

To: Beth Von Till, Senate Chair; Wendy Ng, Chair of Committee on Committees; Eva Joice, Senate Administrator
From: Chris Hebert, CASA Representative
Re: Nomination for O&G Chair

Colleagues,

I ask for your positive consideration to serve as chair of O&G (Organization and Government) for the 2013 / 2014 academic year. Next year will be my seventh year in the Senate, having served from AY 2004 through AY 2008 as a representative from COSS and beginning my second period of Senate service as a representative from CASA this past year. My primary committee assignment during these years has been O&G and I have been an active participant both on the committee and on the floor of the Academic Senate. As a result, I am well-versed both in the composition of policy proposals and have a fairly extensive knowledge of current policies. In a previous stint as O&G chair I made a point of soliciting comments and suggestions from all parties that were affected by the proposals. I also feel it is important to train our own replacements and encouraged first and second-year senators on the committee to try their hand at drafting policy without, reasonably successfully, I believe, making them feel as if I were off-loading my work load onto them. It is a point of pride for me and, I believe, a sign of respect for my fellow senators that policy or management proposals brought to the floor are clearly written and are accompanied by an explanation for why an existing policy or committee should be changed or why a new policy or committee needs to be created.

On the personal level, I have a, some call it, an “interesting” sense of humor, much of it directed at my own foibles. I’ve been called cynical and that may well be, but I’m also the most optimistic cynic one could encounter. I assume that we all share the same general goal – making San José State the best possible educational experience for our students. Thus, differences of opinion over policy questions are not a reflection of deep differences between the parties but differences in what each believes to be the most effective path to achieving our educational mission. Approaching debates on the floor or during discussion in the Executive in this manner—differences in course, not the destination – increases collegiality, one of the rare conditions that disapproves the proverb that it is possible to have too much of a good thing.

If Michael Kimbarrow, the current Chair of O&G, had decided to run for O&G Chair again instead of standing for Vice Chair, I would not be asking for your vote. But he didn’t, so I am, and I am confident in asserting that if I am elected as Chair of O&G the Senate can count on continued quiet competence in the drafting of policy and management proposals and a strong, but not unreasonable, guardian and advocate of faculty interests on the Executive.

Thank you for your positive consideration.

Chris Hebert
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