, currently only have the Chairs policy on the docket. He will reach out to the Provost and President to see if anything else from admin will be added.
- Meeting Adjourned