

AVC Statement from Dr. Tabitha Hart

The 2016-2017 academic year, my first ever term serving on the SJSU Academic Senate, has been rewarding and inspiring. Being on the Academic Senate has taught me how good governance works, and I've learned this not merely as an observer, but as an active participant. Being on the Senate has intensified the sense of connection that I feel with SJSU as a community, and, simply put, this motivates me to increase my own engagement as a citizen.

I understand that the AVC chairs the Committee on Committees and works with Eva Joice and the Senate Chair to ensure that all Senate committees, boards and special agencies are fully populated. Given this, the AVC must be skilled in conducting outreach to and cooperating with many different parties across our campus community. I believe that my experience in this area makes me a very good fit. In 2014-2015 I served as the Faculty Lead of the SJSU Internship Faculty Advisory Committee (IFAC). IFAC was charged with drafting internship procedures that were both compliant with EO1064 and feasible for faculty to implement and maintain. As Faculty Lead, I was the key communication liaison between our group members (senior faculty from each of the seven colleges, plus additional members from GUP and the Career Center) as well as all external parties. I coordinated IFAC's meetings, organizing dates and times, crafting the agendas, following up on action items, etc. I was also in charge of creating all new materials and documentation. To this end, I facilitated communication between IFAC members, campus administrators, SJSU Contracts & Purchasing Services, SJSU risk management, and other key personnel such that our goals could be met. Most significantly, I led collaborative work sessions during which we hashed out new protocols for managing internships for academic credit. By the end of its term, IFAC had successfully created the University-Organization Agreement (UOA), a user-friendly contract for use with any organization hosting an internship for academic credit (which replaced the universally disliked University Organization Contract). We helped draft what later became AS1583. Finally, we developed an agreed-upon procedure for handling internships for academic credit (laid out in my 2016 report for GUP, Internships for academic credit at SJSU). I think that this work gives me a strong foundation for learning and carrying out the duties of AVC.

Please let me know if I may provide you with any further information.

With warm regards,

Dr. Tabitha Hart