

AGENDA

Academic Senate – Executive Committee
October 19, 2020 12:00- 1:30 pm, Via Zoom:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/94852508210?pwd=K0FUSHhFVGdDNjdFUArWWNsN3Vsdz09>

Note: Password to meeting sent via calendar invite.

1. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Meeting minutes of October 5, 2020
 - b. Consent Calendar
2. President's Update
3. Curriculum and Research Discussion Item: [S08-3, Incorporating Accessibility into the Curriculum Review Process](#)
4. University Updates
 - a. Provost and Senior Vice President
 - b. Statewide Senate
 - c. VP Administration and Finance
 - d. Associated Students President
 - e. VP Student Affairs
 - f. Chief Diversity Officer
5. Policy Committee Updates
 - a. Organization & Government
 - b. Instruction & Student Affairs
 - c. Professional Standards
 - d. Curriculum & Research

Executive Committee Minutes
October 19, 2020
via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present: Curry, Day, Del Casino, Delgadillo, Faas, Marachi, Mathur, McKee, Peter, Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, White, Papazian, Wong(Lau)

Absent: Frazier

1. From the Chair:

Chair Mathur expressed her gratitude to the committee for their continued work and support to faculty, students, staff and to each other during the first two months of this intense fall semester.

Chair Mathur met with some members of the Ethnic Studies Collaborative to discuss AB1460 implementation.

2. Approval of Executive Committee Agenda of October 19, 2020 [Executive Committee Minutes of October 5, 2020, Consent Calendar of October 19, 2020] (14-0-0).

3. From the President:

The President thanked the faculty for the update on senate outreach regarding the Ethnic Studies requirement.

President Papazian expressed concern for the people of Armenia with all the bombing and deaths. Flights have been stopped as well. There is also the potential for violence with other surrounding countries.

Santa Clara County has moved from Red to Orange. Classes will continue mostly as they are, but we will be able to open up more faculty and students to continue their research activities.

COVID-19 cases come up from time to time, but not many. We are keeping a close eye on the residence halls as students come and go.

Questions:

Q: What is the status of the recent SOTES policy amendment?

A: As I have indicated, I am returning this amendment. We really need to ensure that students should be able to provide feedback. The discussion on the senate floor indicated that students also wanted to ensure that their evaluations are heard by the faculty.

4. Chair White discussed an update to the university accessibility policy that the C&R Committee is working on regarding, *Incorporating Accessibility into the Curriculum*. C&R has been working on this policy for four semesters. Vice Provost Thalia

Anagnos is concerned about putting a funding mandate into the policy, but it was noted in the CSU Executive Order that campuses are required to provide resources around accessibility. C&R may bring to the November Senate meeting for a first reading.

Questions:

Q: What is the purpose of this policy?

A: The Executive Order says we need a policy on operational needs, who is responsible, and how to ensure it gets done. We know there are classes right now that are not accessible. Chico State has some webpages on accessibility and one in particular on pending lawsuits due to accessibility. We need to ensure we are making our classes accessible to our students.

Q: Is Accessible Education Center (AEC) involved?

A: No, they need to be involved, but we didn't put that in policy. With AEC a student must self-identify. The classes need to be accessible whether or not the student self identifies.

C: AEC can tell you how this needs to be done. Cindy Marota would be the person to contact.

C: There is a gap between what faculty know and what technology is available out there, and what needs to be accessible. The Center for Faculty Development has lots of resources online.

C: This policy should actually be stronger and if we have to pay for it we will find money. However, we need to think about Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in our Canvas courses. Based on what has happened in the last eight months, we are in a better position to do this. We have mandatory training which covers tenure and tenure-track faculty, but we would have to look at training for lecturers. We could bring trainers onboard.

C: C&R talked a lot about Learning Management System (LMS) and textbooks. We do have a textbook resolution that is pretty clear. We weren't sure you could force faculty to use LMS. We can reach out to the union. There may be an issue with academic freedom. Faculty feel like there are no resources and they don't know how to fix things. They don't want to be told they have to do something totally different after investing so much time in it.

C: We could say the LMS is the only space we will support in terms of accessibility. This is a big problem. It is almost impossible to meet 100%. The Center for Faculty Development Center and eCampus must grow. The Provost is willing to tackle this head on. Let's figure it out. Maybe it is as simple as restating what the Executive Order says.

C: In my methods class, the Center for Faculty Development has been my best friend. Also, they have assisted me in transferring from microcassette to digital which is extremely time-consuming. Also, the library is where I used to get instruction, but

we don't have instruction at this library at this time.

