

## JASON LAKER'S STATEMENT FOR SENATE LEADERSHIP ROLE CANDIDACY

My name is a Jason Laker, and I am a Professor in the Counselor Education Department and Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership here at SJSU. You may also know that I originally joined SJSU as the Vice-President for Student Affairs, hired by former President Whitmore. During my time as VP I served on the Senate Executive Committee and had very positive relationships with Academic Colleagues, which have continued over these past five years as I have been on the faculty. Since moving to faculty, it has been both interesting and enjoyable to continue those relationships as a colleague. I have served on two Senate Committees for the past two years. The Board of Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility (of which I am the current Chair) and the Organization and Government Committee. I am currently one of two elected Senators representing the College of Education, and it has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity. I have offered my name for consideration for three leadership roles in the Senate: Chair of Organization and Governance Committee, Chair of Instruction and Student Affairs Committee, and Faculty-at-Large representative to the Executive Committee. I would be happy to serve in any of these roles if the Body wishes me to do so, and so I'll offer a few remarks about each of these three possibilities. All three roles serve on the Senate Executive Committee, which is also important to me in terms of advocacy for the ethical, reflective and supportive working and learning environments that we all deserve, have a right to, and which has more work ahead to achieve and protect.

The **O & G Committee** is very fortunate to have some incredibly committed, wise and thoughtful colleagues serving on it, so I am happy to continue whether as Chair or general member. In terms of service as Chair, it seems to me that O & G's role has increased in importance over the past several years. Obviously, ensuring a strong commitment to shared governance and to efficient and effective structures to do that are critical for the operation of any university. Since there has been a great deal of tension around these issues during the past several years, it seems to me that my background in both administrative and academic dimensions of the university would be valuable in framing out how the Committee can serve those interests. Because I joined SJSU as a Vice President, I have the unusual experience of being familiar with people and programs across the whole university, as well as with how the political, budgetary, policy and community partnerships influence things like curriculum, retention, human resource issues, morale, task and project completion, and the prevention or resolution of conflicts. For that matter, my Ph.D. is in the Study of Higher Education with a focus on organization and governance as well as socialization within the academic disciplines.

My interest in serving as Chair of the **Instruction and Student Affairs Committee** arises from 20 years in Student Affairs Administration, including as Vice President for Student Affairs here at SJSU and in similar roles at universities in the U.S. and Canada. The majority of my career as both an administrator and faculty member over nearly 25 years has focused on issues of recruitment, admission, retention equity and campus life issues. I teach graduate courses focused on these issues as well for emerging Student Affairs practitioners. Another strong attraction I have to service as ISA Chair is that this Committee has faculty, staff and students all working together as members. This makes ISA a particularly important venue for deliberating and building capacity for issues that animate learning and development here at SJSU. I have positive rapport with all three constituencies and so it would be an enjoyable and beneficial collaboration. Also, during the last four years, my research has focused on sexual consent among college students, and much of my scholarship and teaching also relates to identity and diversity issues. These are obviously key issues affecting climate, retention and student success, and it would be very gratifying to collaborate with Committee members to build further capacity for student support at SJSU.

In terms of the **Faculty-At-Large** position, this too is a very compelling opportunity to advocate for the interests of the people who develop, shepherd and deliver the academic curricula that are core to the university's business. As I

shared, my Ph.D. is focused on Higher Education, particularly in terms of Administration and Organization, and Professional Socialization into the Disciplines. In fact, one of my professors and chair of my dissertation committee was Gary Rhoades, who some of you know served as General Secretary of the AAUP. My experience on the Board of Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility, including as its Chair, has also helped me to appreciate the challenges and opportunities faced by faculty in serving students as their teachers. I also serve on the CFA's Faculty Rights Committee and work collaboratively on many projects, professional activities and scholarly research and publications with faculty at SJSU, nationally and internationally.

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