

Executive Committee Minutes
October 9, 2023
Clark 551, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present: Baur, Curry, Faas, French, Hart, Kataoka, Lee, McKee, Multani, Sasikumar (Chair), Sullivan-Green, Teniente-Matson, Wong

Absent: Day, Del Casino

Recorder: Kataoka, Senate Associate Vice Chair

1. The meeting agenda was approved (12-0-0).
2. Executive Committee Minutes of September 25, 2023 were approved (9-0-3).
3. Consent Calendar of October 9, 2023 was approved. (12-0-0).
4. Appointment of Angel Ruiz Blanco as a senator from H&A, replacing senator Riley, who is on Chair Refresh leave for fall 2023, was reported.
5. Election Calendar for 2024 General Election, drafted by Senate Administrator Eva Joice, deliberated and approved by the Committee on Committees with unanimous vote on October 5, 2023, was approved (12-0-0).

Q&A

- Q: Does the Senate need assistance on updating the Senate website?
A: Chair Sasikumar will assess the need.
- Q: What strategies can be employed to promote greater interest and participation in the Senate?
A: A regular newsletter and video messages to the campus community are currently being considered.

6. Update from the Chair

- a. We received a request to recommend a Faculty-at-Large representative for the Alquist RFP/Q Committee. After discussion the committee decided to consider suggestions for the FAL representative at its 10/23 meeting.
- b. Due to organizational restructuring, a change has been made in the membership of the Graduate Studies & Research Committee: the EXO seat for the “Director of Research Development” has changed to the “Senior Director of Research Services.”
- c. We received a request to recommend a General Unit member on the selection committee of the Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Award.

- After discussion, the committee decided to solicit nominations in upcoming days via the Senate Chair.

- d. Report on recruitment for the Special Committee on Senate Representation: There were eight applications for five FAL seats; the Staff Council forwarded four names to be considered for the two Staff seats; names for two student members and two MPP members are expected. It is hoped that the committee will be formed and can move forward with its charge in mid-October.

7. Update from the President

- a. We will offer needed support to our students who have been impacted by the tragedy in Israel.
- b. Closing GI 2025 Equity Gaps & New CO initiatives—Conference scheduled for November 23-24.
- c. Black Student Success: We are taking a tri-chair approach, led by the Black Spartan Advisory Council Chair Monica Allen and three Advisory Board members (Shawn Fletcher, Patience Bryant, & Trevon White). They will work for the next several years in collaboration with the Faculty Success Office and the CDO.

Q&A

- Q: What are the timelines and action plans for this work?
A: There will be annual reports; a preliminary report will come out in November. 13 initiatives are already underway.
- d. Housing: Negotiations are underway to secure a long-term lease of the south building of the two-tower hotel that used to be the Fairmont in downtown SJ for student housing.
- e. Title IX: We are moving forward on a Resolution Agreement with the DOJ, which will visit the SJSU on October 17th.
- f. Regarding the October 5 email on the recent arrest of a former SJSU student and auxiliary employee, this Title IX notification was issued to fulfill the obligation to address matters in a timely manner.

Discussion/Q&A

- There was a discussion of the south tower as a future conference site and opportunities for SJSU and wider upcoming discussions in various SJSU and CSU contexts about such possibilities.
- Q: How can we respond to and support students from all groups in the Middle East?

A: I will work with the ODEI and Student Affairs to respond and support students.

- Q: How will you address the safety concerns in downtown SJ as we explore increasing downtown housing options?

A: We will reach out to Bill Wilson Center for rapid housing support.

- Q: What is the status of any plans to eliminate programs and/or academic departments as governed by University Policy S13-9 on meaningful consultation?

- It was decided to discuss this topic formally as a separate agenda item at the next Senate Executive meeting.

8. University Updates

a. VP Administration & Finance

Turning Point event on October 2nd: 400-500: people attended. There were about 75 protestors, mostly non-affiliates. There were also press reporters. There was an Emergency Operation Center in place. While there was a broken window inside the Student Union, it didn't cause severe disruption.

Q&A

Q: You may not be the right person to whom to address this question, but you do work on campus affairs. The recent Title IX update reports that 200 Sexual Harassment and 127 Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct were reported in AY 2022-23. Who was reported?

A: It can be anyone. Another way to look at it is a police report. For an urban university downtown, the number of crimes is very low.

To this, a committee member pointed out that even the police report cases tend to be lower than actual occurrences.

b. VP Student Affairs

VPSA was absent. No report.

c. Provost

Provost was absent. No report.

d. AS President

- Working with the AS Lobby Corps to discuss sociability/small businesses in downtown SJ and safety concerns to the unhoused population.
- There will be two tabling events in October to hear students' concerns, in collaboration with the president.

e. Interim CDO

- The Black Experience Survey for Black students and faculty respondents is being conducted to increase retention. 35% response so far.
- We are increasing support for Employee Affinity Groups (EAGs) via newsletter etc.

Discussion

- There was a suggestion to highlight cultural events on campus, such as the Day of the Dead, Indigenous People's Day. Sharing opportunities to get involved was suggested.

f. ASCSU Statewide Senator

- There was an Interim Meeting on the previous Friday for policy work. One main topic was re-structuring of Sonoma State and SF State.
- ASCSU Senators were asked to invite campus senates to provide feedback on the CSU Second Start Pilot Program Draft which was shared by Chair Steffel.
- Mercer Compensation Study – the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA) Policy Committee will be submitting a resolution for an audit. Of particular concern is the comparison of institutions for salary equity.

9. Policy Committees

None

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

The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on October 23, 2023.