C: I spent lots of time on this process. It would be good if RTP committees recognized this. There is also the temptation for faculty to purchase something off the shelf that is already accessible. We could hire UDL experts and that is a good idea. Just be sure they are aware of copyright laws.

C: There are alternative frameworks to UDL and some critics to this perspective.

C: I teach film and media. This can be very difficult. I once had a blind student approach me who wanted to attend a media history course. It was hard. I'm in the process of doing this right now.

5. University Updates:

a. **Provost:**

The Provost has received several interesting applications from individuals interested in serving on the Honors Taskforce. The taskforce will not have administrators. It will have faculty, staff, and students. Ruma Chopra will be chair.

C: The AB 1460 issue is in the Provost Office. We are in charge of the catalog and deadlines. The only way to get input is to send out a message, but it is a difficult process. Ethnic Studies people have to drive this bus. They must figure out what classes make sense. Unfortunately, the system is not trying to provide flexible options. The final Executive Order will probably not be much different from the draft.

The Provost has started his Podcast. It is called the *Accidental Geographer*. The Provost really enjoyed the time spent learning about our faculty and encouraged everyone to listen to the podcast.

Lastly, there will be two upcoming reviews and the Provost will be setting up review committees for Dean Walt Jacobs and Vice Provost Thalia Anagnos for the spring.

Questions:

Q: I'm a heavy user of Canvas and am concerned about academic freedom issues and the ability of outside vendors to collect information.

A: It would be hard for the university to support multiple things. Maybe we can have our web designers review prior to faculty launching on their website.

C: The Syllabus template makes it easy for faculty and is accessible. They don't have to use it, but if not they have to produce their own accessible syllabus.

C: If you could make it so easy for someone to use then they will use it. Students don't like having to pop into different systems. We did get feedback from students concerned about security with outside websites. There were concerns

about proctor review systems.

Q: What is the status of the CPGE review team?

A: We are looking for a second department chair and are having a problem getting a student.

b. CSU Statewide Senator:

Thank you President Papazian for sharing information about Armenia. We recognize people are experiencing lots of loss.

There is much discussion over AB 1460 in the ASCSU.

The ASCSU also discussed AS 3450, *Peer Observations of Instruction*. Faculty have a lot of anxiety still and wanted an extension of the suspension of SOTES and Peer Reviews through the end of the year. Senator Curry will send to President Papazian for her review. At SJSU, peer observations and SOTES were suspended for spring semester and pushed into fall. However, President Papazian noted that she has vetoed the policy that would have extended the suspension at SJSU through the fall. The RTP memo has been placed in range elevation packets and in dossiers.

It appears that area F courses must include the departments by name. Some CCC's have been told that Chicano/Chicanx departments don't meet the requirements.

c. Vice President for Administration and Finance (VPAF):

Questions:

We are preparing for the senate budget presentation and are meeting this week in the budget advisory committee to finalize some details.

Q: I understand that you hired a new bursar. Are there plans for streamlining how the Bursar's Office works?

A: There will be a lot better and more collaborative approach.

d. AS President:

AS is waiting for the permit approval to move back into the AS House. AS is hosting a virtual Harvest Festival. AS received a grant for the Child Development Center (CDC) of \$7,000 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

AS just hired a new Director of Business Affairs. AS has just established their Elections Committee.

AS just finished their annual financial audit. We are still waiting for the president to approve the AS operating agreement and budget.

Questions:

Q: I know you attended the California State Student Association (CSSA) meeting

this weekend, was there anything new?

A: Just the discussions about AB1460.

e. Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):

There has been some concern about new surges in COVID cases with winter coming. Since March we have had 51 cases. As we go into the flu season, we will ramp up testing and flu vaccinations. Students will be tested before they can move back into the residence halls and will continue to be tested throughout the semester. There is a website that points to election programming for students [posted in chat: <https://www.sjsu.edu/getinvolved/campus-events/election-programming.php>].

f. Chief Diversity Officer (CDO):

The CDO is working with University Personnel to train MPPs on building anti-racist offices and practices.

Vice President Day and the CDO will be working with students and employees who will establish pre- and post-election workshops, such as how to handle disruptions in the classroom, the red folder, and other similar workshops. Empathia will provide drop in sessions for employees. An announcement will come out with a link to the website. UPD will also be working with the committee regarding safety for employees and students pre- and post-election.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

These minutes were taken and transcribed by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, on October 19, 2020. The minutes were reviewed by Chair Mathur on October 26, 2020. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on November 2, 2020.