

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

In attendance: Dinesh Pinisetty (Chair), Keir Moorhead (Vice Chair), Sarah Senk (Secretary), Steve Browne, Christine Isakson, Elizabeth McNie [via remote connection], Wil Tsai, Mike Mahoney (Provost), Sianna Brito (Academic Support Coordinator)

Absent: Cynthia Trevisan

- I. Senator Elections
 - a. Department elections have closed, but Chair reports an unforeseen problem regarding one department that has been unresponsive. Chair reports that after the census he emailed Department Chairs on February 7 and gave two weeks to meet and respond. Senate Exec Chair sent an additional email reminder a few days before the deadline. Senate Exec received responses from every department Chair ~~except~~ the GSMA. One department member self-nominated, but the department did not appear to hold an election. Senate Exec debated over email whether we have the power to "appoint" a self-nominated representative when the Department failed to respond.
 - b. Chair reports that after the election closed he sent an email to all GSMA department members on the morning of Saturday 2/22 saying the following:
" As you know, Department elections for the Senators closed on Feb 21st. Our understanding is that your department did not hold a formal election, but one faculty member - Dr Kate Sammler -

- I. Moorhead agrees, but emphasizes that this exposes a larger issue, and in the future we should make clear that departments must hold their Chairs accountable.
- II. At-Large Senator Nominations
 - a. Chair asks permission to approach people who have been nominated for at-large positions to confirm that they are aware someone nominated them.
 - b.

draw upon. It's a good idea to have a small committee, but we should invite input from all department chairs.

- c. Provost recommends soliciting info from "past department chairs" who have no skin in the game.
- d. Senk suggests rather than starting from scratch and to work more efficiently

different offices are making difference decisions based on who think we are.

- viii. Pinisetty agrees and says we should take the lead regarding informing faculty. We need to have an action plan when we step out of these meetings.
 - ix. Provost will hold off on convening the Commandants and this group and will review the CSI minutes. But reports that at the Retreat the commandant expressed help working with faculty.
 - x. Moorhead reports that the other " hot issue" discussed by CSI is the First Year Experience.
- b. Isakson asks for update on IBL Chair Election.
- i. Pinisetty reports that elections close on Friday. So far five votes are in.
- c. Tsai asks how we are communicating what we did at the retreat. Students want to know to know. Faculty want to know.
- i. Tsai suggests he and Senk draft a summary to ensure that such a message goes out in a timely manner.
 - ii. Senk expresses concern about workload given the other policies we are drafting right now, asks if we can solicit help from someone in administration.
 - iii. McNie: having some urgency in this is for organizational change. The update should be going out by Monday. And even if there is a document drafted by the administration that says everything we say, I think it's still important for Faculty Senate to provide additional voice of support to express a bit of unity.
 - iv. ACTION ITEM: Senate Chair will reach out to President and Chief of Staff
 - v. ACTION ITEM: Tsai and Senk will draft an email summary aimed at informing Faculty and Students tomorrow (Thursday).