

2024-2025 Academic Senate Minutes
February 5, 2024

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Hart confirmed the quorum and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. There were 49 Senators present.

Ex Officio: Present: Curry, Multani, Sasikumar, Van Selst, Rodan Absent: McKee	HHS Representatives: Present: Baur, Chang, Sen Absent: None
Administrative Representatives: Present: Del Casino, Faas, Teniente-Matson, Fuentes- Martin Absent: Dukes	COB Representatives: Present: Chen, Vogel Absent: None
Deans / AVPs: Present: d'Alarcao, Kaufman, Meth, Shillington Absent: None	EDUC Representatives: Present: Mathur Absent: Munoz-Munoz
Students: Present: Brown, Gambarin, Guzman, Doshi, Lacson Absent: Mejia	ENGR Representatives: Present: Sullivan-Green, Wong, Kao Absent: None
Alumni Representative: Absent: Vacant	H&A Representatives: Present: Sabalius, Frazier, Han, Kataoka, Lee, Riley Absent: None
Emeritus Representative: Present: Jochim Absent: None	SCI Representatives: Present: French, Heindl, Shaffer, Muller Absent: None
Honorary Representative: Present: Peter, Lessow-Hurley Absent: Buzanski	SOS Representatives: Present: Hart, Raman, Haverfield, Pinnell Absent: None
General Unit Representatives: Present: Flandez, Johnson, Masegian, Pendyala, Velarde Absent: None	

II. Land Acknowledgement:

Senator Heindl read the land acknowledgement.

III. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes:

A. Approval of Senate Minutes of December 4, 2023 (unanimous approval)

IV. Communications and Questions

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

Chair Sasikumar's update featured the following:

- The Vice Chair has confirmed quorum.
- Welcome to three new Senators, Senators Dukes, Fuentes-Martin, Vogel. Welcome back to Senators Meniketti, and Riley.
- Changes in the Office of the Senate include a new temporary employee, Grace Barbieri; she is a former student of Chair Sasikumar. The Senate Newsletter is being published regularly.
- Important Dates: Senate Retreat (02/16), petitions for senate seats due (02/16). Please encourage your colleagues to run. Nominating Petitions were sent out two weeks ago. Chair Sasikumar will be running for a second year today.
- From the Vice Chair: The Vice Chair announced the retreat would be on 2/16/24 via zoom from 10 a.m. to noon. I had intended it to be a hybrid event, but I've had some injuries limiting my ability to get around. There won't be any gift baskets this year. You will get a notepad and pen mailed to you after the event if you attend.
- The Senate will sponsor training by a parliamentarian based out of Seattle. It will be information that is immediately applicable to those of us in the Senate. This will be on March 22, 2024. Vice Chair Hart will send confirmation. If spots are available after senators have signed up, the training will be open to SJSU faculty and staff as well.
- (Nina Chuang, Former AS President and Senator, gave a brief update on events on the Day of Remembrance on May 19, 2024. This will be the 82nd anniversary of EO 9066 which incarcerated Japanese Americans across the nation. Over 2,487 Japanese Americans were processed for incarceration here at SJSU.
- (Nina Chuang) SJ Day of Remembrance in Japantown will be on February 18, 2024. The theme will be youth activism. The 2nd day of remembrance will be on February 19, 2024 with events at the Hammer Theater, including a film showing and a panel. We will soon kick off fundraising for the mural that is to be erected on campus.
- We have been meeting and put out a call for artists for our mural. The Chair promised that when this information is available, it will be circulated to the Senators so that they can contribute to the fund if they wish.

B. From the President:

President Teniente-Matson's update included the following: The President's cabinet has 5 priorities this year. One of these is leading the campus to a balanced/sustained budget, while working with the BAC. As you may recall last spring the state of California had a surplus. SJSU had a budget of about \$37 million.

I asked the BAC for recommendations on creating a structurally sound budget. Last year, the BAC recommended about \$23 million in budget adjustments. Coming into this budget year in the fall, we took a budget reduction of \$20 million. This left about a \$14.7 million shortfall in our budget. I asked the BAC to reconvene and provide me with a long-term fiscally sustainable three-year budget. The BAC provided me with their recommendations on 12/22/23.

There is a deficit to the governor's budget of about \$38 billion depending on what article you read or channel you watch, there is some disagreement with that number. However, we are going to go with this number as it's what the governor himself provided us. The governor indicated he was very committed to the compact; however, he said he will be deferring the funding for 2024/2025 until 2025/2026. Our current challenge for the campus is still the \$14.7 million shortfall. Also, an additional increase of \$12 million in increases related to salaries across all bargaining units. This brings our budget shortfall to about \$26 million.

