

# AGENDA

**Academic Senate – Executive Committee**  
**September 21, 2020 12:00- 1:30 pm, Via Zoom:**

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/96185840572?pwd=VkV4bUNIZVVjN2ZzdC9ObjgveGdEZz09>

Note: Password to meeting sent via calendar invite.

1. Approval of the agenda
  - a. Meeting minutes of August 31, 2020
  - b. Consent Calendar
2. Statements for Review (Committee Seats)
3. President's Update
4. Executive Committee Discussion/Action Item: Sense of the Senate Resolution, *Honoring SJSU History: 150 Years in San José to be Celebrated OCTOBER 20, 2020 as "HERITAGE DAY"*
5. Update: General Education, Area F, Ethnic Studies Requirement
6. University Updates
  - a. VP Student Affairs
  - b. Chief Diversity Officer
  - c. Provost and Senior Vice President
  - d. Statewide Senate
  - e. VP Administration and Finance
  - f. Associated Students President
7. Policy Committee Updates
  - a. Professional Standards
  - b. Curriculum & Research
  - c. Organization & Government
  - d. Instruction & Student Affairs

**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

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

Absent: Faas, Sullivan-Green

1. Chair's Update:

Chair Mathur acknowledged the passing of Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg. She also acknowledged September 21<sup>st</sup> is the United Nations' International Day of Peace, with non-violent observation and cease fires across the world. Chair Mathur announced that VP Faas had been called away for last minute business and would not be joining the meeting today. IS&A Chair Sullivan-Green has a family emergency.

2. Approval of Executive Committee Agenda of September 21, 2020 [Executive Committee Agenda of September 21, 2020, Executive Committee Minutes of August 31, 2020, Consent Calendar of September 21, 2020] (13-0-0).

3. The Executive Committee discussed statements of interest for the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC). A motion was made to approve Dr. Sumita Rashuram for a one semester appointment. The motion was seconded. The Executive Committee voted and the appointment was approved (13-0-0).

4. The Executive Committee discussed statements of interest for the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC). A motion was made to approve the appointment of Alaka Rao to the Business seat. The motion was seconded. The Executive Committee voted and the appointment was approved (13-0-0).

The Executive discussed and approved the appointments of Marjan Madadi, Leslye Tinson, and Ruma Chopra to the three GE Area Representative seats. A motion was made and seconded to stagger the terms. The Executive Committee voted and both motions were approved (13-0-0).

5. President's Update:

The President thanked Chair Mathur for her comments regarding the passing of Justice Bader-Ginsburg. Her work and advocacy changed the trajectory of many people's lives especially in terms of gender equity.

The President signed 3 of the 4 policies sent to her after the Senate meeting on September 14, 2020, including the RTP disaster amendment. However, the president will not be signing the SOTE policy.

We should plan on the Spring 2021 term looking much the same as the Fall 2020 semester.

As far as COVID-19 and health and safety on campus, the density of students and employees on campus is pretty low and we are safely within the county limits.

There will be an announcement this week about the Chancellor-elect. This announcement will be made during the Board of Trustees meeting coming up this week.

Questions:

Q: Thank you for signing the RTP disaster amendment. Will you be declaring a disaster now?

A: Yes, and a memo will go into the files.

Q: Regarding the article on Athletics, are the students who expressed the initial concerns as well as

the students today being supported in terms of whistleblowing? Are there transparent ways for athletes to report incidents/concerns safely?

A: The President authorized a new investigation at the Chancellor's Office level. SJSU is not conducting the investigation. There is no retaliation by anyone. Five separate investigations have been launched with no findings of wrongdoing on our part. The students, staff, etc. have all been contacted and interviewed again as part of the Title IX investigation that has also been moved to the Chancellor's Office. There were four other reports outsourced to other entities to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. There are some good recommendations for better ways to do things that we will be looking into. The President urged committee members to be careful when reading articles about someone who has a reason not to be happy with SJSU.

Q: There is a rumor that Marna Genes is leaving SJSU. The VP of Finance needs a good partner in that position during uncertain financial times. Can you confirm this?

A: The President will not comment on a rumor. However, if she were to leave there would be prep for a smooth and responsible transition. The university would seek to fill that role as soon as possible.

6. Senator Julia Curry presented a Sense of the Senate Resolution, Honoring SJSU History: 150 Years in San José to be Celebrated October 20, 2020 as "Heritage Day." The resolution will come from the Executive Committee to the full Senate at the October 12, 2020 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. The committee voted and the motion passed unanimously (13-0-0).

