SS-S20-5, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Endorsing Senate Executive Committee Action on University Policy S20-7, Temporary Modification to University Policies F18-5, Grading Policy, and S16-16, Probation and Disqualification due to Special Circumstances of COVID-19

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 S20-7, Temporary Modification to University Policies F18-5, Grading Policy, and S16-16, Probation and Disqualification due to Special Circumstances of COVID-19.

Rationale: As a result of the exigent circumstances surrounding COVID-19, there has been a need to make rapid decisions regarding our grading policies in order to be responsive to our students’ and faculty’s concerns about the potential impact of changed teaching modality on students’ grades. 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 between our regularly scheduled Senate meetings to address the pressing needs of students and faculty and to provide time for processes to be implemented at SJSU. We also wanted to ensure that students would have the maximum time in the academic calendar to make critical decisions regarding their grades.

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 the current circumstances of mandated shifts in teaching and learning modalities, however, we felt the need to act quickly, thereby providing students with the maximum flexibility in making decisions regarding their grading options.

Vote: 14-0-0.
Absent: Papazian.
Financial Impact: None.
Workload Impact: None.