

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

SS-S20-4, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Endorsing Senate Executive Committee Action on University Policy S20-4, Optional Exclusion of Student Opinion of Teaching Effectiveness Surveys (SOTEs) Administered During Spring 2020

Legislative History:

On April 20, 2020, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Chair Mathur for the Executive Committee.

Resolved: That the Academic Senate endorse the actions of the Senate Executive Committee and the President to develop and approve University Policy S20-4, *Optional Exclusion of Student Opinion of Teaching Effectiveness Surveys (SOTEs) Administered During Spring 2020*.

Rationale: After the announcement on March 9, 2020 of the move to distributed or fully online learning with little advance notice, the Senate Executive Committee heard immediate concerns from faculty regarding the potential impact of a changed teaching modality on Student Opinion of Teaching Effectiveness surveys (SOTEs). In order to relieve the associated tremendous faculty stress and to allow faculty to focus on course conversion and on student support, there was a need to make a rapid decision regarding our university's use of SOTEs from the Spring 2020 semester. Based on our Senate bylaw 4.1, the Senate Executive Committee is able to act on behalf of the Senate when the full membership is not available. The Senate Executive Committee made the decision to act before the next scheduled full Senate meeting in order to address faculty concerns about disrupted teaching pedagogy midway through the semester and to minimize stress as quickly as possible.

The Senate Executive Committee does not take such an executive decision lightly. It values and upholds the tenets and tradition of shared governance, and generally prefers that the Senate speak for itself in its entirety. Under current exigent circumstances of mandated shifts in teaching and learning modalities, however, we felt the need to act quickly, thereby providing faculty the assurance they would have the option to take into consideration the potentially negative consequences associated with these transitions in their future reviews.

Approved:	April 13, 2020.
Vote:	14-0-0.
Present:	Mathur, McKee, Marachi, Frazier, Sullivan-Green, Peter, White, Curry, Shifflett, Del Casino, Faas, Day, Wong(Lau), Parent.
Absent:	Papazian.
Financial Impact:	None.
Workload Impact:	None.