F15-10, University Policy, Dissolving the Heritage, Preservation and Public History Committee

Legislative History: Rescinds SM-S09-1, and S05-5
Amends S08-4

At its meeting of November 2, 2015, the Academic Senate approved a Senate Management Resolution (SM) presented by Senator Shifflett for the Organization and Government Committee that dissolved the Heritage, Preservation, and Public History Committee. On November 9, 2015, the Executive Committee met and voted to make the SM resolution a policy resolution and forward to the President for approval. The Executive Committee took this action because the Heritage, Preservation, and Public History Committee was created by University policy and therefore must be rescinded by a policy.

S05-5 created the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee with a charge to “advise the Senate and the President and propose resolutions and policies as appropriate” with regard to preserving buildings, sites, papers and other items related to SJSU’s history. SM-S09-1 changed the membership to remove the SJSU History Webmaster. The referral to the O&G committee in March of 2013 noted that the chair of the Committee on Committees and the chair of the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee were having difficulty finding individuals to serve in the 11 open seats at the time.

In addition, University Policy F15-10 is Amendment A to University Policy S08-4 and adds section 2.c. Section 2.c. provides advice to the President on matters related to historical buildings and grounds. Section 2.c. was combined into Section 2.b. by Amendment B to University Policy S08-4 (University Policy S19-2).

Approved and signed by Interim President Susan W. Martin on November 19, 2015.
University Policy
Dissolving the Heritage, Preservation, and Public History Committee

Whereas: The Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee has not been engaged in much activity in recent years; and

Whereas: The Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee voted this fall to dissolve the committee; therefore be it

Resolved: That the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee be dissolved effective with the approval of this resolution, and be it further

Resolved: That S08-4 (Campus Planning Board) be modified to add a third item (2.c) to the Campus Planning Board’s responsibilities as follows: As needed provide advice to the President on matters related to historical buildings and grounds.

Rationale: Minutes from the fall 2013 O&G meeting with the chair of the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee noted as challenges for the committee: lack of participation, type of participation, lack of financial support, no champion, no significant action items or substance. The question was raised at that time about dissolving the committee. The referral (which originated with the committee chair) to the O&G committee also noted that the public history component of the committee’s charge had not been addressed over the eight years since the committee was formed. This fall, members of the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee met and voted to dissolve the committee. In addition, components of the committee’s charge are embedded in other committee’s work: The new library policy has language specific to the preservation of materials unique to SJSU, rare and valuable materials, and materials relevant for historical research; the campus planning board has responsibilities that include advising the president regarding the planning, location, construction and operation of structures, facilities, plantings, and landscape design. Therefore, at this point in time the Heritage, Preservation & Public History Committee should be dissolved.

Vote by O&G on this resolution:
Approved: 9/28/15
Vote: 8-0-0
Present: Grosvenor, Mathur, Curry, Shifflett, Elmiaari, Gleixner, Becker, Beyersdorf
Absent: Laker
Financial Impact: None
Workload Impact: None
Vote by the Executive Committee on changing to a Policy Recommendation:

Approved: 11/9/15

Vote: 8-0-1

Present: Kimbarow, Shifflett, Peter, Kaufman, Heiden, Frazier, Backer, Lee, Mathur

Absent: Amante, Blaylock

Financial Impact: None

Workload Impact: Minimal additional work for the Senate Administrator to convert to a policy and the President to review and sign