

Senate Executive Committee Meeting  
July 13, 2020

Attendees: Dinesh Pinisetty, Christine Isakson, Frank Yip, Matthew Fairbanks, Bets McNie, Cynthia Trevisan (all via Zoom), Sarah Senk (via phone)

Minutes recorded by Matt Fairbanks.

- Frank – has anyone actually done the calculations for social distancing in regular classrooms?
- Bets – No, not to my knowledge.
- Dinesh – Graham says he did this.
- Bets – That information hasn't been relayed to the H&S group.
- General comments on how much time has been wasted this summer on things like cruise. Things like this should be already done. Language is already in the H&S plan (Section 9).
- Bets – I've been committing this stuff to writing because *there are no minutes to H&S meetings*.
- Some discussion of the res hall situation. Bets noted that students with off-campus housing in Spring 2020 can be off-campus in Phase 3, though on-campus housing will be available to those who moved out of their off-campus housing after spring shutdown.
- No changes in library or instructional spaces sections. Or dining services. Or cleaning/sanitizing procedures. Or waste management.
- Bets – should we recommend that social distancing must be observed where possible in instructional spaces? (general agreement)
- Frank – I do wonder if there are people on campus thinking that 40 students are in classrooms like Classroom 101 for these sections. Concerning.
- Bets – public safety folks/commandants are essentially hoping that students will enforce the protocols on each other. They don't want to be enforcing it themselves. Bets said her opinion is that someone needs to be the bad guy in the era of COVID-19.
- Bets – students have been good in the classroom (for Phases 1 and 2), but likely not so much when 'off the clock'.
- Bets – sometimes police officer at the gate, sometimes not, which means campus is very porous.
- General discussion on the assertion by police, commandants, etc that they're busy, not capable (interested?) in enforcing the rules. Bets mentioned that Franz has been quite active in booting folks off campus that aren't wearing masks, etc.
- Bets – I'm conflicted on all this. If we don't get students through Phase 3, then we may have an existential crisis as a school, but doesn't feel that the environment is safe. On H&S because she thinks if she can get it safe for her, then maybe that's enough for others. Seems like we're treading water on various important issues.
- Christine – waiting another week doesn't change the problem of social distancing and classroom use and WTUs. These aren't new issues. Putting people who teach F2F in an impossible position when their safety is concerned. Is there a way to compel progress on these issues?
- Dinesh – here's a list of the classes for Phase 3. Bets, can we figure out which classes can/cannot maintain social distancing?
- Engineering classes seem pretty good for these purposes. MT is less certain, though I [Matt] missed the specific classes that were of concern.
- Bets – seeing the enrollment and section numbers for Phase 3 makes me a little more comfortable.
- The bigger questions might be for the fall.

- Bets – Lina apparently said there would be no fall MOU. (general comments – what on earth?)
- Frank – I think we should have a list of classes and classrooms and the capacity (with social distancing).
- Dinesh – I'll send a letter with these points. Including questions about enforcement of social distancing, masks, etc.
- Dinesh – on the outstanding faculty awards, there are some holes because of sabbaticals and departures. The committees are usually composed of the winners from previous two years. Sarah is writing up a new policy to allow use of 'older' winners.
- [missed a bit here]
- Dinesh – Provost said that Chancellor's Office has questions on the housing plan. No word on the nature of the questions.
- Christine – noted that they're not re-testing faculty/staff for Phase 3. Unlike Phase 1 and 2. Doesn't seem good.
- Frank – what is the status of our various proposed resolutions?
- Christine – we should expect a letter from Nipoli about the IBL chair issue next week, which will likely prompt/request a resolution from us.
- Christine – sees the writing on the wall, that various responsibilities will be delegated from the Chair to various junior faculty. Also noted that Don Maier has not been communicating very well or promptly with the department. Cited example of orientation plan communication being delayed.
- Dinesh – he may play the I-only-just-became-Chair card to explain that and other things.
- Sarah – in our resolution, we should focus on establishing a good policy. Also perhaps that the enrollment data being a basis for the decision is questionable when comparing to GSMA.
- Committee members express concerned that non-public data is being used to make personnel decisions (examples: communications between Tony and Don, Khalid and the University). Seems like this would build up a toxic culture if it continues.
- Frank – notes they're empowered to do this sort of thing, but having a clear policy on when the authority would/could be used is very important.
- Christine – agreed. And how long does this 'conservatorship' last? Ill-defined right now.
- Another point being that replacing a Chair with a Dean is particularly problematic. Having faculty move into that role should be preferred. Perhaps another Chair of another department. We want to establish a standard.
- Question on the turnaround time to getting the CO letter/plan approval. Apparently the revised letter addressing the questions is going out today. [?!]
- I mentioned that LRPG has not been informed as yet.
- Sarah – has J Sonne gotten back on updating the Senate website? (no.)
- Sarah – orientation update. David T. mentioned that he's flexible on the formations – number of times per week, timing, etc. There were questions on how students would get breakfast, get screened, etc around the proposed morning schedule for formations.
- (general discussion)
- Dinesh will draft a letter on the H&S plan (including questions on social distancing plans, enforcement plans).
- Adjourned.