

## **Statement of Candidacy for Academic Senate Vice Chair: Alison L. McKee**

I have been part of San José State University since 2002. During my 17 years at SJSU, I was a part-time lecturer for the first four years before I was hired onto the tenure track in 2006. I earned both early tenure and early promotion to full professor. I have served in a wide range of department, college, and university service and leadership positions, and I believe my experience and relationships, both inside and outside the Academic Senate, have given me the necessary skills to serve as an effective Senate Vice Chair who will support the work of both the Chair and the Senate as a whole.

In my past position as the elected campus vice president of the SJSU chapter of the California Faculty Association (CFA) and a continuing member of its Executive Board, I have had great visibility into the structures and operations of SJSU as well as the CSU system itself. I've acted as liaison among faculty, chairs, students, and administration at SJSU to increase mutual understanding and respect, to foster faculty and student success at all levels, as well as to provide information regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement. I've served as Membership Chair during a year of concerted action and organization (2014-2015) in which a strike was successfully averted. I've coordinated with CFA statewide leaders and field staff on education and outreach programs for all Unit 3 employees, whom CFA represents. I have since transitioned into the elected position of Delegate-at-Large to the statewide CFA Assembly. Regardless of one's choice to join or not join CFA, the CSU and SJSU both benefit when there are strong, collegial, open lines of communication and mutual respect among the Senate, CFA, administrators, staff, and students.

For the past two years, I have served on the Professional Standards Committee, chaired by Senator Peter. During my term, I have learned a great deal about Senate history and procedures, the issues and policies that fall under the purview of Professional Standards in particular, and the relationship to and functions of the other Senate committees. I am especially proud of Professional Standards' work on the Sense of the Senate Resolution which I researched and co-authored: "Creating a Task Force for a Supportive Workplace and Calling Upon Our Community to Preserve Civility and Combat Bullying at San José State University." I am also proud that you—our entire Academic Senate—approved the resolution unanimously. I look forward to further university action on this front.

This academic year I served on the University Search Committee for a new Provost. For many years I have also sat on university, college, and department RTP committees, hiring committees, research and awards committees, and curriculum committees with visibility into department, college, and university operations. A watershed moment occurred for me in 2011-2012 when I served as an Associate Director of a School that was the result of an ill-conceived merger of departments in my college, imposed from above by a provost and a dean who have long since departed SJSU. I witnessed firsthand the fine work that O&G did in its investigation into and public hearings held about the many violations of Senate policies during this attempted merger. Indeed, this committee's work sowed the seeds of my initial interest in serving in the Academic Senate once I had completed my RTP process.

I am passionately committed to the ideals of shared governance as embodied by this Senate and to the preservation of those ideals. In my view, the greatest strength of SJSU's Senate is that it is, precisely, an *Academic* Senate, representing members from different constituencies of university life: faculty (both tenure-line and lecturers), administrators, and students. It is supported by the indefatigable work of longtime staff members such as Eva Joice. However, shared governance is more than an ideal: it is an often difficult, iterative process that requires listening to stakeholders whose views may differ from our own. It requires conversation and debates that can sometimes be challenging. It requires patience and forbearance. It involves compromise. This is the hard work that all of us in the Academic Senate perform according to our respective roles. Now I seek the new role of Senate Vice Chair. I ask for your vote, and I thank you for your time.