

AGENDA

Academic Senate – Executive Committee
August 31, 2020 12:00- 1:30 pm, Via Zoom:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/99226009481?pwd=K1RackhOdjlpb3RGdTJZZmtwS1BLQT09>

Note: Password to meeting sent via calendar invite.

1. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Meeting minutes of August 24, 2020
 - b. Consent Calendar
2. President's Update
3. Suspension of [Senate Standing Rule 17.G](#) (remote attendance of Executive Committee, Senate Meetings, and Committee Meetings)
4. Policy Committee Updates
 - a. Curriculum & Research
 - b. Organization & Government
 - c. Instruction & Student Affairs
 - d. Professional Standards
5. University Updates
 - a. Chief Diversity Officer
 - b. Provost and Senior Vice President
 - c. Statewide Senate
 - d. VP Administration and Finance
 - e. Associated Students President
 - f. VP Student Affairs

Executive Committee Minutes
August 31, 2020
via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present: Curry, Day, Del Casino, Delgadillo, Faas, Frazier, Marachi, Mathur, McKee, Peter, Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, White, Papazian

Absent: Faas, Wong(Lau)

1. Chair Mathur announced that she had approve some editorial changes to seats such as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education. Chair Mathur, AVC Marachi, and the Senate Administrator are working through the changes being careful to see that only those changes that are merely a title change and not a position change are made without a referral to the Organization and Government Committee. However, there are additional changes like this nearly every day and it takes time.

Questions:

Q: What about developing a checklist for these type of changes that could be automatically sent to the Senate when they occur?

C: The Committee on Committees is working on incorporating some processes.

A: The Senate Chair and AVC are working with the VP of Strategy and Chief of Staff on reviewing the requested changes to ensure only titles are changed.

2. The Executive Committee approved the minutes of August 24, 2020 (11-0-0).
3. There was no dissent to the Consent Calendar of August 31, 2020.
4. The Executive Committee, acting in absence of the Academic Senate, approved the appointment of Dr. Nancy Dudley as a one semester replacement from the College of Health and Human Sciences for Dr. Winifred Schultz-Krohn on the Senate and the Curriculum and Research Committee (11-0-0).

Questions:

Q: When can the Professional Standards Committee expect to have the position for the Deputy Provost changed to the Vice Provost for Faculty Success?

A: The Organization and Government Committee has already drafted a Senate Management Resolution to bring to the Senate on September 14, 2020.

5. President's Update:
It has been a rocky start to the semester with the fires. SJSU has reached out to UC Santa Cruz and we now have about 50 of their students and some of their staff in our residence halls. People do not know what they may be going back to.

There are ongoing discussions about the spring semester. We do not know if a vaccine will become available and if people will take it. The President's best guess is that spring will resemble fall. It will most likely be several years before we are close to anything normal.

The governor has signed AB 1460. There is an aggressive timetable to enact the Title V changes. The president did raise the question with the Chancellor about why the classes had to be in area D. We may look at cross listing some classes. One strength we have is that we have continued to hire Ethnic Studies professors.

The president's Community Policing and Safety Committee will have about 12 people and will begin meetings this fall. They will work on coming up with recommendations for the campus by spring. The President will announce the committee to the campus next week.

The president's office has finished the application review for the Director of Advocacy and Racial Justice position in the President's Office. There is one additional Equity Trainer position that will be out of the Chief Diversity Officer's Office.

A big issue with the budget has been the decrease in housing revenue. This semester we only have 25% of our normal occupancy. Many other institutions have already given layoff notices. The president has been given authority for layoffs. However, we are not doing layoffs this year. We are relying on reserves. We will have to see what happens with the federal funding next year.

Questions:

Q: Are we thinking of trying to open the campus back up during spring semester, because trying to transition back would be very difficult?

A: We should plan on still being primarily online through spring.

C: Our strength this semester was that we announced things early. We should plan on a schedule that looks a lot like fall for spring. We might think about possibly having some 7 ½ week courses in late spring on campus depending on what occurs, but you should plan on mostly online.

Q: Does the no layoffs mean we won't be having fewer classes and laying off lecturers?

A: Our student numbers are pretty good, but have shifted. We have more transfer students, but fewer graduate students. Our enrollment is about 2% above last year. Students need to be able to made academic progress. However, there may be places where we need fewer classes and others where we need more.

Q: Is anyone addressing burnout in the staff? For instance, the staff in Student Affairs worked all summer long. Faculty are feeling very tired in this second week of classes.

