

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report – March 18, 2022

Good afternoon, colleagues.

We thank Provost Passerini for attending and addressing our questions.

On Feb. 18, the members of the Executive Committee met with Dr. Nyre and Dr. Passerini to continue the budget discussions we had begun at our prior meeting on Feb. 11. We sent eight questions prior to the meeting; many of them were answered on Feb. 18 and those responses are below. We will look for answers to the remaining questions at our March 18 meeting, and I will update the body verbally about that at today's meeting. Dr. Nyre also informed us at that time about the creation of a new web site that was created to respond to questions about the university's finances and how it makes financial decisions:

Questions/Discussion Points:

1. From whom would we obtain copies of the 2021 IPED and 990 reports? Moving forward, would it be possible for the Senate to have access to each year's reports when they are filed in April and May.

Both the IRS 990 and IPED data have to be approved first by the Board of Regents; then an annual audit is conducted; then the 990 is submitted to the IRS for review. Once that information has been approved by the IRS it becomes "official" and is posted. The university's 990s are posted on the university website at that time [<https://www.shu.edu/finance-division/>]. Making them publicly available before they have been confirmed as correct and approved by the federal government, when they could contain errors, could lead to misinformation. On a related note, the university is also getting caught up with the Fact Book, which was put on hold during the pandemic.

Information about IPED data collection and release can be found here:

https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/resource/download/IPEDS_DataReleaseProcedures.pdf

It also needs to be verified.

2. Reductions have been made to academic support staff and to low/mid-level administrative positions, but have reductions also been made in the upper administration?

Upper administration reductions: TBA

The budget parameters are set by the Board of Regents each year. This year they were shared with the university just before the start of the fall 2021 semester. They can be found here under "Finances": <https://www.shu.edu/finance-division/facts-about-finances-investments-in-the-academy-and-shared-governance.cfm>

The budget parameters include addressing the imbalance between instructional and non-instructional spending. The federal government classifies what is considered instructional and non-instructional; HR does not define those categories.

3. Administrators who took salary cuts in 2020 have not yet had them restored. Is the plan to do that at some point, or are these permanent salary changes?

There is no plan to restore the administrator salary reductions.

4. Is a current organizational chart for the university publicly available?

TBA

5. How are the university's investment decisions made and what group makes them? Has our investment strategy changed in the last few years (data suggests it did starting in 2015)? If so, in what way?

See "Finances" at <https://www.shu.edu/finance-division/facts-about-finances-investments-in-the-academy-and-shared-governance.cfm>

In addition, the university changed investment advisors in 2017 and the returns since then have been quite strong.

The Board of Regents has an Investment Committee and an Investment Policy; the fund manager has to work within the parameters of the policy.

6. What is the university's typical cash reserve, and how does that compare with that at our peer institutions?

TBA

7. Is the intention, following the compensation study, to have regularized reviews of faculty salaries (i.e. every 2-3 years) to be sure we're keeping pace with our peers?

Regularized review of faculty salaries: TBA

The timeline for the compensation study is as follows:

An RFP for a consultant has been finalized and will soon be sent out

There will be a 6 week response period

The Senate will then be consulted to help form the committee

8. How can we work together to increase transparency about the university's budget?

One idea that has emerged from research and these discussions would be the possible creation of a University Resources and Planning Committee, such as the one at Cal Poly Humboldt, which would include Senators, staff, administrators, and students, would meet on a bi-weekly basis, and would review and advise on budget decisions: <https://budget.humboldt.edu/urpc>

The March Budget Committee meeting was cancelled.

In order to better understand the audit of the university's finances commissioned by the AAUP, on Feb. 17th I met with several Senators from the Stillman School of Business and asked them to review the presentation and provide feedback. They are compiling questions related to the sources of some of the data and the conclusions drawn. I will have a fuller report at the April Senate meeting.

Drs. Patel, Roberts, and I met with Amy Newcombe on Feb. 15 to review current and forthcoming Senate issues. We also met with Erik Lillquist on March 15 to review current and forthcoming Senate issues.

The next Board of Regents meeting will be held on March 23-24; I will attend the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee on March 23 to report on Senate matters.

The Strategic Plan Implementation Committee is planning a symposium for May 11 in order to assess the current status of the strategic plan and whether any changes should be made. All members of the university community will be invited to attend.

The Executive Committee has charged the Academic Facilities Committee to take up the request for the creation of an Office of Sustainability.

Senate representatives were selected for two committees from a list of names forwarded by the EC (based, as always, on current Senators and the list of volunteers generated at the start of the academic year). They are:

For an ad hoc group on preferred name/pronoun/gender identity – Denise Vigani (A&S) and Ruth Tsuria (COAR)

For a Library Task Force – Gerard Shea (LIBR) and Cherubim Quizon (A&S) (representing the Academic Facilities Committee); Laura Wangerin (representing the Library Committee)

On April 1, 12:00 – 2:00, in Bethany C, faculty Senators are invited to a workshop discussion of shared governance. The facilitators will be Ann Franke and Dr. Steven Portch. This is an opportunity for us to come together as a body to discuss the challenges and opportunities of shared governance, and to consider strategies for the future.

Outstanding Resolutions:

Outstanding Resolutions:

- Faculty Guide articles 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11
- Online MPA
- Writing Major

There are five actionable items on today's agenda:

- a. A resolution from the Compensation and Welfare Committee on timely payments to temporary faculty and adjuncts

- b. A resolution from the Compensation and Welfare Committee on a timely process for onboarding
- c. A resolution from the Compensation and Welfare Committee requesting budget-related information
- d. A second reading of Article 12 of the Faculty Guide
- e. A resolution from the Executive Committee to extend the tenure/reappointment clock for faculty whose start date was fall 2020/spring 2021.

There are two communications:

- Provost Communication re: Working Relationship During the Pandemic
- “Facts about Finances Investments in the Academy, and Shared Governance”

Finally, a statement from the EC regarding the recent announcement about Dr. and Mrs. Nyre’s donation to the university was accidentally left off the February Senate meeting agenda. We updated that agenda (since the announcement was included in the February EC report, which was accepted by the body), and ask for approval of that revised agenda today.

Thank you, as always, for your service to the Faculty Senate and the important role you play in shared governance at the university.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun, Chairperson