

**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**August 2, 2021**  
**via Zoom, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

Present: Cargill, Curry, Faas, Hart, Kaur, Massey, McKee (Chair), Papazian, Day,  
Del Casino, Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, White  
Absent: Mathur, Wong(Lau)

1. The Executive Committee approved the minutes of July 19, 2021 (7-0-3).

2. Update from the President:

We are trying to figure out what's going on with Santa Clara County. We aren't sure what the mask guidelines will be yet. We will follow what the county does. The county started changing direction a few weeks ago. We are also working through the process for vaccinations.

Questions:

Q: There are concerns from faculty that are teaching in-person or hybrid classes. First, they want to know if there are rules in place for social distancing on campus? Next, how is the university going to support faculty in the classroom if students won't wear masks and aren't vaccinated? This could be potentially difficult in a one-on-one situation. Can the university send out steps a faculty member should follow when confronted with these situations?

A: We are requiring vaccinations, so we will know who has an exemption in the classroom. The exemptions are a very small percentage of students. This is an endemic and we need to develop ways of living with it long-term. We can't always operate in crisis mode. Pfizer and Moderna are working to get approval for booster shots. However, our faculty, students, and staff are largely vaccinated, and you are about as safe as you can be in our environment. We will supply some FAQs.

C: [VP Day] Things can change rapidly. What I anticipate on the student conduct side is that we will see some violations in different categories, and we will have to address them. We will start with conversations with the student and then move on from there. We don't want faculty to become policemen. Faculty can fill out an online form and Student Affairs will contact the student. Repeated violations by the same person could result in the student no longer being able to be a part of the SJSU community.

C: [President] We will monitor this and if we start to see problems, we will see if it is the same student in multiple classes and address this.

C: [VP Day] We are only speaking about students here, but students could have the same issue with a faculty member.

Q: Who is communicating the information in the example you described?

A: We are talking about faculty in the classroom right now. If the faculty member isn't comfortable speaking with the student, then they will be able to go online and fill out a form and the staff of Student Affairs will contact the student and address the issues.

C: It would be very helpful to have lots of messaging about this and to have the protocols sent out to faculty and staff. It would also be good to have Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) not only on the website, but also sent out to faculty and staff. In addition, it would be great if we could have some visuals as far as videos promoting wearing masks that students see as they come into each building.

Q: I have had a couple of conversations with students that are tracking the information they have found online on the COVID-19 dashboard. This shows all the locations on campus where someone has tested positive for COVID-19.. Students want to know if someone with COVID-19 was in a particular place, should they not visit that place for two weeks? Hearing that question, I'm thinking as a faculty member, what if a student doesn't want to come to class because someone that tested positive was in the building or classroom? Do I have to teach them online if they don't want to come to class?

A: [VP Faas] If we are in class together and I sat in the row in front of you and I come down with COVID, you will be contacted. However, if I sat in the back of the classroom, there's no problem. Everything gets cleaned multiple times a day.

C: [VP Day] If a student has been exposed, there will be direct outreach.

Q: What I mean is, if the student is afraid to come to class, what do I do?

A: [Provost] The university is not going to ask you to teach them online if they refuse to come to class. Students get sick all the time. We don't yet know what this is going to look like. We will make sure our makeup process is clear. If a major outbreak happens, that will change the game again. If they choose not to come to class, then it would fall under the normal makeup procedures.

A: [VP Day] I will bring this up at our next cabinet meeting and we will get back to you.

C: [From the chat] What should be done about lab spaces where students are moving around all over the lab?

A: [Provost] We may revise our policy so that labs have additional time between them to allow for the recirculation of air. These kinds of things can help. We have to have some conversations to see if this is feasible. We are in a different place than we were three weeks ago.

Q: What about an instructor that decides they want to change their in-person class and suddenly go all online?

A: Faculty can't change their class in the middle of a semester to a different class modality on their own. There is always a faculty member somewhere that goes on catastrophic leave. We have most pieces in place already for students and faculty that must take leave. We would look to our standard policies regarding illness and absences. Then again, if we had a faculty member that came down with COVID and was starting to feel better, but the faculty member could only teach online for medical reasons, we might support that as an institution. However, that is not a decision the faculty member can make on their own.

3. Update from the CSU Statewide Senate:

The only thing that is happening at the ASCSU is that our September meeting has been changed to a virtual meeting. There was a possibility that the Fall meetings would be in person.

Just one point I'd like to address that is old news. Dr. Sylvia Alva has been appointed as the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to replace Loren Blanchard.

There is also some discussion around Ethnic Studies and the three systems California Community Colleges (CCC), CSU, and UC. Nothing has been resolved. There is confusing messaging about whether the CCC is requiring or not requiring the Ethnic Studies class. This is frustrating to some people because it is going to be required in high schools. This has led to confusion about what the link between the CCC and the CSU is.

Questions:

Q: Has the decision been made about the new Faculty Trustee?

A: I have been asking weekly, and as of last week no decision has been made. I don't know why—maybe the President knows? Could it be the recall?

A: [President] I don't know why. It is probably because of more pressing issues right now. Hopefully we hear before the September Senate meeting.

4. Update from the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):

We are at 94% of housing capacity. We've added some specialized videos targeting Sophomores this year during Welcome Week. Sophomores did not have the opportunity last year to experience the campus as Freshmen and we wanted to do something specifically targeted to them. There will also be giveaways. We want them to feel they are a part of the campus and to feel engaged.

We have a new program called Spartan Village and Helping People Along. The idea is to establish small cohorts, whether the student is online or in person and that they remain connected throughout their time at SJSU.

