



**ACADEMIC SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MAY 23, 2023**

Approved 6-27-23

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

PLN-120

Present: Brusckhe, Garcia, Jarvis, Kanel, Self, Shepard, Swarat, Walsh, Wood (for Valdez)

Absent Milligan

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

II. URGENT BUSINESS

- We need Dean Bonney do a better communication about what digitization is. All my faculty are freaking out that they cannot use their stuff that has already been on Canvas for summer school. Dean Bonney said you could contact her for exceptions. But we need to know does this mean we can only use films from that particular platform?
- There was concern at the Senate meeting that we don't have a balanced representation on the GE Task Force Committee. Some deans were of the opinion that means their schools will get three representatives on the committee.

Suggestions:

- We should consider is to reduce the committee and uninvite Sean Walker.
- Maybe another representative from COMM, EDUC, and HHD.
- On our other committees we only have one representative from each constituency, so let's follow that rule for this committee.

Additional urgent business:

The Executive Committee went into Executive Session.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

IV. TIMES APPROXIMATE

12:35 PM - 12:45 PM

Subject: Allegations about President Virjee

Presenter: Karyl Ketchum

Karyl Ketchum and Kristin Beals joined the meeting to express concerns about the LA Times Article regarding President Virjee. Kristin read excerpts from three response emails she received.

Listed below are requests/actions Kristin and Karyl expressed want they wanted from the Executive Committee:

- President Virjee pulled from all commencement ceremonies.
- An investigation into the failure of our Title IX policy.
- An email sent from the Executive Committee to the entire campus, which goes out now and again at the beginning of the fall semester, which assures the Executive Committee and the Senate's commitment to the safety and well-being of women students and to following up on our obligation under Title IX.
- Relaunch the Virjee investigation.
- A task force to look into the problem of gender discrimination on this campus.

- (Walsh) We have spent a lot of today discussing and deliberating the issue and have determined we do not, at this point, want to make a statement. There is a lot of information we need, including the report we are going to have from Cozen, so we think it would be premature to make a statement.

We all agree 100 percent that the process on this campus has room for improvement. We need to be examining the process for how complaints happen, where they go to, and whether or not an outside entity, which does not report to the President, should be charged with investigating, rather than an internal that does not recognize the power to differential.

Q: (Ketchum) What is the CSU policy on how it should be handled?

A: (Walsh) I am not an expert on how it should be handled.

- (Ketchum) My understanding from the CSU policy is it should have gone to the Chancellor's office.
- (Walsh) It did go to the Chancellor's office.
- (Self) That is what we did not know until recently.

Q: (Ketchum) Where is the report from the Chancellor?

A: (Walsh) As usual, they do not give reports on these things, and that's part of what we think needs to be improved in the process. We think when someone files a report, they should be told it's being investigated, they might not get the details of what is happening to the perpetrator, but some group on campus besides HR should be privy to that information, which is probably Senate Exec. We will be looking at what a recommended policy is, but we are going to wait to hear what Cozen's recommendation are.

- (Kanel) The issue of the graduations, it is up to the Deans of each college. It would have to be the Deans to disinvite the President as a guest speaker.

Q: (Beals) So the people who work at his will are supposed to be the ones to do this?

A: (Jarvis) Yes.

- (Beals) In our college, some chairs are going to ask him directly not to attend the graduation.

Q: (Beals) Did the message the President's sent out go to students too, or just to the faculty and staff?

A: (Walsh) I don't know.

- (Jarvis) It was posted on the website.
- (Beals) That is the only message out there to our students right now. The message is not apologetic, it doesn't say he's going to be a change, going forward. It's disrespectful and insinuates that he did not know about this, which is unbelievable.

Q: So, if it's not you all who can stand up and do something to ensure our students; if this body doesn't, who does?

A: (Walsh) My answer is as individuals we have an obligation to let the President know how we feel about it, I certainly have. I think that might be more powerful to have a grand swell of people expressing their opinions, then to have this body, who doesn't have all the information.

- M/S/P (Kanel/Bruschke) Motion to extend the time certain an additional five minutes. Motion approved.

Q: (Ketchum) What about the students who have experienced this or have saw (sic) this, what about them? Those are the folks that I am concerned about. I don't have access those emails. I would write a message to all the students about supporting them through this process, no matter what they have seen, no matter what has happened. I don't have access to their emails. It's not my role, it's your role, you are the most powerful group on this campus. For every woman who has experienced sexual assault or harassment, this is triggering.

A: (Garcia) As far as the communication to the students, wouldn't that come from the Dean of Students? would be the one that send a message out. I don't think VP Oseguera would appreciate us reaching out to the students.

- (Beals) But the Dean of Students can't write an email against the President. But you can communicate as a body to faculty and staff, acknowledging you don't have all the information, but that you are shocked and horrified of what you read in the LA Times.