7. General Education Updates:

Chair Mathur, Provost Del Casino, and Chair of the Curriculum and Research Committee, Brandon White, discussed an amendment to the GE policy that would establish Area F, Ethnic Studies, and at the same time reduce Area D by three units. Guidelines and timelines coming from the Chancellor's office is driving the need for this amendment. The five learning objectives have already been established by the ASCSU. However, they are unclear how detailed the Executive Order is going to be when it comes to Ethnic Studies, including who will be qualified to teach and how many students can be in each class. We will not be able to get through everything by the December deadline. The plan is to bring a skeleton policy for a final reading on October 12, 2020. We have to ensure the catalog rights of our students according to law, which is silent about who can teach these classes. Our campus must ensure we have GE guidelines for Area F. According to Title V, we must reduce Area D, and the Chancellor's Office will enforce staying within the 120 units. This is not as much of a big deal as it is for some other campuses, such as Maritime, that have zero classes. If we don't ensure the catalog rights, we can't meet future graduation mandates. We need to provide a guaranteed course in our catalog to frosh entering in Fall 2021. Courses will likely be cross-listed with the Ethnic Studies prefix.

Questions:

C: Chair White's skeletal policy that leaves all controversies for a future time is probably the best we can do with the deadline. We will all need to think carefully in stage 2. There will be controversy over the qualifications. If we start scrutinizing the qualifications of one area, then we need to decide if we need to reevaluate all GE course teaching qualifications.

C: It was suggested that a course be established on how to teach in this area. Agreed, this will be a tension point. The question is who will make that decision. We may need a coordinator analogous to our Writing Across the Curriculum coordinator.

C: We are encouraging people to think outside of the box on ways to handle this.

C: It is erroneous for us to think that Ethnic Studies folks were talking about the importance of Ph.D.'s. The Ethnic Studies expertise comes in the teaching and training of Ethnic Studies, not degrees. Only a few campuses have lots of Ph.D.'s in this area. For instance, the expertise in Chicano/Chicano Studies is very diverse.

C: The argument is over. If we ignore the politics of all this and move forward, this could be really interesting and exciting. We have to think about how to implement this. There may be a shift in resources and an intellectual impact on social science teaching.

C: SJSU was the place to go because of EOP in the 1950's. We can get back to the days and time when SJSU was the place to go. This is a historic resolution and we should be excited, despite the interference of the legislature.

C: This will be a daunting task for next year. We will have ongoing conversations.

8. Updates from Policy Committee Chairs and Administrators:

a. Vice President for Student Affairs (VP SA):

As of the Census date, we have 32,935 students. Last year we had 33,282. There were a good number of students that missed the final payment (up from 4% last year to 8% this year), so this is a concern and it crossed all student class levels. All things considered, we are doing pretty well.

Questions:

Q: When students were dropped due to non-payment and then asked to fill out paperwork via DocuSign. Many students don't know much about DocuSign. My students were emailing me about what the process was?

A: We are aware of the issue. We will be looking at the whole process.

Q: There is a lot of concern about food and housing insecurity for students. What is the status on campus?

A: This is the same thing we've been dealing with for several years. We still have the campus pantry. We also have SJSU Cares that can help with grants for on and off campus housing. We have already done a lot of work on our campus with regard to these issues. Many campuses are not where we are at.

b. Chief Diversity Officer:

The CDO has been working with Maggie Barrera, Vice Provost for Student Success, on RTP training regarding how bias enters into ways in which people evaluate portfolios.

There is concern about the days immediately before and the two weeks following the elections. The CDO is pulling together a team of people to provide support. We want everyone to feel safe.

Questions:

Q: It is exciting to hear about the RTP guidelines and bias guidance. Regarding the messaging sent about Tapas Talks on Black Lives Matter via email from AVP Stacks, none of those listed for presentations were from our Black faculty and the presentations don't center on BLM. Is your office being consulted? We should be consulting with our Black faculty. Then the title was changed and that felt like a further erasure to some Black faculty.

A: The CDO's Office received emails and consulted with AVP Stacks. There was an effort to reach out and extensive recruiting, but submissions were not from key Black faculty. Therefore, the announcement didn't match the submissions. We need to centralize leadership and decision making among Black faculty. This wasn't done and we need to learn. We consulted key members of the Black faculty over the weekend. We will reframe the Tapas Talks next time around and look forward to Black Lives Matter talks. AVP Stacks was very concerned about this. We need to centralize the programming in one office.

c. From the Associated Students President:

AS has been working on voter registration. AS is also working hard to ensure the Child Development Center is following all health and safety guidelines. AS staff will incorporate anti-bias, identity, and diversity training.

- d. From the CSU Statewide Representative:  
There were two resolutions during plenary. The first was on competencies and the second was about funding to implement the Ethnic Studies requirement.

Another resolution was discussed on suspension of peer evaluations and SOTES for 2020-2021. It was disappointing to hear President Papazian does not support that resolution on our campus. Many faculty feel there are inequities between online and in-person classes.

There will be an election for a new faculty trustee coming up. Romey Sabalius intends to run for another term.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

These minutes were taken and transcribed by the Senate Administrator on September 21, 2020. The minutes were reviewed by Chair Mathur on September 23, 2020. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on October 5, 2020.