Enrollment continues to be up. It will be interesting to see the impact of the pandemic and how changed division practices will shake out. However, it will be dramatically different from last year. We have about 3,900 Frosh right now and predict we will be in the 4,400 range. This is all ahead of where we have been.

We did do a student basic needs survey in Spring 2021. This gives us a specific snapshot of our SJSU students. As an example, instead of asking, "Have you experienced housing insecurity?" we are asking "how long have you experienced housing insecurity. The reason this is important is it allows us to then target more specific strategies to support that. What we are finding is that we have far more students that have short-term housing insecurity than long-term.

Questions:

Q: Perhaps, you, the AS President, and I (Chair McKee) can meeting and drill down on this survey?

A: Sure.

Q: I wanted to follow-up on my question at the last meeting about the APID/A Center and whether you had the meeting you talked about?

A: Yes, we did. My staff has developed a core group of people that will be the steering group that will be working on programming and building out the budget for that center. We also spent time in the meeting talking about peer review and the need for a leader in the space. I will have another one-on-one with my staff this week.

Q: I'm wondering about the Taskforce on Community and Policing Report that has been delayed. I had guests this past week on campus. They were professors that stayed at campus village. This was good and I'm grateful it is available for visiting faculty. However, there was some police action on 10<sup>th</sup> Street and it reminded me that we hadn't seen that report yet. Is there any update?

A: Yes, we were just given some edits and we are taking a look at those. When we are finished we will submit the final report to the President with our plan for how we are going to address the issues. We have a series of pretty comprehensive and robust recommendations. I think it will get us started in a really good direction. There will be plenty of opportunities to discuss it.

Q: [President] VP Faas, are you aware of what was going on downtown?

A: [VP Faas] Any number of things. There was very little SJSU activity of note. There was nothing of significance.

Q: [President] VP Faas, do you have a sense of a timeline for the new UPD Chief?

A: [VP Faas] Our Interim UPD Chief is only here for 900 hours so we are moving along. We have the search committee all set and ready to go. The search firm is also all ready to go. Should be about three months.

5. Update from the Associated Students President (AS):  
The Universal Design Project at the gardens is now complete.

All AS Departments are working diligently to get ready for the fall semester.

Stay tuned for the Grand Reopening of the AS House event.

This weekend we will be switching it back to the AS Director of Legislative Affairs as the CSSA representative.

I would like to urge faculty to be flexible when it comes to accommodations for students, ranging from financial need to being caregivers to mental health issues as we enter this fourth wave of COVID.

On the topic of the importance of communication, I am concerned with language that referred to students as “kids.” We are adults and we understand the severity of the pandemic.

Q: When the AS House reopens will there be an invitation to visit?

A: Our Grand Reopening is September 22, 2021 I believe. It is open to the public. As for the fall semester, the AS House will only be open when staff are in the building.

6. Update from the Provost:

I don't really have an update since the last meeting.

A message went out recently. Christina Mune is stepping in as Interim Dean of the library. This should be short term. A notice will go out to the campus by the end of the week. We are working on the MLK Library and Hammer Theatre. As for the library policy, floors 6-8 will be open only to SJSU faculty, staff, and students. Masks are required in the library, and this is easier since masks have to be worn on campus again. All shared spaces we have are complicated by what is going on.

Questions:

Q: How is the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) reassigned time program being sustainably funded and out of what fund?

A: There is a central pot of money that was matched by Academic Affairs originally. We moved dollars around and I think we are doing that again this year. It is supposed to be embedded in central funding. It is already baked into the long-term budget.

C: [President] This is an institutional commitment. It is part of our Strategic Plan. Students are also engaged. It is a high-impact practice. What we didn't anticipate when we launched Vision 2030 was the pandemic. We know what our long-term goals are. The money comes from different sources, but ultimately it is funding for the institution. That is something people don't need to worry about. We have committed to this.

C: I do get questions from people about what funds the money is coming from and what those funds are supposed to be used for.

A: [Provost] VP Faas and I have talked about doing a separate presentation to the Senate separate from our budget report. When President Papazian started at this university there were 625 T/TT faculty and now there are 726 T/TT faculty. The numbers do speak to the larger question. During the last two years of financial crisis, we didn't take a nickel away from T/TT hiring. We hired more T/TT faculty than any other CSU campus last year. We also fully funded RSCA and we fully funded the doubling of start-up dollars for faculty. The numbers match the philosophy and rhetoric of the leadership.

A: [President] Another goal for us is to really support student success through strengthening advising. Our goal is to get to 200 students to each adviser. We were at 800 to 1 before. The way to do this is to increase efficiencies. This is the benefit

of having a holistic budgeting model. In EOP, for instance, the admissions fees used to take 45 days to process and that is now down to 15 days. These are some of the benefits of increased business efficiencies.

C: I appreciate this, but I do think it involves a paradigm shift in terms of other budgeting models.

Q: I see that the Research Foundation contributed \$2 million to RSCA, but can you tell us who else contributed to the funding?

A: [Provost] I don't have all that information right now. There was a total of about \$5 million. Some of it was one-time funding and some was from Auxiliary reserves. We also moved some money around. I will take a look and let you know next week. There is built-in long-term funding for RSCA.

A: [President] We are trying to create as much flexibility as possible in our budget. Our goal is to grow the pie. Where the pie won't grow is in allocations from the CSU. We are confident in where we are headed, but we aren't there yet.

Q: Will we be able to see three-year budgeting for Student Success Excellence Technology Fee (SSETF)?

A: We are working on getting a pot of money together for funding these things.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

These minutes were taken by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, on August 2, 2021 and transcribed on August 3, 2021. The minutes were reviewed and edited by Chair McKee on August 6, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on August 9, 2021.