

Senate Management Resolution Establishing a Special Committee on Senate Representation

Legislative History: At its meeting of August 28, 2023, the Executive Committee unanimously passed AS 1857, recommending the constitution of a special committee, the Committee on Senate Representation (CSR). It was presented to the Academic Senate by Senators Curry and Kataoka and approved on Sep 11, 2023.

Whereas: As laid out in its Constitution, the purpose of the Academic Senate of San José State University (SJSU) is to provide for effective participation and deliberation by the university's academic community in the formulation of governing policies.

The membership of the Senate, as described in Article II of the [Constitution](#), comprises "representatives from the University administration, faculty, and students," as well as representatives from the Emeritus Faculty Association and the Alumni Association. Article II Section 3 further states that "faculty" are

"all University staff holding the title of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor or Lecturer, and holders of such other professional and administrative staff positions as may be declared by bylaw to be directly related to the instructional program of the University,"

Related to this, Section 1.2 of the [Bylaws](#) of SJSU's Academic Senate stipulates that those faculty who are eligible to serve as faculty representatives to the Senate are: all members of Bargaining Unit III who are not members of or included in one of the college representative units; and employees classified as Student Services Professional III or IV. Section 1.3 of the Bylaws further states that "the number of faculty senators must be twice the number of senators who are not faculty members."

In the last two and a half years, four separate referrals pertaining to representation have been submitted to SJSU's Academic Senate:

- 12/20/2020, [Academic Senate Membership Expansion](#)
- 8/27/2021, [Staff Seats on Academic Senate](#)
- 9/14/2022, [Academic Senate Expansion- Request for Special Committee](#)

- 1/11/2023, [Remove inequitable language to allow broader staff representation on the Academic Senate](#)

In particular, these referrals ask for greater inclusivity and representation on the Senate, with seats added for staff, including those from Academic and Student Affairs; students, particularly from graduate and credential programs; faculty; and for additional campus groups not currently represented, such as the Solidarity Network and the University Council of Chairs and Directors (UCCD).

Due consideration of these referrals requires careful research and consultation, as well as a serious investment of personnel, time, and resources. During its annual retreat in Spring 2023, the 2022-2023 Senate body expressed preference for having a special committee do this work.

Resolved: That a special committee, the Committee on Senate Representation (CSR), described herein be constituted once this Senate Management Resolution is passed by the Senate.

Charge

The charge of the CSR shall be to:

1. **review** the historical development of SJSU's Senate;
2. **research** models and implementations of shared governance and senates in higher education within the CSU system and beyond;
3. **investigate** the ways in which different campus constituencies are, or are not, currently represented on SJSU's Academic Senate and its committees; and,
4. **collect** input from the SJSU community, including its faculty, students, staff, and administrators.

Based on its findings, the committee shall:

1. **prepare** a summative report of its findings;
2. **develop**, based on the above, recommendations on ways to further strengthen equitable, inclusive, and effective shared governance; and
3. **present** its summative report and recommendations to the Senate for discussion.

These recommendations may then be taken up by the Senate's committees or other persons as resolutions for deliberation and voting, following Senate protocols.

Membership (13)

Except for the EXO and designated seats, a call for applications will be made for the selection of all committee members, and recommendations will be made by constituent groups.

Recommendations will be presented to the Senate Executive Committee for final approval of Special Committee members.

Co-chairs of the committee (2)

2 co-chairs of the committee, recommended by the elected members of the Executive Committee. At a minimum, one of the co-chairs must be a faculty member of the SJSU Academic Senate.

Faculty (5)

5 faculty-at-large, recommended by the elected members of the Executive Committee. Attention shall be paid to achieve as broad a representation as possible across colleges, disciplines, identity groups, etc.

MPPs (2)

2 administrators (MPPs), designated by the President

Students (2)

Associated Students President (EXO) or designee

1 additional student, recommended by Associated Students

Staff (2)

2 non-MPP staff members not represented by the GU, nominated by the Staff Council

Support Staff (1)

1 support staff, who is not a committee member, to provide logistical and administrative support as well as support regarding data collection.

Timeline

This special committee is requested to make a summative report to the Senate at the end of February 2024.

The special committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the tasks listed herein.

Approved: August 28, 2023

Vote: 12-0-0

Present: Baur, Curry, Day, Del Casino, Faas, French, Kataoka, Multani, Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, Teniente-Matson, Wang

Absent: Hart, Lee, McKee

Financial impact: None

Workload impact: Committee members will be tasked with collecting and analyzing evidence, and preparing reports.