

## **Candidate Statement of Interest for Vice Chair, Academic Senate**

### **Ravisha Mathur**

I am a proud member of the Academic Senate here at San José State University. Over the past three years in the Senate, with the last two years serving as chair of the Curriculum and Research Committee and on the Executive Committee, I have the opportunity to provide guidance on university policies, weigh in on critical campus initiatives, and work with other senate and campus leaders to make SJSU an even better educational institution.

For the last 14 years at SJSU, I have endeavored to serve the university at all levels; a perspective that I believe has provided me with a breadth of skills and knowledge as well as given me the opportunity to build strong relationships with faculty, administrators, staff, and students across campus units. It is through these service experiences that I have developed a passion and commitment for collegial governance and shared decision-making and this has fostered my interest in serving as your Vice Chair and Chair-Elect.

In addition to serving as chair on C&R, I was a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee for 8 years and served as chair for 5 of those years. By having the chance to lead both operating and policy senate committees, I gained a deeper understanding of the way our senate structure operates and understood the real importance and meaning of shared governance across administrators, faculty, staff and students here at SJSU. With this understanding, I have negotiated complex policies to ensure that all voices are heard and that all stakeholders are part of the policy development process. I have also served as a member on the WASC Steering Committee and currently serve on the Accreditation Review Committee which has given me familiarity with all aspects of the university. Within my department, I have served as the Graduate Coordinator, served on tenure and hiring committees, as well as on scholarship and curriculum committees; all of which have helped me become acquainted with current campus policies, practices, and procedures across a variety of key sectors of the university. Also, this academic year I am a member of the College of Education's Dean Search Committee. With the committee, I look forward to hiring a visionary, collegial leader who will help our college further grow and expand educational opportunities for our SJSU faculty and students, school districts, and local communities.

The senate is a great place to be and being a senator has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic career. My start in the senate began with Chair Frazier, who I have known for many years and who encouraged me to join. I look forward to assisting him in his role as Senate Chair if elected. Overall, I truly believe in our University as a community; a community that listens to all viewpoints, that seeks input from critical stakeholders and makes supportive decisions and effective policies for all. If elected as Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect, I will bring an experienced perspective to this position and will continue to ensure that the voice of the Academic Senate reflects the needs of the campus community.