

Executive Committee Minutes
August 9, 2021
via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present: McKee (Chair), Curry, Day, Del Casino, Hart, Faas, Kaur, Massey, Mathur, Papazian, White, Sullivan-Green, Wong(Lau)

Absent: Sasikumar

1. The Executive Committee approved the agenda (EC Agenda of August 9, 2021, EC Minutes of July 26, 2021, EC Minutes of August 2, 2021, Consent Calendar for August 9, 2021) (11-0-1).
2. Update from the President:
The focus of the cabinet is on the preparation for opening campus for fall next week. Much of information about opening the campus will be addressed in today's townhall.

Questions:

Q: Has there been discussion in the Chancellor's office about the impact of the Lambda variant on potential closing of campuses?

A: It is important to note that a lot of the decisions are based on local decision-making. We are staying in close touch with the local county officials. If there will be changes, it will mostly likely be determined by the local guidance that we receive.

3. Chair of Professional Standards
Due to the resignation of the previous chair of Professional Standards, there is a need to appoint a new chair. Unlike other policy chairs, there is a distinct need to have a seated Professional Standards chair to assist with campus messaging, and to work closely with Faculty Affairs and the Provost's office before the new RTP cycle begins. Chair McKee and past Chair Mathur have been actively recruiting for a full professor to serve as chair. We have one nomination of a highly qualified candidate. Senate executive committee enacted bylaw 4.2.1, to act on the behalf of the senate while it is not in session. The senate executive also voted to suspend the bylaw 2.2.2.2, as there is only one highly-qualified full professor who is able to serve as chair (12-0-1).

The committee discussed the professional standards nominee, = Dr. Winifred Schultz-Krohn and unanimously appointed her to be the chair of Professional Standards (12-0-1).

Questions:

Q: Why was there only one highly qualified candidate?

A: There were others who were also approached, but they were not able to serve at this time. Professional Standards has significant workload, the chair coordinates with many offices and with CFA.

4. University Communication

Currently, in terms of information there is a lot in flux right now. One suggestion is to put forward a FAQ that addresses very specific questions around instruction,= and campus re-opening. The provost has drafted an overall message and put together a FAQ which is being revised to ensure that it is in alliance and coordinated with Student Affairs and Deans. He may also share with UCCD and the senate executive committee prior to sending out to the campus. The provost noted that the campus has established emergency procedures. The president noted that we have received 80% attestation from faculty and staff. 90% of faculty and staff have reported that they are vaccinated. Nearly 20,000 students have attested and over 90% noted that they are vaccinated. Overall, in Santa Clara County we have a 84% rate of vaccination. As a campus we are at a fairly good rate of vaccination, but we do stay vigilant. We will be living this for some time.

Questions:

Q: Will there be a partner document for students?

A: Not a partner document, per se, but students have been messaged as a group and also individually.

Q: Could at least department chairs be messaged with those messages to students?

A: Yes we will look into doing that.

Q: Some faculty may need a change in accommodation due to children at home. How do you qualify for accommodations? What are the protocols for accommodation? Do they begin at the department level? Does a faculty member inform the department chair?

A: Chairs and directors cannot make individual accommodations. A faculty member can inform the chair, but it is the responsibility of the EARC (Employment Accommodations Resource Center). Modality is a university decision. WASC may hold us to the 50% face-to-face classes in the spring. We are currently at 40% in-person. It is important to note that individual cases will be also reviewed by the EARC.

Q: Has there been some consideration of changing some of the dates to withdraw, or late drop? There is not enough time to withdraw in case of an outbreak. And, this is especially for the in-person classes.

A: Some of this we will get advice and guidance from the system. We will adjust as we can in terms of deadlines.

C: It is important to have that flexibility for in-person classes, especially for those students who are immune-compromised.

A: If we have to change the course of the campus, we make adjustments. If there is a real major outbreak, everything will go remote anyways. We are at 94%

students. 98% faculty, 96% staff. When we need to make changes, we will. We are observing things carefully. If an outbreak happens, we may be dropping students without vaccinations. We want to avoid sending constant messages and we want to avoid sending conflicting messages. We are not going to change the messaging around Sept 30th deadline.

C: Historically, campus has pivoted more quickly than other campuses. We understand the anxiety, but as a campus we have done really well in the past, better than some of the other campuses.

5. Policy committee updates:
 - a. Organization and Government: No additional updates from the last meeting.
 - b. Instruction and Student Affairs: No additional updates from the last meeting.
 - c. Professional Standards: We can consider this updated with the appointment of the new chair.
 - d. Curriculum and Research: No additional updates from the last meeting.

6. University Updates:
 - a. VP, Admin and Finance

Questions:

Q: Any updates on the Science Building?

A: Major problems with turnover of fire marshals. We have gotten everyone aligned, and now tarping, quickly going to see glass going up. Working on inside slower than we would like. We are still hoping for next August unveiling.

