**Senate Executive Committee Meeting (10/15/2024)**

**Attendees:** Sarah Senk (Chair), Taiyo Inoue (Vice Chair), Ariel Setniker (Secretary), Christine Isakson, Julie Chisholm, Maggie Ward, Keir Moorhead, Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty.

**Absent:**

**Senate and ASCSU Meeting Representation**

* Senator Senk confirmed quorum and reviewed upcoming commitments: Senator Chisholm will chair the Senate meeting on Thursday, Senator Isakson will attend the ASCSU meeting, and Senators Inoue, Setniker, and Senk will be presenting at UCLA. Senator Ward will serve as Secretary.

**Updates on the Educational Leadership Development Program (ELDP)**

* Senator Senk discussed a proposal to fund a faculty learning community (FLC) with a one-time $20,000 request, either for the spring or summer, focused on integrating leadership units into courses. Senk made request to President after a September 30 meeting with the Director of CLD and Tom Edwards. .
* Senk reports that integrating elements of leadership training into academic coursework is in line with original donative intent.
* The committee reviewed the need for cross-disciplinary faculty involvement in this FLC to support leadership training within the curriculum.
* A proposal was made to host an end-of-year faculty event introducing the program, potentially incorporating an interactive leadership activity, with food and drinks provided to encourage faculty participation.

**ELDP Budget Concerns**

* Executive Dean Pinisetty explained recent challenges with the ELDP budget due to previous mismanagement of funds, which led to donor dissatisfaction. The committee discussed the need for careful, targeted spending moving forward to build donor confidence and establish sustainable financial support for the program.

**RTP Policy Clarifications**

* The committee discussed ambiguities in the department chair’s role in the Retention, Tenure, and Promotion (RTP) process. Executive Dean Pinisetty raised questions about whether department chairs are required to provide a separate RTP letter if they do not sit on the RTP Committee, as the current policy language is unclear. The committee explored past practices versus the current policy wording, concluding that the chair’s participation—either by letter or committee involvement—has traditionally been expected but is not explicitly mandated in the policy.
* It was agreed that the policy’s vague language on this matter could be problematic, and a note will be made to address this ambiguity in future revisions.

**Policy Version Confusion and RTP Pipeline Concerns**

* Significant discussion centered on which RTP policy version is in effect, with references to several policy updates (2014, 2019, 2022) and uncertainty over which version is available or binding on the Senate website. The committee recognized that this confusion might impact faculty evaluations and agreed that clearer communication and web updates are needed to avoid discrepancies in policy applications.

**Preparation for Senate Meeting on Proposed Resolution**

* The committee reviewed a proposed resolution on shared governance, aiming to adopt language clarifying Senate autonomy over its bylaws and governance without requiring presidential approval. Senator Senk expressed intentions to align the language with peer institutions’ governance models, specifically those used by Cal Poly.
* The resolution is scheduled for a first reading at the upcoming Senate meeting. Committee members discussed the possibility of waiving the first reading if sufficient support is indicated by attendees, though this decision will be made during the meeting.

**Faculty Awareness and Participation**

* Senator Isakson raised questions regarding the ratification email sent to faculty about adding lecturer seats in the Senate. There was some confusion about whether all Unit 3 faculty received the email. Senator Senk clarified that the email was intended to reach all faculty, and follow-up will ensure any gaps are addressed.

**Preparation for Future Engagements**

* The committee will report back to RTP Coordinator that the role of department chairs in the RTP process is clear, in each version of the policy that exists.
* Additional Senate communications will emphasize the updated shared governance resolution, with opportunities for faculty review and feedback before the final vote.