

## Statement of interest for the position of Chair, Organization and Government

By Karthika Sasikumar

I am pleased to put forward my candidacy for the election of Chair of the Organization and Government Committee. I am a Professor (and Vice-Chair) in the Political Science Department, and have been a member of the Academic Senate since February 2020. I began serving on the Organization and Government Committee at this time. Although my time on the Committee has been short, I have worked hard to learn about the committee's role and responsibilities, and I am convinced that the committee is key to the shared governance that we are justly proud of at SJSU. I would love to have the chance to contribute to this committee as well as the Executive Committee.

Prior to becoming a senator, I had the opportunity of serving on several other university-level committees. As a former international student and immigrant to the United States, I have been particularly interested in international education. I became a member, and then chair, of the International Programs and Students Committee in 2011 and served for three years. I was also on the search committee for the Dean for what was then the College of International and Extended Studies. I am currently a member of the International House Advisory Board. In Fall 2017, I joined the University Library Board where I was pleased to be able to advocate for library funding, and to push for open access and reduced-fee access to published research. I have been active in library forums and initiatives, such as the Affordable Learning Solutions program.

Being part of the Senate has been an eye-opening experience, and I am enthusiastic about continuing the tradition of shared governance at SJSU. In my first month as Senator, I was able to co-sponsor a Sense of the Senate Resolution, which advocated for reducing the burden of assessing General Education and Program Learning outcomes during the disrupted Spring 2020 semester. If elected to the Chair position, I would use the opportunity to learn more about Senate leadership and the Executive Committee. Past chairs of Organization and Government have established a tradition of service to the Senate and the larger university committee, by crafting and clarifying rules for Senate activity and policy, and I hope to contribute to upholding that tradition.