Q: Any updates on the Alquist building?

Met with Department for General Services: they are happy with our progress. Also talked with former Senator Jim Beall. Discussed what it will take to knock building down, testing the groundwater. Conducting a massing study. Height is interesting, it could be quite tall. We can go higher, as that building is not in the flight path. The higher we go, then the lower the pricing of the units.

Q: Will the name be retained? Will this be a naming opportunity?

A: Name will not be retained. There will be a legacy plaque. SJSU will be looking for major donor. But for now, we call it the Alquist building.

- b. Provost and Senior Vice President:

There will be an announcement regarding the dean of the library coming out soon. Developing an Interdisciplinary Honors, group includes the Head of Humanities Honors, Anoop, and others. Developing an interdisciplinary minor for upper division students. This program is not going to be housed in an academic college. They have put together information for funding.

We have about 6 programs that want to offer their degree programs online via self-support. The provost would like to do a presentation to the senate on online education and self-support. We want to make serious investments in online education. Really want to create consistency in programming, pricing and other things that increase accessibility to students. The provost has some conversations with the system. The price will be the same for all programs. Curriculum, branding, budgeting all need to be worked out. This is not a requirement, and we are not trying to double enrollments. But some programs are interested in this. Hoping this allows increases in accessibility for students. We are working on making this a scale deal, not program-by-program. Scalability is critical. Have a road map aligned with strategic enrollment management. This is what Ron [Rogers] is working on and he has been meeting with various groups on campus.

President: Adding to this, this will allow us to reach working adults who might drop out at the end who can finish with this vehicle. These students tend to be diverse and Pell-eligible, people who have already incurred costs but were not able to graduate.

Q: Are these degree-completion programs? Or completely online?

A: Provost: These are existing programs, technically not degree completion. They are for the 60-transfer-unit students. We are using non-state dollars to invest in the infrastructure. We may not need campus senate review. In a self-support space if it is not sustainable, then it will not continue.

Q: There is a lot more involved in developing online programs.

Provost: We will invest non-state dollars into training. The question is do departments want their programs to be re-reviewed after they have already been approved. Is it necessary? Infrastructure is critical, the idiosyncratic approach of program review through C&R won't work. Trying to think creatively to provide access more quickly. Let me put together the plan for infrastructure and then present.

C: C&R doesn't just review curriculum. They also look at sustainability of programs to ensure that students are offered programs that will last.

A: Provost: Agree with sustainability. We have adult populations without any access to programs at all. So, we have to come up with a model. In a self-support space, if it is not sustainable, it will become obvious very quickly.

Q: What is the timeframe for what you are you thinking about?

A: We have two programs already piloted. We have a BS in Information Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. We are looking at beginning this in Fall 2022. Have to work with WASC about how they will be categorized. Also trying to get the system to see this differently as opposed to doing things they way that they have always been done.

Q: Do you think some of these should come through C&R? There are concerns about robbing Peter to pay Paul because lecturers were being

pulled into these programs as pay was better. I think it is a good idea to run things through C&R so there is a central entity looking at all these. Provost: I know the pieces. Having already approved programs reviewed would be a conversation between you and your programs.

Q: Is there a place where there is more information publicly available? A shared drive, campus presentations that we can review?

A: Background is being developed. So far it is conversations. Some conversations between Ron and me. I am trying to kick-off a larger conversation.

C: Thank you Vin for including staff in the OpED Project. Hope there are more opportunities for staff integration into campus projects.

c. Chief Diversity Officer:

Committee on Diversity report is going to Mary at the end of the week. Last year we had only 4 working group meetings, but we got a lot accomplished. We are opening up the process from within some small focus groups to the whole committee. Anti-racism Summer Institute just completed. 50+ faculty from 9 institutions, 7 champion faculty. Working with Engineering for another Summer Institute for their college next year. Looking at pedagogy and teaching and closing equity gaps for the tech sector and industry. Meeting with the chairs and directors to see how they can participate in the planning of this institute. Undergrad research opportunities program where faculty are being mentor researchers on equity and social justice research, program is being led by Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique. Goal is 30 faculty and 30 students (based on Michigan model). Starting this year, we are rotating faculty fellows through centers across campus to develop faculty programming. Today is the kick-off for parents and students for New Black Student event. Large integrated program. Participating in summer orientation for incoming students and we are working with housing staff. Working directly with the Family Advisory Board, first integrated large programming for students. Presenting to Jump Start (new faculty orientation). Will continue our support to BIPOC faculty. We had our own staff retreat on Friday.

Q: What is the status of the bullying taskforce report?

A: This has been dormant over the summer. We will connect to ensure that this is moved forward.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

These minutes were taken by Past Chair, Ravisha Mathur, on August 9, 2021 and transcribed on August 20, 2021. The minutes were reviewed and edited by Chair McKee on August 27, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on August 30, 2021.