

Executive Committee Minutes
October 3, 2022
12 - 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Alison McKee (Chair), Rachael French, Priya Raman, Karthika Sasikumar, Reiko Kataoka, Laura Sullivan-Green, Tabitha Hart, Steve Perez, Charlie Faas, Marie Haverfield, Kathy Wong(Lau), Julia Curry, Nina Chuang, Patrick Day

Absent: Vincent Del Casino

Recorder: Eva Joice, Senate Administrator

1. The committee approved the consent agenda (Executive Committee Agenda of October 3, 2022, Executive Committee Minutes of September 19, 2022, Consent Calendar of October 3, 2022) (10-0-2).
2. The Senate Administrator reported that the COSS Special Election conducted last month had failed to receive any nominations. This resulted in the enactment of Senate bylaw 1.6.2.4 requiring the Executive Committee to appoint a person from that constituency for one year after consultation with the Senators from that constituency. Chair McKee consulted with the Senators from the COSS and only one nomination was received from Associate Professor Felipe Gomez. Chair McKee confirmed that Associate Professor Felipe Gomez could make the meetings and was willing to serve. Senator Sullivan-Green presented a motion to approve the appointment of Associate Professor Felipe Gomez for one year as a Senator from the College of Social Sciences. The motion was seconded by Senator Haverfield. The Executive Committee voted and the motion passed (13-0-1).
3. Update from the Interim President:
Interim President Perez announced he will be putting together a committee that will select people to be nominated for Honorary Doctoral Degrees. Our deadline to have our recommendations to the Chancellor's Office is November 30, 2022. Interim President Perez requested that the Executive Committee provide him with two faculty members to serve on the committee by next Monday.

The Interim President announced that he would be creating a Committee reporting jointly to him and the Senate on Bullying.

Interim President Perez noted that a site visit in early August by Cozen-O'Connor was the result of a Title IX statewide audit and CSU system-wide assessment. The Interim President will do an outreach to the campus community explaining the purpose of their visit.

Questions:

C: The Department of Justice (DOJ) will accept appointments with anyone that wants to talk to them.

4. University Updates:
 - a. Update from the AS President:

The AS President announced several events this month including:

Legacy month celebration on October 6, 2022.

Dolores Huerta will be a speaker on October 11, 2022.

Continuing the Smith and Carlos Legacy on October 13, 2022.

Days of Remembrance will be held on February 17 and 19, 2023.

Over 100 students attended the Harvest Festival movie on the lawn. Students are really engaged on campus this semester.

The AS President has a meeting in Japantown where she is continuing to work with the local community. It has been very rewarding.

Questions:

C: You are a great role model and we really appreciate your outreach to the community.

b. Update from the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO):

A message has been sent out about global and local events related to the key crises around the world. The CDO is trying to set the tone for people to talk to each other. People may need help but are not showing it or asking for help. Many people have contacted the CDO and there is lots of stress over the mass protests in Iran. It might be helpful to put together a program with messages that go out, or forums to discuss the issues. People are grateful they can connect on campus.

The CDO will be establishing the Intergroup Dialogue Group. She has been receiving some thoughtful applications. The goal is to start next month.

The CDO will be attending a conference at San Diego State University for all diversity officers with a few staff on burnout in diversity workers

Questions:

Q: Will the Intergroup Dialogue continue with a new dialogue next semester in case someone wanted to join but does not hear about it in time?

A: [CDO] We can only do one per year.

C: The AS President offered to help with supporting students that are concerned about family members in other countries in any way they can.

Q: Have you received any feedback from people feeling stress from working in diversity positions?

A: [CDO] There are many people that work in diversity positions that aren't a part of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI). Burnout is magnified for those workers that are underrepresented. There is a lot of concern about the revolving door of university diversity officers.

Q: So much of what you have said resonates with COVID-related stress for faculty, staff, and students. What are we doing to address this?

A: The InterGroup Dialogue gives us a place to have SJSU community conversations. If you know someone we should reach out to, send me their names. In terms of something more global, the President has talked about campus resources.

C: As someone that works with undocumented students, I can tell you we must not mention names. It is dangerous for them. Last week we had a banned books conversation. Many of those that spoke up said as people of color books were banned from them. A human rights presenter noted that visits to the border have shown that many of the people detained at the border are young children, and it is heartbreaking.

C: In my culture, when a person is in crisis we bring food. I have often noticed that having food at events on campus helps to break the ice and gets people talking.

C: [Interim President Perez] If you are hearing from people that need to reach out to someone, that is what the CDO meant about obtaining names. If we know who needs support we can discreetly reach out.

c. Update from the CSU Statewide Senator:

This Friday we will attend our interim committee meetings to discuss resolutions.

At the last meeting I forgot to report that I had been elected to be a member of the Faculty Trustee Search Committee.

