

Statement of interest for Faculty-at-Large position

By Karthika Sasikumar

I would very much like to serve as Faculty-at-Large on the Executive 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 tenure has been short, I have tried to learn as much as possible about the working of the Senate and its committees.

I have had the opportunity of serving on several other university-level committees. Since I joined SJSU in Fall 2009, I have taken the opportunity that the university's culture offers to faculty at all levels to participate in shared governance. 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 At-Large position, I would use the opportunity to learn more about Senate leadership and the Executive Committee. I would welcome the opportunity to return to the University Library Board, as it goes through a period of transition to supporting online learning.