



General Faculty Senate Meeting

Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Minutes

4/21/2022

In attendance:

Dinesh Pinisetty, Elizabeth McNie, Colin Dewey, Matthew Fairbanks, Tamara Burback, Margaret Ward, Ariel Setniker, Ali Moradmam, Christine Isakson, Wil Tsai, Ryan Wade, Steve Browne, Nipoli Kamdar, Frank Yip, Kitty Luce, Mike Holden, Keir Moorhead, and guests.

1. Call to Order

- *Agenda amended by McNie to include a resolution reading before adjournment. Motion to approve first and seconded. Agenda approved by unanimous consent.*

2. Minutes Approval and Senate Chair Updates

- 3/17/2022 Senate meeting minutes were reviewed. Small amendments were suggested by Senator Setniker and were accepted. *McNie motioned to approve, Isakson seconded. 3/17 minutes approved by unanimous consent.*
- Chair Pinisetty reviewed the election results for Senators and the Senate Executive. A summary follows:
 - o Several Senators were re-elected. Ryan Storz and Sarah Senk are joining the Senate as a At-Large members.
 - o Bets McNie (Chair), Sarah Senk (Vice Chair), and Matt Fairbanks (Secretary) were elected as Senate Executive Committee officers.
 - o Wil Tsai, Christine Isakson, Frank Yip, and Keir Moorhead complete the Senate Executive Committee.
 - o Congratulations to all Senators on their election.
- Chair Pinisetty noted the ARC review process and the reviewed administrators' meetings with the Senate Executive Committee. The meetings are confidential, but were characterized as productive.
- The Chair also noted that in his opinion, some faculty were using these reviews to vent and use personal or inappropriate language. He noted that we see this in student reviews of faculty, and that we should hold ourselves to a higher standard.
- Senator Dewey appreciated Pinisetty's comments and agreed with them. As a member of the ARC, he has also read these comments and finds it difficult to distinguish some of them from ad hominem attacks.

3. Commendation Resolution – CommUNITY Day Planning Committee

- Senator Tsai is leading the presentation. He read the resolution, which is a commendation for the CommUNITY Day planning committee, which included faculty, staff, and students.
- Isakson thanked Tsai for writing up the resolution. It's a great effort (the CommUNITY Day organizing). Isakson asked whether anyone needed to be added to the list.
- *Vice Chair McNie moved for waiving the first reading of the resolution, and Senator Dewey seconds. No objections.*
- *There was a motion for adding Ali Moradmand to the planning committee membership list – his absence was believed to be an oversight. Secretary Fairbanks seconded. No objections.*
- *Motion for approving the resolution. Vote was 15-0-1 (in favor-against-abstain).*
- There were numerous comments in the chat thanking Senator Tsai and the Faculty Senate for writing and passing this resolution.

4. Hiring Practices Resolution – Second Reading

- Senator Yip reviewed the fundamentals of the resolution.
- He responded to one comment (received prior to meeting) whether the upcoming retirement of the Captain of the TSGB obviates some of this resolution's content. Yip said no, that it was still necessary, and we want to have President on record with regards to his position on this issue.
- Secretary Fairbanks asked about the distribution list and specifically the reasoning for the Chancellor's Office notification. Yip explained that the Chancellor's Office should be made aware of these practices, and that the issue should be of concern for them.
- *Senator Browne motioned to amend line 73 to "calls upon". No objections to amendment.*
- Chair Pinisetty asked for any comments from those present, Senator or no. There were no additional comments.
- *Motion to vote on this resolution made Senator Burback and seconded by Senator Tsai. Vote was 15-0-1 (in favor-against-abstain)*

5. Cadet Experience Strategic Plan

- Karen Yoder (Athletic Director) is presenting along with VP Kathleen McMahon giving a preface.
- Reviewed a slide showing the various aspects of the draft strategic plan for the Cadet Experience. AD Yoder gave examples of actions in the categories of Cadet Living and Wellness. For examples: all-female living options, Cal Maritime band, expanded PEAC hours, etc.
- VP McMahon took over for the Cadet Safety category. Safe spaces for identity and affinity groups. Discussions are ongoing for spaces on campus for these. Where should they be? Which identity groups? She noted some feedback that it's important to have spaces on lower campus where students spend a lot of their time.
- Continuing on Cadet Safety ideas: more lighting and safety escort service. There will also be recommendations from a group working specifically on this category.

