

## Senate Executive Committee Meeting (12/1/2022)

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

### Minutes Review and Approval

- *Minutes from 11/22/2022 were reviewed and approved by unanimous consent after small adjustments for accuracy.*

### Chair's Corner

- McNie encouraged everyone to go to the Art&Sci report discussions and encourage their fellow faculty to do so. There were very few faculty in attendance yesterday. McNie enjoyed her experience and thought it was useful.
- Academic Calendar –

- Some watch issues have arisen from the oddities of recent Coast Guard dispensations on sea time. He noted that engineers can get credit (sea time) for more watches, which they will sometimes do to have some buffer or make up sea time.
- Craig Hennike was briefly introduced and is the new MPM commandant. He's sitting in mostly to observe and learn.
- Yip noted that he has a student who's had 12 watches in a *semester*. Yip - What does your office do to make sure that watchstanding is equitable?
- Taliaferro says they are reviewing the schedules and watchstanding conflict forms. He said that 12 watches per year is the ideal. This larger number of watches sometimes happens. He noted that there are challenges – some cadets can't stand watch for various reasons (mental health issues, physical injuries, etc.), which does sometimes raise the load on other students.
- Haller – there's also a more subtle way for inequity to arise. The same individuals seem to get the undesirable assignments. For example, Halloween weekend (undesirable for social reasons) or near final exams (undesirable for academic reasons). Is there a way for noting which students are getting these and making sure they don't have these assigned them more than once or twice?
- Taliaferro said that all holiday weekends (for example, Veterans' Day) are secure watches, which students are paid for. He also noted that some students will load up on watches, which then might make them not available for the general watch pool. This can make scheduling very complicated.
- Isakson – how does the record keeping for watch work? Taliaferro – we have a database that we maintain. Sign-in sheets are collected and inputted daily. They're looking to upgrade to Microsoft Forms for easier data collection. Isakson – are the students filling out the log books for watch? Taliaferro – yes, they are, and they're reviewed by ship officers. Isakson – who oversees the schedule making process? Taliaferro – myself and Commandant Moore oversee the schedule. Isakson – do they receive training on making the schedule? Taliaferro – yes, and we regularly follow up on that. Isakson – what are you using for the record keeping? Taliaferro - Microsoft Teams currently. Excel and Google Forms have been used in the past.
- ~~Isakson – I have heard reports~~ that there are ongoing equity issues in watch. Additionally, a lot of friction occurs in these conflicts with academic classes. She gave an example of a student asking if he could leave early because of a likeaseBT1 0 Ma 14.09 un3.99 Tn

- Taliaferro – yes, agreed. He talked about some assessment instruments that are currently used in general terms. He said there was a need for learning outcomes first and then conversations of what we want to happen vs. what’s happening now.
- Tsai –Amy Skoll has been given reassigned time to serve as the faculty liaison to ELDP. A major issue we’ve struggled with in IWAC is how to properly assess leadership. They can write an essay, but does that demonstrate leadership ability? ELDP has developed an instrument with the Center for Creative Leadership that can be found in the IWAC report on leadership that went out to Chairs this week. However it remains a big task moving forward.
- Yip – these learning outcomes were developed last fall? Who was consulted in writing these? Students? Corps leaders? Ship staff? We have some criticisms. And faculty have been asking for learning outcomes for watch since 2018.
- Taliaferro – criticism is welcome. They’re in draft form. No one outside of Commandant’s Office was consulted on the learning outcomes yet. He said that it was news to him that faculty had been asking for learning outcomes for that long.
- Yip emphatically expressed profound indignation and followed by saying that we need something [in terms of watch] that’s functional, that works, and that is relevant to students.
- Senk – given the Art&Sci report and thus the Corps structure perhaps being up in the air, we really need to get these learning outcomes sorted out very soon. And we need to have them show the academic purpose of the Corps. She also noted that leadership in different majors may look very different; if the primary goal is to teach leadership skills, we need an evidence-based approach to determine whether the Corps is the best way to do that for all students. Maybe it *is*, but we can’t make that argument because we’ve never been able to articulate what the point of something like watch *is* for students who aren’t training for a job in which they’ll have to stand watch; we hear things like “it teaches punctuality,” but there may be dozens of ways to teach punctuality that are more appropriate for some majors. She noted her own strong criticism of the current state of the learning outcomes, which are not only impossible to assess, but completely confusing/unclear (e.g. one of them includes “be vulnerable,” and it’s unclear what we’re trying to teach).
- Taliaferro responds that darts are welcome. We’re all on the same team in terms of making this work well.)
- Senk continued, saying that the university needs to identify the core skills we want students to develop and start working on assessable outcomes asap, since they are long overdue. Confirms Yip’s point that faculty have been asking for learning outcomes for Watch since 2018 and that IWAC has been asking the Commandant’s office for leadership assessment data since Senk joined the committee in 2016.
- Taliaferro offered to come back in the spring to report on how things are going. Dialogue on the learning outcomes for watch will continue.

#### Provost’s Report

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supported the previous points and suggested we have a one-pager that is a 'this is us' description for the Chancellor's Office, for the search firm, etc. We should also figure out who's writing this and when we should have it. We can't let this lag.

- Yip said we should see if any current faculty were on the last search committee and interview them about what that process looked like.