The SJSU Academic Senate

Prepared for the New Tenure Track Faculty Orientation

Adapted from the Senate PowerPoint Presentation
What is the Academic Senate?

- President Wahlquist approved creation of the Faculty Council in 1952. The Faculty Council initially consisted of 18 members (15 faculty and 3 staff).

- In 1963, the Faculty Council became the Academic Council. The Academic Council was authorized to make policy recommendations to the President, and was considered the official representative body of the faculty. In the 1960s students were added to the Academic Council.

- In 1974, the Academic Council became the principal agency for formulation of policy for the University and was renamed the Academic Senate. There were 6 students, 24 faculty, and 7 administrators on the Academic Senate (37 total).

- Today there are 55 members of the Academic Senate (9 administrators, 7 students, 1 alumni rep, 1 emeritus faculty, 36 faculty, and 1 honorary senator).
What Does the Senate Do?

The Constitution of the Academic Senate states that, “the Academic Senate, subject to the laws of California and the Policies and regulations of the Board of Trustees, shall formulate policies and procedures on matters affecting the general welfare of the University, including (a) educational policies, (b) faculty affairs, (c) student affairs, and (d) budget and finance.

“Upon passage by the Academic Senate, proposed policies and procedures shall be submitted to the President of the University for consideration and action. Those approved by the President become official University Policy and will be implemented as soon as practicable. The President will report to the Senate promptly on those proposed measures of which he or she does not approve.”
Who are the Senators?

- 55 Senators total.
- 3 are Ex Officio* members including the Chair of the Senate, the Past Chair of the Senate,** and the President of Associated Students.
- There are 3 CSU Statewide Senators who are also Ex Officio.
- There are 9 administrative representatives: the President, the Provost, the VP for Student Affairs, the VP for Administration & Finance, the VP of Advancement, and 4 Academic Deans/AVPs
- 6 student Senators appointed by Associated Students.
- One Alumni Senator and one Emeritus Faculty Senator. There is also currently one Honorary (non-voting) Senator.
- 4 faculty members from the General Unit and 27 from the 7 colleges.

* Ex Officio members may not chair a Senate policy or operating committee, but do vote in the Senate.
** In a year when the Senate Chair is serving a second term, there is no past chair and therefore there will be only 54 senators.
Senators - Continued

- College of Applied Sciences and the Arts: 5 faculty
- College of Business: 3 faculty
- College of Education: 2 faculty
- College of Engineering: 3 faculty
- College of the Humanities and the Arts: 5 faculty
- College of Science: 4 faculty
- College of Social Sciences: 5 faculty
- General Unit (Library / Counseling & Psychological Services): 4 faculty / staff
How is the Senate organized?

- Executive Committee
- Policy Committees:
  - Curriculum & Research
  - Instruction & Student Affairs
  - Organization & Government Committee
  - Professional Standards
  - Committee on Committees
- Operating Committees (report to policy committees)
- Special Agencies
- Other Committees and Task Forces
Policy areas in which the Senate is involved: examples

- RTP
- Evaluation of teaching effectiveness
- Academic integrity
- Add/drop procedures
- Grading
- Office hours
- Department voting rights
- General Education
- University-wide programs
- Research related: human subjects, animal care, and misconduct
- Budget priorities
- Campus climate
- Naming of facilities
- Appointment and review of administrators

Have a question about how something works at SJSU? Check the list of university policies at the Senate website – you’ll likely find the information you need. And if not – feel free to contact the Senate Chair for more information.
Other activities with which the Senate is involved

- Sense-of-the-Senate resolutions where appropriate, for example:
  - Input to CSU trustees
  - Budget priorities for the campus
  - Athletics
  - Workload
  - Honorific
- Making recommendations to the President on lottery proposals and budget priority funding proposals.
- Committees involved with a variety of activities from program approval, violations of academic freedom, student rights, student success, parking and transit and SOTEs.
How does policy get made and revised?

Referral

- Senate Chair
- Executive Committee
- Relevant policy committee
- Full Senate
- President

Referral forms at Senate website under “forms”
Who participates in Senate activities (and how can you)?

- **Senate:**
  - Tenured, probationary and temporary faculty (Unit 3) – elected by college / unit
  - Students selected by Associated Students
  - Administrators as specified in policy

- **Policy & Operating Committees**
  - Seats generally specified in policy or bylaws as for faculty (usually one person from each college), students and administrators.
  - See the Senate Handbook (online) or ask the Committee on Committee’s rep for your college or unit

- **Special Agencies and Boards**
  - Varies – check the Senate bylaws and manual
For more information …

Visit the Senate website at:

http://www.sjsu.edu/senate

http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/

Be sure to bookmark it!