**Senate Committee Meeting (01/22/2025)**

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

**Absent:** Executive Dean Dinesh Pinisetty.

**Agenda**

* *Agenda approved unanimously*

**Minutes Approval**

* *Minutes from 12/12/24 were approved unanimously.*

**Cal Poly Senate Transition Discussion**

* Chair Senk discussed Cal Poly's Senate transition period, noting that Rachel Fernflores communicated that a standalone Cal Maritime Senate will not be recognized by the Cal Poly President after July 1.
* The idea of forming a transitional team and maritime representative group was proposed. Fernflores suggested in a different meeting the idea of drafting two parallel resolutions with unique structures.
* Senator Chisholm referenced an ASCSU resolution that guarantees representation for merged campuses with unique degrees.

**Cal Maritime’s Representation in the Statewide Senate**

* The committee discussed the separation between on-campus and statewide representation for Cal Maritime.
* Committee emphasized the importance of preserving representation for all 23 campuses; Senator Chisholm noted that until July 2026, Cal Maritime's degree is autonomous and distinct from Cal Poly's.
* Chair Senk asked ASCSU representatives whether they thought we should be advocating for an additional statewide representative (on top of Cal Poly’s anticipated 3) specifically for Cal Maritime and agreed that the focus should be on the more complex issue of statewide representation given legislative matters relevant to Solano county.
* The committee discussed how Cal Poly’s increased representation could influence statewide matters. ASCSU Representatives Chisholm and Isakson reported that the ASCSU is working on this issue, and our campus executive committee does not need to intervene.
* ASCSU Representatives shared possibility of Cal Poly gaining additional representation due to the new census.
* Chair Senk will follow up with Jerusha regarding any future developments.

**Cal Poly Senate Integration Discussion**

* The need for a transitional body to transfer tacit knowledge to Cal Poly was discussed.
* Senator Moorhead suggested including two senators and an interim member to ensure continuity, with consideration for an ex officio member on the Executive Committee.
* Chair Senk proposed forming a transitional Maritime Campus Committee to represent Cal Maritime during the merger. This transitional “maritime faculty affairs committee” or task force could report strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Cal Poly Senate, initially as a task force, with the option to formalize it as a standing committee through future bylaw revisions and could hypothetically be responsible for quarterly reports on the campus’ progress and challenges to the Cal Poly Senate. [No consensus reached.]
* The committee discussed the potential for creating a Marine Transportation (MT) college to address campus-specific issues. Senator Ward suggested that being designated as a separate college might simplify integration but acknowledged the limited control over this decision.
* The team debated the need for a representative body or task force to handle non-union matters, with Chair Senk advocating for roles with clear deliverables, such as developing General Education programs.
* Senator Inoue emphasized the importance of establishing distinct policies to govern maritime programs under Cal Poly’s governance.
* Senator Ward pondered about the new administrative structure and potential involvement of MARAD.
* Chair Senk and Senator Inoue discussed integrating Cal Maritime’s representation into the unified Senate, proposing a “menu of options” to advocate for specialized maritime representation.
* The committee emphasized urgency, agreeing to finalize plans by late April before Cal Maritime’s governance ends on July 1.

**Cal Maritime Senate Elections Delay**

* The potential postponement of Cal Maritime Senate elections due to the integration with Cal Poly was discussed.
* Senator Inoue emphasized the importance of adhering to policy, while Chair Senk and Senator Ward suggested the matter could be resolved without a formal resolution.
* The committee agreed to present the issue for a vote at the next Senate meeting.

**Department Chair Evaluations and Policies**

* The committee highlighted the lack of department chair evaluations in recent years.
* Chair Senk suggested that these evaluations might fall under the Dean’s office responsibilities and agreed to share a 2011 policy document on chair evaluations with Dean Benton for clarification.
* The committee emphasized the need for chair reviews before the end of the academic year.

**Action Items**

* **Senate Integration Overview:** Chair Senk to introduce Senate integration topics and provide an overview at the General Senate meeting.
* **Resolution Drafting:** Chair Senk to invite volunteers to help draft a resolution on Senate integration.
* **Elections Delay Vote:** Senate Executive Committee to bring to a vote the postponement of Senate elections.
* **Representation Follow-Up:** Chair Senk to follow-up with Jerusha Greenwood and Rachel Fernflores about unrepresented groups and committees during the transition.
* **Department Chair Policy:** Chair Senk to follow up with Dean Benton on the department chair evaluation policy and its current status.
* **ASCSU Resolution:** Senators Ward and Chisholm to follow up on the ASCSU resolution regarding representation for integrated campuses.
* **Committee Staffing Needs:** Senator Inoue to ask committee chairs about staffing or election needs for their committees.