On January 23, 2024, I sent a memo back to the BAC on what steps we would be taking to address their recommendations as well as any other things that could come forward. In this memo I say that we are implementing a soft hiring freeze. This applies to all hires, except for instructional faculty. We are asking our department heads and administrators to take a look at what expenditures they can cut and to only proceed with essential expenditures. The reason for this is to grow our end of the year contributions and create a surplus in essence. That will go towards the shortfall and reduce the amount of the internal loan. I'm asking that everyone ensure any state events that are paid for with Tower Funds are properly reimbursed to the state accounts. As we come to year-end, I want to remind everyone we are borrowing from ourselves internally from other funds to cover our shortfall in our operating budget. This is why I'm asking for a reduction of current operating fund budgets. The Provost and VPAF will be hosting a budget town hall in the spring. We want to be sure that we don't slow down our efforts in recruitment, retention, and enrollment. We heard from many people about the changes we made to our commitment to RSCA and Faculty/Staff Professional Development. We will have a line where we pay back funds to the CSU Reserves in 2025/26.

Some other items that came up with a survey from the BAC included the following. There were 900 responses. I'm putting

together 6 different work groups to look at a variety of additional recommendations that came forward such as: How we are organized internally, overlap of work, bureaucracy, and so on. There are 5 new committees looking at Academic Research and Innovation, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, Finance, Administration and IT, Auxiliaries and Enterprise Funds, the Athletics Board is working to bring in an external firm as a consultant to assess SJSU's sponsorship of specific sports and its membership in sports divisions.

Q: IR is not on your org chart, are we not going to have a VPIR?

A: I think when you asked me this last month I told you we would not, but we are going to have a COS.

Q: What is the appropriate charge for the Athletics Board?

A: The charge is in University Policy F07-2. I was in a meeting with them and one thing we talked about was their charge. One of the things they are to look at is the offering of sports sponsorship, and given the budget this year, they need to look at if their charge is accurate.

Q: Have they been talked to about their budget?

A: Yes, I did talk to them about the recommendations from the BAC. In fact I put that in the charge letter.

V. Executive Committee Report:

A. Minutes of the Executive Committee:

EC Minutes of November 13, 2023. (No questions.)

EC Minutes of November 27, 2023. (No questions.)

B. Consent Calendar:

Consent calendar of February 5, 2024 (approved unanimously)

C. Executive Committee Action Items: None

VI. Unfinished Business: None

VII. Special Order of Business:

Re-Election of Senate Chair for an additional year (vote by acclamation – unanimous).

VIII. Policy Committee and University Library Board Action Items (In rotation)

A. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA):

Senator Sullivan-Green presented ***AS 1865, Sense of the Senate Resolution, In Support of Blood Drives on Campus (Final Reading)***. ***(vote by acclamation – unanimous approval)***

B. Professional Standards Committee (PS): (No report).

C. University Library Board (ULB): (No report.)

D. Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R):

Senator Wong presented ***AS 1863, Policy Recommendation, Credit for Prior Learning (Final Reading)***. ***Senator Van Selst presented an amendment to line 198 to remove the word “fully”. The Senate voted and the amendment failed (0-41-4). The Senate voted and AS 1863 passed (45-0-1).***

E. Organization and Government Committee (O&G):

IX. Special Committee Reports: Report from the Committee on Senate Representation by the Co-Chairs, Janet Sundrud and Reiko Kataoka. This committee was formed by the Senate Management Resolution that passed in September 2023. Our work is still in the early stages. This report is just to share with you some of the ideas we have discussed and how we plan on approaching things. The clock is ticking. We only have two more months before we have to make our report. We would like to invite your input.

The membership that was chosen for the committee is off of SM-S23-1. There are faculty, staff, and students on the committee. The charge includes investigating current representation on the Senate, and input from the SJSU community. Based on these findings the committee will develop recommendations and prepare a report.

We are moving to biweekly meetings to meet our deadline of March 26, 2024 for the report. We also want to hear from staff members. We have already met with the CSUEU and they are supportive. We've reached out to University Personnel. One of our next steps is to identify a shared governance model. We have some resources on the definitions of shared governance that were given to us by the Accreditation Review Committee. We also asked questions from other CSU campuses.

Tasks and topics for future meetings include discussing the location for staff voices in the Senate. We are regularly evaluating the impact of staff voices on the Senate.

Q: I have a question about the goals. What is the role that is seen for the staff to play in the Senate?

A: As a staff member we are continuing the mission of the Senate.

Q: Will the committee consider Graduate Students and MPPs?

A: Yes. Also, on the role of the staff, there are many staff members that are experts, including Staff Affairs and Student Affairs. The committee will try to outreach to as many groups as possible. We will do outreach with management about support for the staff members.

X. New Business: None

XI. State of the University Announcements:

A. Vice President for Administration and Finance:

With the rain and bad weather, we've had some downed trees and some leaks, so be patient with us. The teams are out in force today.