You don't have to have all the information to show support for the side of women and the side of truth. It doesn't have to be a damnation. You can carefully say that you are not making any accusations, but for anyone who feels uncomfortable or triggered by the report, know that Senate Exec cares and we hear our women students. We will continue to listen, investigate, and we will do something.

- (Walsh) We cannot say we will investigate; we do not have the power to do so.
- (Ketchum) Call for an investigation within alliance of CSU policy.
- (Beals) You are the ones with power and have tenure. We have students and faculty who are hurting right now, and that matters. If you cannot stand up and write a carefully worded email that goes out saying, we read it too. The President got his word in, why can't you all get your word in? Just say something supportive. Women have been battered on this campus.
- (Kanel) I don't disagree with you; I agree women have been an oppressed population. Our issue is there are privacy laws, and we can be setting ourselves up for a lawsuit if we were to say too much, because we don't know anything.

We do not know how Title IX handled the situation, there is not transparency about this process, as far as I see. But for us to say something, based on not knowing anything, we are making an assumption that these claims should had been substantiated.

- (Bruschke) You just want us to say that we Senate Exec acknowledge there are gender issues and for valid reasons, people may not want to come forward and file a complaint. We are committed to review and working on the process.
- (Ketchum) Yes, because right now you look like you have sided with the alleged perpetrator because he is speaking at all the commencements. Nothing has come out except his letter saying he is innocent.
- (Kanel) The Executive Committee has nothing to do with commencement.
- (Ketchum) We understand that, but this has to do with setting the culture. If there was another Senate meeting, that is where we would be addressing this.
- (Walsh) To be aware, Senate Exec last year spent hours with Cozen attorneys and talked about two big issues, which is when a complaint is filed against an MPP on this campus it's in inherent conflict and it doesn't get dealt with in an appropriate way; and also we need to have an ombudsman of some type to take care of the complaints that don't rise to the legal level of Title IX.

Systemwide, one percent of the Title IX complaints get investigated. I don't want to be overly optimistic that that is going to force some change, but I know it will force some change. I want to see what exactly they have come up with about Fullerton's process before I step into it.

- (Ketchum) I'm excited to see that too, but it doesn't change that you all are committed to making sure this campus is a safe place for women. That's what we want, a statement right now.
- M/S/P (Kanel/Garcia) Motion to extend the meeting an additional five minutes. Motion approved.
- (Bruschke) My understanding is we had agreed not to make a statement. I felt what they are saying was a reasonable ask. We should probably decide if we want to make a statement like that, and if so, I would be happy to draft something and send it around. I don't think it's unreasonable to make a general statement.
- (Wood) My sense is there is an end game, which is to interrupt commencement with a display of non-support for the President. The hope is for action this morning, that there is something that will go out that will have an impact on commencement.
- (Kanel) I don't think a support statement of women is going to affect commencement.
- (Garcia) I think it is going to add fuel to the fire. I understand the issue, but I understand we don't have facts. I support women and everything they deserve, but not sending out a message like that without having the facts.
- (Kanel) If we send out a message, we assume it is not a safe place for women, and we have convicted the person of the allegations.
- (Jarvis) I would not send out the safe place statement, but their point is valid of not sending out a statement because silence is a statement of own. Even if it wasn't going to be a statement of its own, I'm pretty sure they are going to make it a statement of its own. I would favor a statement of non-comment on the recent story in the LA Times, and we cannot comment on that because we learned about it when everyone else did. However, we do want to assure all members of the Titan Community that we support a process that would ensure the safety of all faculty, students, and staff.
- (Walsh) A large number of faculty have also contacted us asking us to make a statement in favor of the President.
- (Shepard) We have voted not to make a statement. We are one minute pass time; I would recommend that we adjourn the meeting and do nothing until our next meeting. And if there is a motion to reconsider, that would be the appropriate venue.

- (Swarat) And by our next meeting, we would have more information, so we are not sandwiched in this place.
- M/S/P (/Bruschke/Jarvis) Motion to reconsider issuing a statement. Motion failed.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- M/S/P (Self/Jarvis) Motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- 5.1 EC Minutes 5-16-23 (draft)

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

VII. STAFF REPORT

- When sending email to the Executive Committee, use the DL_Senate_Exec distribution list to ensure everyone receives your message.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Proposed Summer Meeting Dates - Summer 2023

M/S/P (Jarvis/Self) Motion to approve the summer meeting dates. Motion passed.

8.2 Summer Alternate

- (Walsh) Email Sheretha your summer alternate.

8.3 Setting Goals and Priorities for Academic Senate 2023-2024

- (Walsh) Email me with your ideas of things we need to tackle in AY 2023-24, and I will compile a list and we will discuss at the June 6th meeting.

8.4 Composition of GE Task Force - (Discussion item)

This was discussed under urgent business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P (Garcia/Shepard) Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.