

Academic Senate Executive Committee
Meeting
November 29, 2011

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m.

I. Report by Chair:

There was discussion at the President's staff meeting regarding the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, with S. Kreta stating that we need to decide if we're going to make it a day of instruction or not. Many faculty are cancelling class and students don't show up for class even when it's held.

This is part of a larger discussion re: the academic calendar. The President has mandated we maintain a 2-cruise academic calendar. The danger in going to a 15-week semester for one year is that it would be very difficult to go back to a 14-week semester within the CSU.

Another area being impacted by our current academic calendar is final exams. Concern was expressed about giving a final on last day of class. This creates unfair pressure on students.

Suggestion made that discussions about finals could be left to department chair and his/her faculty. Could a signature for the chair be added on the Registrar's Final Schedule form? The Registrar has proposed that finals dates be scheduled early enough to be included with class registration information.

Dean will discuss the discouraging of finals on the last day of class at the Chairs' meeting. We could also add something to Faculty Handbook.

Comment made that we should be careful not to scold too much on these scheduling issues when it may only apply to a small number of faculty.

An outside agency is now being contacted to initiate search for new President. Once there are 4-5 candidates, a campus committee will be formed. That committee narrows selection down to 2-3 candidates. Trustees select from these 2-3. Concern expressed that trustees be cognizant of the maritime expertise needed for this position to represent our campus in Washington. Note that if candidate not selected by graduation, all licensed faculty will be off campus and unable to participate in selection. The faculty representative is critical and cruise needs to be factored into the choice of representative. Questions: Should Executive Committee pick representative or should there be an election? What are the criteria for selection? B. Schmid will ask to put this on the agenda of the next President's meeting.

II. Report by Vice Chair:

Summer reading program committee will meet virtually over break. Provost thinks service database is a good idea; J. Chisholm will meet with him and discuss funding support.

III. Announcements

- a. Dean search update: Search Committee will meet tomorrow to establish matrix of desired qualities. Plan is to select 5 candidates to interview via Skype in first week of class. There is a lot of talent in the candidate pool. Committee Chair is trying to fast track this process.
- b. Positions filled: VP Finance, Head of Facilities head, Head of Financial Aid.

IV. Standing items: Policies – tabled.

V. Old Business

Faculty retreat: B. Schmid reports that the Provost supports our proposal and will fund a social reception at the end, in addition to the retreat itself. We will announce at next General Senate meeting and Evite will need to go out right after. We will finalize the agenda at the next meeting.

M. Van Hoeck will poll Faculty Learning Community for volunteers to lead short instructional technology sessions. J. Chisholm will solicit volunteers to share research projects. Invite Vivienne to next meeting to share speaker ideas. Still wondering if we should rotate in smaller groups or stay together in one large group.

VI. New Business

- a. Honorary degree for Jane Holl Lute: The President has asked the Senate Executive Committee to serve as the campus Honorary Degree Committee. Question: What are criteria? Honoree has made significant contributions to their field. We are allowed to give two honorary degrees a year, but we have rarely done so due to timing of when they are due to Chancellor's Office. Committee voted to support honorary degree for Jane Holl Lute.
- b. Academic calendar: B. Schmid will pass on our concerns noted above. Compressing the summer makes internships and commercial cruise scheduling more challenging. We currently beat other maritime academies in filling billets by having an earlier start date.
- c. Dean Pronchick presented a proposal by the President for a new policy on freshmen probation (see attached). Concern expressed that this is going in wrong direction in terms of lowering expectations of academic performance. The Dean commented that this proposal gives some leniency to freshmen that are close to cutoff for probation for one semester only. Many of these "borderline" students now successfully appeal their probation. Suggestion made that intermediate 1.9 requirement be restored to 2.0. Suggestion made that language on appeals be strengthened to keep it for exceptional cases. The Dean will pass on the Committee's suggestions to the President.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Van Hoeck.