

## **Statement of Interest for Vice-Chair**

### **Prof. Stacy Gleixner, Biomedical, Chemical and Materials Engineering**

I am running for Vice-Chair of the Senate because I passionately believe in the Senate and believe that leading it is one way that I can help to make a difference at SJSU. Like most of us, I am part of SJSU because I strongly believe in the mission of our University. I am proud of the role I play in the lives of our students and their subsequent impact on Si Valley and the world beyond. However, we all know that providing the best for our students is a challenge, with new barriers seeming to arise every day. The Senate has been a strong voice for keeping SJSU and our resources focused on students. I want to lead the Senate to continue the good work the Senate is known for as well as to enhance our reputation on campus as a body through which positive change on campus is accomplished.

The Senate plays a critical role in ensuring our campus resources are allocated in alliance with our mission. This includes working with the University community to innovate effective curriculum and co-curricular learning activities for students. The Senate helps to ensure the University is investing in faculty development, recruitment, and support to guarantee long term quality in teaching, research, scholarship, and creative activity. It is also important that the Senate works to identify and reduce barriers to student success and strive to maintain access to our institution while balancing a quality education for current and future students.

These are lofty objectives and to impact change in these areas the Senate needs to focus on both thinking deeply and acting efficiently. Thinking deeply on issues means embracing an educated debate: actively bringing together all perspectives on an issue and facilitating an exchange of ideas around these perspectives. Acting efficiently means that these perspectives and debates needed to be consolidated into an action that can impact change (typically a University policy). The action should address all the perspectives in a way that the compromises made are understood and respected. The role of the Senate chair is to to mediate two way communication: ensure the Senate's voice and perspective is heard on key issues on campus as well as to ensure that the key voices are heard by the Senate.

Embedded in this is some day to day logistics. This is an area I would like to begin working on in my role as Vice-Chair. Past Senate chairs have begun initiatives of educational outreach to the campus (what the Senate is and what we do) as well as ways to improve communication amongst Senators and the flow of our monthly meetings. In my role as Vice Chair, I would like to begin working on these issues as the Senate Chair is busy with the more

pressing demands of dealing with issues. As Vice Chair, I will work, in collaboration with Chair Heiden, to reach out to the broader campus community with a marketing campaign about what the Senate is and our need to hear their issues and perspectives. I will also test and assess different means of electronic communication between Senators. Some of these have been tried briefly in the past but I think the time has come when the technology finally meets our needs and can provide a way to reduce the time during our monthly meetings spent answering questions and editing grammar while balancing not adding significant workload to the Senators.

In conclusion, to lead the Senate, it takes a person who is very organized, approachable, willing to seek out and listen to the opinion others, able to facilitate dialogues between different groups to build consensus, and ultimately able to make decisions and clearly articulate the rationale behind those decisions. I feel that I have shown these qualities in my position as ISA chair for three years as well as in multiple other roles I have had in service to the University. I am associate chair of my department and graduate coordinator. I have also served as an undergraduate advisor in the past. This has given me the perspective to fully understand the needs of both undergraduate and graduate students. I am also director of an SJSU organized research unit, the Microscale Process Engineering Center. As director, I have had extensive experience in listening and organizing as I keep all of the multi-disciplinary faculty users in contact and working together towards the common goal of the Center. I am also on the Student Union Board of Directors. Past University service I have been involved in include the Search Committees for Provost and COE Dean, the Resource Review Board, the ACE/Sloan Family Friendly initiative, and University committees for the Science GE Advisory Panel, Graduate Studies and Research, Organization and Government, and Student Success. I was awarded the 2010 College of Engineering Award for Excellence in Service. I look forward to leading the Senate to be a strong advocate for students and a strong voice for strengthening SJSU.