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

We have our normal year-end audits for the campus and our auxiliaries. In addition, we also had Chancellor's Office audits such as the Vendor Administration/Payroll, the Student Health Center, and IT Decentralized Computing that we have already occurred, we have had another CO audit on campus, Athletics Administration, which is going on right now. In late fall, we will have additional State audits such as Title IX, and Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Questions:

Q: We are having severe delays in our research program in Civil and Environmental Engineering. I know you are short-staffed in FD&O. However, we are trying to get our junior faculty to be Research Scholarship and Creative Activity (RSCA)-active. One particular problem is the building code. FD&O doesn't seem to know how to read it. For instance, they say they can't build a tent in the courtyard to shelter our students.

A: [VP Faas] The Engineering Courtyard is a wreck. There are cars coming in and out of there. I spoke with the dean about this. We have to find another spot for the safety of our students.

Q: This is a replacement tent for one we had already gotten approval for that was already setup in the courtyard and got damaged.

A: [VP Faas] Please send me the information and I'll look into it.

Q: Are the audits you referred to financial audits?

A: [VP Faas] No. Not most of them.

Q: What is the scope of these audits? Who ordered them? Who are we talking to?

A: [Interim President Perez] These are audits from the California legislature and by the California State Auditor. California state audits are different. These audits were just passed and we are one of the first to be audited.

A: [VP Faas] There is a large NAGPRA audit of the UC right now that should end in November, and then ours will start.

A: [Interim President Perez] These are a result of legislation from the state.

e. Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):

We are at 97.8% of our enrollment target.

We are having many challenges keeping some of the students we have. Our Undergraduate (UG) Juniors are down 448, and our Seniors are down 815. Our AUL are down by .16 (FTES). This means the number of classes being taken is declining. There are lots of theories about why. We are getting new students.

Our Parent & Family Weekend is coming up this weekend. For more information go to: <https://www.sjsu.edu/newspartans/parents-and-families/parent-family-weekend.php>. We've had 1,100 parents and families talking about coming back for this. The campus has been much quieter, and much more predictable this semester.

Dolores Huerta will be the Spartan Speakers Series presenter on October 11, 2022.

Questions:

Q: Are we capturing data on why students are not returning? I worked with an international senior last year via Zoom, and there were bodies being removed from his home due to COVID, literally as we spoke.. All I could do was be there for him remotely. He did come back.

A: We do have students return due to our re-enrollment campaign. I think the issue is more complex, and maybe students are just moving to where the colleges are.

5. Updates from the Policy Committees:

a. From the Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R):

C&R is working on an amendment to University Policy F18-3 on the WST Elimination. C&R is also in the process of gathering information regarding AB 928. C&R has a referral on creating the Spatial Analytics and Visualization Institute (SAVY). C&R continues working on minor edits to assessment in the GE Guidelines.

b. Update from the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (ISA):

I&SA is working on a referral, ISA-F21-1. I&SA is finishing work on two resolutions from last semester AS 1834 and AS 1835.

c. Update from the Professional Standards Committee (PS):

PS is working on amendments to the RTP guidelines. PS is also reviewing referrals on the Selection and Review of Department Chairs and one on the Board of Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility (BAFPR). In addition, PS is working on an amendment to University Policy F12-6.

Questions:

Q: Can you elaborate on the RTP Amendments?

A: The question is can we force a person to remove themselves from an RTP committee. Currently, our RTP policy states a person can remove themselves from an RTP committee due to a conflict of interest, but there is no provision for forcing the removal of a member due to conflicts of interest. Right now University Personnel and Faculty Affairs think they have the right, but there is nothing in the policy about it.

Q: This is a topic of great interest for faculty of color. In the past have you looked at bias on RTP committees?

A: There have been times when a biased person was on an RTP Committee and wasn't removed.

A: [Interim President Perez] Speaking neither for nor against, I highly suggest you contact other universities to see what they have done as this can get very tricky.

C: People are told not to make waves and if they do raise their voice they are looked at differently.

d. Update from the O&G Committee:

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) will present to O&G today regarding the referral to extend the term of the FAR.

The Senate Management Resolution on meeting modality will be finalized and brought to the full Senate meeting on October 10, 2022.

O&G has decided to hold off on doing anything further with the referral to add staff seats to the Senate pending the creation of a Special Committee to review Senate expansion.

Questions:

Q: In terms of holding off on staff seats, who will communicate this to the staff?

A: We are waiting for the Executive Committee to establish the Special Committee first.

C: [Chair McKee] There were two separate referrals. There was a specific referral to add staff to the Senate that went to O&G about a year ago and then the most recent referral from Senator Mathur on reviewing the full Senate for possible expansion. O&G has done such good preliminary work on the staff referral that Chair McKee and Chair Hart need to speak about this. Chair McKee would hate to stall the work on the staff referral any longer.

Questions:

Q: [CDO Wong(Lau)] I would just like to remind everyone that a lot of this came to the forefront as an issue due to the selection of the representatives for the Presidential Search Committee, which had only one staff member and only one member of color. In addition, with the current WASC recommendation the addition of staff seats is urgent.

C: The constitution of that committee wasn't up to us.

C: [Wong(Lau)] The few staff Senators that were considered were looked at as having more favor than other staff since faculty know them from the Senate. The only staff on the Senate are part of the General Unit and they represent only SSP III's and SSP IV's.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The minutes were edited by Chair McKee on October 18, 2022.

The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on October 31, 2022.