**Senate Executive Committee Meeting (11/19/2024)**

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

**Absent:** none

**Policy Approval and Integration Discussion**

* Chair Senk raised concerns about the inefficiencies in the current policy approval process, suggesting that the “policy on policy” should be revisited or abolished.
* Executive Dean Pinisetty clarified that policy approval involves the Provost Council and the Senate Executive Committee but acknowledged gaps in the process.
* The committee discussed the integration of the Cal Maritime Academy into the Cal Poly SLO university, with Chair Senk reporting that the Chancellor appreciated informed discussions on the merger.
* Proposals for a first-year experience course and integrating the Common Read Task Force into Senate responsibilities were reviewed.

**Faculty Letters, Senate Structure, and Merger**

* Faculty were encouraged to submit letters to the trustees regarding shared governance and the merger with Cal Poly. The committee discussed organizing group writing sessions to facilitate participation.
* Concerns were raised about maintaining autonomy and representation for unlicensed programs in the merger.
* Statewide Senate representation, release time for Senate responsibilities, and developing a maritime identity for the Cal Poly SLO, Solano campus were discussed as part of broader Senate activities.

**Faculty Concerns and Lack of Transparency**

* Faculty have voiced frustration over advising workloads, lack of administrative support, and demoralization stemming from limited transparency in integration planning.
* Concerns were raised about offering enough classes to ensure timely student graduations.
* The committee noted a need for better communication from the President’s office regarding integration discussions and working group progress.

**Cal Maritime Superintendent Position Discussion**

* Desired qualifications for the new superintendent position were discussed. The committee agreed that military experience should not be a requirement, instead prioritizing maritime industry expertise.
* Concerns were raised about ensuring the appointee understands Cal Maritime’s identity as a merchant marine academy rather than a military institution.
* Strategies to influence the hiring decision and ensure faculty perspectives are considered were discussed.

**Cal Maritime Integration and Leadership Concerns**

* The committee expressed concerns about the potential loss of Cal Maritime’s identity due to naming conventions like “Cal Poly Solano” and “Cal Poly Maritime Academy.”
* There was skepticism about the effectiveness of the naming and branding process and whether adequate research was conducted.
* Concerns were raised about new leadership being adversarial toward maritime programs and the potential dilution of Cal Maritime’s unique identity.

**Potential Merger and Integration Challenges**

* Chair Senk discussed a meeting about merging general education programs with Cal Poly. Concerns about incompatibilities between curricula and faculty workloads were raised.
* It was suggested that programs remain separate for the time being due to these differences.
* Challenges with integrating business programs and accreditation differences were also noted.

**Action Items**

* **Policy Updates:** Executive Dean Pinisetty to revisit the “policy on policy” and clarify gaps in the policy approval process.
* **Faculty Engagement:** Organize faculty letter-writing sessions regarding shared governance and the merger.
* **Superintendent Role:** Executive Committee to develop a statement outlining desired qualifications for the new superintendent.
* **Leadership Training:** Explore formalizing the cruise as part of the leadership training program.