A: The administration discusses this frequently and University Personnel has taken up wellness. The administration faces this as well. No one is taking vacations, because there is nowhere to go. We encourage people to take long weekends or days here and there. This will only get worse with school starting and children being at home. The provost said it best when he said we all need to be kind to each other and remember you don't know the pressures or issues someone may be facing at home

C: Thank you for that answer. Along those lines, if there is any way the administration could find a way to assist the staff by alleviating some of that pressure it would go a long way. For example, the Senate Administrator must work without a student this semester. The Senate Administrator is the only staff member in the Senate Office and now every appointment letter and every website change along with minutes and other duties must be completed by one person. Having a student assistant would go a long way in alleviating some of that stress.

C: We are seeing this burnout in faculty and staff across divisions as well as Zoom fatigue in students.

Q: Will commencement be virtual again this year?

A: The president does not see any way that commencement can be in person in December 2020. We do not know yet about spring.

6. Chair Mathur presented a motion to suspend Standing Rule 17g for an indefinite date until the campus is safe again for in-person meetings. The Executive Committee acting as the Academic Senate approved the motion (13-0-0). We will ask the Senate to suspend this standing rule in our first meeting of the semester.

7. Policy Committee Updates:

- a. **Curriculum and Research Committee (CR):**

- C&R is working on curriculum reviews and a first-year experience policy.

- C&R is continuing general education discussions while awaiting for guidance from the chancellor on Ethnic Studies and will probably bring something to the Senate in October or November.

- C&R is working on a curriculum policy in general, and reviewing all old policies from the 60's to

see if they are still needed and current, or need to be rescinded.

b. Organization and Government Committee (O&G):

O&G has completed four Senate Management Resolutions in their first meeting to bring to the Senate at the September 14, 2020 Senate meeting.

c. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA):

A waiver went out regarding internships that did not read very friendly. I&SA is looking into this.

I&SA is working on updating the Academic Integrity policy.

I&SA has encountered some push back on a wait list policy suggesting it is a procedure and should not be policy. However there are key principles that should be addressed via policy.

Questions:

C: Students used to have to get an add code from their professor. This allowed faculty the time to reach out and help the student catch up with missed material. Now we have no say in this process, and we don't know who is added when (and thus outreach is more difficult and students will start off behind in the course).

d. Professional Standards Committee (PS):

The amendment to the RTP policy has changed quite a bit since Chair Peter brought it to the Executive Committee in June 2020. Although a memo was suggested, a memo has no force behind it and PS feels it could be seen as only a suggestion.

PS is working on policy related to SOTE reviews for classes that were moved online. Many faculty feel it is unfair to be evaluated on courses that were never intended to be taught online. However, other faculty would like to be evaluated. Chair Peter reminded everyone that SERB handles anything related to SOTES.

PS will be discussing guidelines for external reviews.

PS will also be asking the Board of Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility to review and possibly adopt the Academic Freedom Statement from the University of Chicago. The University of Chicago is the gold standard in Academic Freedom.

Questions:

Q: Many faculty taught in a compressed schedule over the summer. Will the SOTES policy be inclusive of summer?

A: We will take that up today. Departments decided whether to do SOTES over the summer and some did not consult with their faculty.

Q: The University of Chicago Academic Freedom statement is more on inquiry have you discussed freedom of expression issues?

A: Not yet, but the Board of Academic Freedom should be consulted first. We have an obligation to ensure many voices are heard at the university.

e. CSU Statewide Representative:

There are two main issues at the ASCSU. The first is AB 1460. The Council of Ethnic Studies has said that campuses need to go through their Senates.

There are many questions regarding spring. As the president said, this may come in September.

f. AS President:

AS has been developing a COVID-19 return to campus plan.

Online order forms for course readers are on the website.

AS has added a marketing feature to the website.

The AS events team held their first meeting on September 3, 2020. There are 50 students registered.

AS is currently undergoing a department audit.

An issue has come up regarding inappropriate Zoom etiquette. It has been reported and is being dealt with.

Question:

Q: Is there a rise in inappropriate Zoom etiquette?

A: There is no rise in behavior, but it is an extension of the electronic culture. This particular student will face expulsion.

g. **Vice President for Student Affairs:**

Last Wednesday was the first in the Spartan Speaker Series. It was a great success. There were 600 attendees.

The VPSA will in the next month or so brief the Executive Committee on enrollment and future plans.

Regarding the COVID-19 cases and Greek life, they have been given direct orders on procedures from the county.

Questions:

C: It is important for frosh to get connected to student organizations especially now. Is there a process to follow-up on students?

A: Students are getting an orientation leader that stays with them. There are also about 800 students in the residence halls. We are finding where our gaps are.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

These minutes were taken and transcribed by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, on August 31, 2020. The minutes were reviewed by Chair Mathur on September 1, 2020. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on September 21, 2020.