

Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2024
Clark 551, 12 p.m. to 1:30 pm

Present: Joshua Baur, Julia Curry, Vincent Del Casino, Tabitha Hart, Ranko Heindl, Colleen Johnson, Ariana Lacson, Shannon Rose Riley, Karthika Sasikumar, Laura Sullivan-Green, Hiu Yung Wong

Absent: Charlie Faas, Kristin Dukes, Mari Fuentes Martin, Cynthia Teniente-Matson

Minutes taken by Grace Barbieri

The committee voted to suspend the Standing Rules so Vincent Del Casino could join the meeting via Zoom, and it was approved unanimously.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 7, 2024 meeting** - approved unanimously.

2. **Update by Chair**

A. iClicker

As mentioned in the last meeting, a senator suggested using iClicker to vote in the Senate. It was revealed that we could not see the names on the screen linked to who voted for what at the time of voting.

C: We could use it for non-controversial votes and ask for roll-call votes for the others.

C: One of the benefits of live votes is you get a sense of the room and see who is voting for what in the moment.

C: iClicker and live vote provide different important things at the moment, but it would speed things up.

C: When O&G was investigating meeting modality, they found that senators liked non-confidential voting. Senators like to see who is voting and in what way, which can be helpful in their decision-making. We could look for other tools, such as Poll Everywhere.

C: Website-based tools might be available, but they might not show all the names at the same time, or for long enough. When voting with hands, everyone can scan the room and see what everyone is voting for.

C: We could raise our hands and use the software simultaneously, so people can see what people are voting for and get the data instantly instead of someone walking around.

C: Yes, but people might vote differently each way.

B. AVP of Faculty Excellence and Teaching Innovation Search

Four candidates are coming to campus—two this week and two next week—for the AVP of Faculty Excellence and Teaching Innovation search. One is at 3 p.m. today if you can make it, but I know many of you have your committee meetings.

Q: Are the meetings only in person?

C: Yes

C. Election Response Team

An election response team is being formed. It will mainly focus on helping students process the election and will host events throughout election week. Jon Tucker from Student Involvement and Craig Alimo from ODEI are in charge of the team. They are formulating their activities and are happy to take our input. They are also looking for faculty members to help. They anticipate that the equivalent of free speech zones that have been designated around the Smith Carlos Statue will most likely be the focus of activities on Election Day.

D. TPM Policy

TPM policy has been the target of criticism. CFA has filed a formal legal complaint about not following the procedure required by labor laws, and the AAUP also spoke against it. I have been told that at the Nov 4 meeting, a Sense of the Senate will be presented to criticize some aspects of the TPM policy. I have advised the authors to circulate their draft to the senators and others ahead of time so it does not look like criticism of the campus administrations since they did not author the TPM policy. I told them the earlier you send it and get comments, the better, so the debate on the Senate floor is more focused.

C: They sent it to me, and I sent some questions.

C: The authors, Pinnell and Buyco, have also sent it to the ASCSU senators. I want to ensure there is no expectation that the ASCSU senators will bring their own SOS.

Q: Are the free speech zones new?

A: This is not the most accurate term, but it is in the SJSU addendum to the TPM policy. It lists different locations on campus and describes zones where members of the SJSU community can go and protest.

C: The specific language came from the system-wide policy of three layers of spaces. We had to align the addendum with those categories.

Q: What is the correct term to use for the spaces?

C: Public areas, limited areas, nonpublic areas.

The CSU System Policy outlines three types of space on campus - Public Areas “available for assemblies, marches, demonstrations, and protests”, Limited Areas “available to the public but due to business operations, safety concerns, or other important University interests, is not open for purposes of assembling, marching, demonstrating or protesting”, Non-Public Areas “not open to the public and the

University can restrict access to Non-Public Areas on a Content and Viewpoint Neutral basis.”

Q: Where can we find the list for the SJSU location?

C: If you read the definition for all intents and purposes, they are not radically different from what is probably historical practice.

3. Consent Calendar

There was a question about whether Sarika Pruthi was taking the College of Business seat, or the General Unit seat.

a. Recruitment

Currently, on the Senate website, students need to know where to look to find where to apply for senate committees. Additionally, when students apply for different communities, our descriptions, although accurate since they are directly taken from the policy, can seem dry for students. I hope the committee chairs can write a blurb that is simple and motivational for students to want to serve on their committees. We would then add these blurbs to the Google Form for students to apply so they can see the descriptions more easily.

C: I think that is great. Sometimes, it is unclear to me what the committees do, and it isn't always inviting language. I sent you a message regarding the Academic Freedom Committee; a person sent a message indicating that Senate committees don't count for service. I am just wondering if there can be some kind of statement on this form or somewhere to apply that people do get service credit.

C: I don't think that is a widely held perception.

C: It is spelled out in our criteria and standards around service that university service is required.

C: This was the chair of a department, and it went out to all the faculty members in the department, so they all think it does not count for service. It might just be something to include so it is clear.

4. Selection of candidates for the Academic Freedom Committee

This committee will report to the Professional Standards Committee. The committee selected Leonardo Plazola as the student representative, Shawn Whalen as the administrator representative, and Neil Ordinario as the staff representative. The committee selected Caroline Chen, Ayce Erdogan, Kenneth Peter, and Sabrina Pinnell as the faculty representatives.

5. Any other items with permission of the Chair

A. Provost Update

The Dean's search for the College of Information, Data, and Society is now open for people to apply, and everyone should have received an email. I also deeply appreciated the conversation about the budget last week at the senate. I had a sense that there were more questions about Academic Affairs, so I'm planning to go to another town hall as I did in, I think, Spring 2023. I am going to do another presentation and will leave a lot of time for questions. I am still working it out, but I think it is important for people to understand the divisional budget.

Q: Can we get the dates, times, and modalities as soon as possible?

C: yes, of course, and we can livestream it as well.

B. International Faculty Mixer

On Thursday, there was a mixer for faculty who identify as international faculty. More than 30 people were there. ODEI and the Faculty Diversity Committee put on the event. The organizer is planning on starting an employee affinity group, EAG, which could receive some money from the administration and advocate for international faculty. This is important because the long-term stability of SJSU will depend on attracting international students and faculty.

C. Concerns about our student-athletes

The topic has been in the public realm for some time now. Last week at a town hall meeting, former President Donald Trump referred to a student-athlete at SJSU without naming either the student or the university. His remarks indicated that he opposed the inclusion of transgender athletes in women's sports. The SJSU women's volleyball team is reported to include a transgender athlete; however, it is important to note that FERPA prohibits the university from discussing the issue. Moreover, all of the athletes on the team are eligible to play as per NCAA rules. That is the only institutional position we need.

Everyone on the team is being provided with as much support as possible. One of the players has filed a lawsuit against the NCAA policy. Colleges have forfeited against SJSU, and that made the news.

C: What can we, as SJSU community members, do to support and educate during this critical period before the election?

C: I think we can go and support at the volleyball tournaments. We can also work with the Pride Center to discuss what types of support we can offer. We need to remember that not everyone on the team has the same views.

D. AS Update

AS has passed a resolution supporting the federal recognition of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe, and the Trail of Truth also encompasses all federally unrecognized tribes. As such, we might introduce a Sense of the Senate resolution on November 4, with an altered version of our AS

resolution supporting federal recognition of the Muwekma. The Senate Chair expressed her willingness to consult with AS on the formulation of the resolution.

The minutes were taken by Grace Barbieri on October 21, 2024, reviewed and accepted by Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar on October 22, 2024, and approved by the Senate Executive Committee on , 2024.