

## 7 **Policy Recommendation**

8 Amendment to Senate Constitution, Section II.2 and Senate Bylaws -  
9 Section 1.3

### 10 **Rationale**

11 San Jose State University's (SJSU) Constitution and By-laws govern eligibility to serve  
12 on the university's Academic Senate (Senate). As currently written, [Section II.2](#) of the  
13 Constitution stipulates that university administration representatives must include "four  
14 (4) academic deans, at least two of whom shall be deans of colleges." Additionally,  
15 SJSU Academic [Senate by-law 1.3](#) stipulates that four deans must serve on the senate.

16 In spring 2023, the Provost submitted a referral ([O&G-S23-2](#)) to the Senate which was  
17 assigned to the Organization and Governance Committee (O&G). The Provost  
18 requested that the language pertaining to eligibility to serve on the Senate in Section  
19 II.2 of the Constitution and By-law 1.3 be amended to expand eligibility to any member  
20 of Academic Affairs leadership. The Provost's reasoning was that expanding eligibility to  
21 members of the Academic Affairs leadership beyond only college deans will result in a  
22 more diverse pool of eligible candidates to serve on the Senate. In the course of our  
23 review, O&G has found precedent for equivalent classification between deans and other  
24 personnel in Academic Affairs, specifically Associate Vice Presidents (AVPs).

25 Language found in other SJSU policies establishes that AVPs are defined as  
26 equivalent to a dean. For example, SJSU Policy S16-8 clearly identifies deans and  
27 equivalent positions in Section 1.1 which describes "**deans and all other associate**  
28 **vice president or equivalent** positions." Additionally, SJSU Policy S06-3 establishes  
29 the equivalency of college deans "to all other associate vice president or equivalent  
30 positions."

31 Precedent exists for classifying positions other than college dean (such as associate  
32 vice president) as equivalent to deans for the purposes of serving on the Senate. O&G  
33 concludes that the Provost's request to expand eligibility to serve on the Senate would  
34 be appropriate as to AVPs or equivalent positions from Academic Affairs leadership as  
35 this is supported by other SJSU policies and is likely to be a net positive step.

36 There is a second piece to this referral that was not included in the original referral.  
37 During the Provost's 8.28.23 meeting with O&G to discuss the referral, the Provost  
38 stated that he was willing to move one of the four Academic Affairs Senate seats to the  
39 Division of Research and Innovation (DRI). Currently, personnel from DRI are not  
40 eligible to serve on the academic senate. In the past, an AVP from the Office of  
41 Research was able to serve because they were in the Academic Affairs division, but

42 recent changes to the organization of divisions at SJSU eliminated eligibility for  
43 research personnel.

44 For a number of years prior to 2014, oversight and management of research at SJSU  
45 resided in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR). OGSR was a part of  
46 the Academic Affairs division under the supervision of the provost. The provost,  
47 president, and presidential cabinet members decided to create the Office of Research in  
48 Academic Affairs, overseen by an associate vice president of research (AVP). In 2014,  
49 OGSR was reorganized into two distinct entities: College of Graduate Studies and  
50 Office of Research.

51 Between 2014 and 2019, SJSU leadership continued to take steps to strengthen the  
52 university's research and scholarship/creative activity (RSCA) portfolio. In 2019,  
53 university leadership again changed the organization and management of RSCA activity  
54 at SJSU by removing the Office of Research from Academic Affairs and moving it to a  
55 university level office, the Division of Research and Innovation managed by a Vice  
56 President of Research and Innovation (VPRI).

57 During the period in which the Office of Research was housed within the Division of  
58 Academic Affairs, the AVP of Research was eligible to serve on the SJSU Academic  
59 Senate as a representative of Academic Affairs leadership. For many years, AVP of  
60 Research Pamela Stacks served on the senate representing a voice for RSCA. In 2019,  
61 when the Division of Research and Innovation (DRI) was launched, the AVP of  
62 Research previously housed in Academic Affairs, became the VPRI in the DRI, and lost  
63 eligibility to serve on the Senate because of the move out of Academic Affairs. Since  
64 2019, RSCA representation in the senate has been absent. Provost Del Casino  
65 suggested that moving one of his Academic Affairs Senate seats over to the DRI was  
66 an equitable and inclusive action that did not upset the balance of Senate  
67 representation (which would necessitate senate expansion) and returned a Senate seat  
68 to a representative of research at SJSU.

69 **RESOLVED** that the SJSU Constitution and By-laws be amended, as follows, to  
70 expand eligibility to serve as a senator on the SJSU Academic Senate to any member  
71 of Academic Affairs leadership in the position of Dean, Associate Vice President or  
72 other equivalent position, and;

73 **RESOLVED** that one (1) Senate seat from the Academic Affairs division shall be  
74 relocated to the Division of Research and Innovation, to be filled by the Vice President  
75 of Research and Innovation, ex officio.

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# Policy Recommendation

## Recommended Amendments to SJSU Constitution and By-laws of the Academic Senate

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### SJSU Constitution, Section II

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86 Section 2. Administration representatives shall consist of the President, the Provost, the  
 87 Vice President for Administration and Finance, the Vice President for Student Affairs,  
 88 ~~the Vice President for Research and Innovation~~, and the Chief Diversity Officer, ex  
 89 officio; and ~~four~~ ~~three~~ (3) ~~(4)~~ representatives from Academic Affairs (deans, academic  
 90 vice provosts, associate vice provosts, and/or associate vice presidents, or equivalent),  
 91 ~~two of whom must be academic deans, at least two of whom shall be deans, to be~~  
 92 ~~selected in a manner agreed upon by the aforementioned representatives of Academic~~  
 93 ~~Affairs for staggered two-year terms.~~

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### SJSU Senate By-laws

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97 1.3 The number of faculty senators must be twice the number of senators who are not  
 98 faculty members [currently 18: ~~Three~~ (3) representatives from Academic Affairs ~~two of~~  
 99 ~~whom must be deans~~ ~~Deans~~ (4), AS President and students (7), the President and VPs  
 100 (6) ~~(5)~~, an Emeritus Representative (1), and an Alumni Representative (1)].

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102 **Approved:** 11.27.23

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104 **Vote:** 8-0-0

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106 **Present:** Andreopoulos, Baur, Chierichetti, Gambarin, Jochim, Lee, Long, Muñoz-Muñoz

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108 **Absent:** Johnson, Wright

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### Financial impact:

111 There are no foreseeable financial impacts from this proposed amendment.

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### Workload impact:

114 Restoring a senate seat to the VPRI will create additional workload for the VPRI. O&G  
 115 anticipates that the VPRI will be required to fulfill responsibilities consistent with other  
 116 university administrators serving on the senate.

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