- Regarding Title IX: VP McMahon noted Grand River Solutions (a consultancy and Title IX services company) has been here since the fall, and they've given us a roadmap for changes. We're working on those. Revamped trainings were rolled out in the last month. There will also be Title IX liaisons (faculty, TSGB, and HR) in addition to the Title IX coordinator.
- They're also looking at embark policies for commercial cruise and training cruises.
- Elevating Cadet Experience category: Are they students or cadets? We need to come to a common community understanding of what the cadet experience and identity should be. Want to improve cadet experience through cultural experiences as well – arts, etc. Want to offer ELDP (Edwards Leadership Development Program) to all first year cadets as the second half of a first year experience and want to have conversations with campus about what that looks like. There was a lot of feedback from CommUNITY Day that indicated students/faculty enjoyed the mixing of divisions and majors. They're looking to increase opportunities for this. Also examining the naming of the MPM Company, which doesn't align well with their identity currently. Exploring moving formation to midday so that the wider campus community can be more of a part of that. Want to improve the relationship between the faculty and the Corps. One suggestion was to have a biweekly or monthly meeting between faculty and Corps leadership. Uplift shore-side majors. Want to offer boat classes to shore-side/non-license majors, for example.
- Commandant Taliaferro, Amy Parsons, and Vice Chair McNie are all on this strategic planning group.
- Presentation concluded.
- Senator Yip thanked them for the presentation. He mentioned that VP McMahon and Mac Griswold (Dean of Students) participated in a round-table about the new diversity center where some of the feedback was that there is a "culture of fear" on campus. This plan should have a focus on addressing this.
- Secretary Fairbanks asked a clarifying question for the minutes and also asked how we as a campus would achieve a common understanding of what a student/cadet is. Answer: Not sure, but working on a process for that, and any ideas at this stage are very welcome.

6. Sabbatical Policy – First Reading

- Chair Pinisetty is reviewing this. He described the process as outlined by the lovely flowchart in the policy.
- He outlined the other major features. Noted some changes. For example, a more specific rubric for writing up and submitting a sabbatical report.
- The sabbatical report goes to the Professional Leave Committee, then goes to the School Dean, Department Chair, and then everyone reports to the Provost who makes a final determination. If someone doesn't get all these signatures and feedback, they will not be eligible for future sabbaticals.
- Chair Pinisetty noted that no additional employment should be sought during sabbatical. It is allowed in some circumstances, but must be approved by the Provost and the President.
- The floor was opened for comments after Pinisetty said that he appreciated all the feedback given on the policy thus far.
- Senator Holden: what was the motivation behind updating the policy? Answer: small changes to the flow of process and (more importantly) there is currently no formal structure for dealing with the post-sabbatical reports.
- AVP Graham Benton added that we wanted more information available to the Provost on sabbatical applications so that recommendations can be made appropriately. He added that there

is no policy for evaluating the sabbatical reports right now and we need to close the loop on the sabbatical properly. The Provost added that the Deans (Schools and Library) aren't mentioned in the current policy.

7. Sense of the Senate Resolution – Second Reading

- Senator Tsai is presenting. Tsai shared a link to the resolution in addition to sharing his screen. There's lots of detail, so he wants everyone to be able to access it.
- Senator Tsai pointed out that the title and structure has changed significantly since the first reading. He and the group writing the resolution feel that we strengthened the resolution by linking it to the President's recent performance review. Senator Tsai said the Presidential review memo would be attached to the resolution for reference if it is passed.
- He started with campus culture (second Resolved), reading out the points and giving a synopsis of reasoning.
- Senator Tsai explained the requested Corps of Cadets examination and the need for transparency in these things.
- Enrollment issues (third Resolved). Quickly reviewed the goals laid out in the President's review memo. This is all good, but the data-driven plan on enrollment is very important. He also noted the need for student data regarding retention (why they stay, why they go, etc.), which is important in retention efforts.
- Continued to the Resolved on ship safety culture. It's not just about writing it down as a priority but making it central to operations.
- Senator Tsai concluded his presentation, and Chair Pinisetty opened the floor.
- *Senator Moorhead: Regarding the SUNY Maritime example used in the resolution. Based on their report, which was leaked, about their Corps, their current condition doesn't look very good. Can we strike that example in the resolution? (Motion) Isakson seconded removal. Some discussion ensued, largely in support of this motion. Leading by example and making our own model for the Corps was suggested. No objections to the motion, language struck from the resolution.*
- No other comments or amendments were offered.
- Senator Tsai noted the effort it took to put this together. He thanked those who gave feedback and gathered feedback and those who worked on the resolution. The resolution needed to reflect the whole faculty and getting that input and drafting the resolution took considerable time.
- *Vice Chair McNie motioned for a vote. Senator Dewey seconded. Result: unanimous approval, 16-0-0.*

8. ASCSU Updates

- To be shared by email due to time constraints.

9. Role of Faculty on ACIP – Ryan Wade

- Postponed due to time constraints.

10. Commendation for Senate Chair Dinesh Pinisetty

- Vice Chair McNie introduced a resolution of commendation for Faculty Senate Chair Dinesh Pinisetty, in appreciation of his long service as Chair during a truly unprecedented time. She read the resolution and solicited amendments. No amendments were offered.
- *Motion was made to waive a first reading. Passed by unanimous consent.*
- *Motion was made for a vote. Resolution was adopted unanimously. 16-0-0.*
- The passage of resolution coincided with a roar of appreciation and applause, or at least the Zoom equivalent thereof.

11. Meeting Adjourned [~12:15 pm]