Questions:

Q: Lots of the Southern California campuses and other campuses closed today due to the rain and downed trees, etc. I personally drove back from Southern California last night and there were a lot of downed trees and branches. Why didn't we close campus so our students weren't affected by that?

A: We have numerous discussions for any storms coming our way. Northern California wasn't as bad as the last storm. This time it was Southern California. Most of our faculty and staff live in the Bay area.

Q: In the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes in November 2023. VP Day mentioned that there was an increase in campus crime from 389 to 439. Is this a continuing trend, have you seen this post pandemic? How are police handling it?

A: During the pandemic, we had any number of burglaries because there weren't eyeballs here. No one to watch. Now everyone is back and we are seeing some upticks there.

Q: As of this morning there were still thousands of people that still don't have power.

A: Our power is still on the campus. We have our own Co-Gen plant and produce about 75% of our power. We have backup generators. We let people know when we make a decision about closures. We are always looking at this.

Q: While you know these things, a lot of people don't know that weather information.

A: The message we put out last week let people know and said if you have an issue contact your supervisor.

Q: What is the EVC charging rate?

A: We use an outside company for that. I'll look into it and get back to you.

Q: We addressed commuter students and on campus students, but we did not address students in the fraternity and sorority houses. We lost power for 12 hours. How are we supposed to get our homework done?

A: Dean Meth, Dean of the MLK Library, is in the back. Students can use the library. If you can't get your work done, talk to your faculty.

B. Vice President for Student Affairs: (by Interim VP Fuentes-Martin)

VP Fuentes-Martin commented that it was her first time being a Senator. She has been very busy so far. She also noted the interesting weather we have been having.

VP Fuentes-Martin was able to go to the open house for the Spartan Village on the Paseo, which is what they are calling the property we purchased downtown (formerly the Signia Hotel).

As for the Sense of the Senate on Blood Drives, Student Affairs and the Health Center are here to help and can coordinate anything with the Red Cross.

Two additional things that are happening include the launch of the Student Mental Health Strategic Plan and the Student Career Development Strategic Plan. These are both initiatives that have been started with goals to have metrics by the end of this coming year.

We have lots of opportunity in our cultural centers. We are partnering with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It is an exciting opportunity.

We had Black History month events.

We have the Day of Remembrance coming up.

We are working on a policy on time, place, and manner procedures. This will be coming sometime in February.

I've had several meetings with my staff so they can get to know me and I can get to know them. We have worked on developing some divisional goals that relate to the strategic plan and learning outcomes.

My plan is to be here until July 2024 when a new VPSA takes over.

Questions:

Q: I know the Board of Academic Freedom gave some feedback on the time, place, and manner policy, but didn't get any feedback. Can you check on this?

A: I will follow-up on this.

Q: Regarding the Mental Health Strategic Plan, this is something we in psychological services just found out about. We would like to give input into this. We don't want it to go through and we aren't involved with it.

A: We will make sure we follow-up.

Q: When does the Spartan Speaker Series kickoff?

A: The Spartan Speaker Series kickoff is February 20, with Janelle James, and then on April 15, Stephanie Hsu.

Q: What are campuses doing to promote that abortions are available in the Health Center?

A: I know for a fact that the service is available in the Student Health Center. As well as the medication. I don't know how they promote it, but I will find out. It is a big building and they see over 1,000 students a day in different areas.

Q: New students may not know we offer this service?

A: I will follow-up and get some statistics.

C: In my entire time here I have not seen any information about the availability of abortions on campus.

C. Provost:

Enrollment Management moved over in November and I've been spending some time with them and the leadership. I just want to give you a quick update of where we are. We are doing really well for Spring 2024. We are trending north of 100% for the California enrollment, which in the system right now is a really good thing. The interesting thing is we are doing that with a slight downturn in headcount. We are down about 85 headcount students, but we are up spring over spring almost 400 FTES. That's partly due to average unit load increase. The other thing we started tracking this year is fall to spring enrollment, particularly for our first-time full time students. Because, one of the things we talk about on this campus is that when we go over a class of 4,000 students on this campus, we nose dive in success. Well that hasn't happened. Tracking fall to spring, since 2017, the highest fall to spring we have had is 96.2% for our first-time full time students and that was last year. That was 3,887 students. We are currently at 96.2% with 4,339 students. In 2017, the fall to spring finish was at 94.9%, so we are well more than a point ahead. In terms of real lives, that's 50 people. They are still here and that is exciting. Overall, fall to spring, we have had a 94% return. We are also getting back about 31% of students that took a semester off. There was a very active re-enrollment campaign. I'm proud of the fact that a lot of

new transfers and new first year students come in in the spring. We've done that with a tighter schedule as all of us know and not a lot of complaints up the food chain about classes not being available and so forth. I think some of the restructuring around advising has really helped with that fall to spring. There were of 50,000 appointments with over 18,500 students last year. There was a 7 point bump in underserved students that went to advising last year in terms of retention. Admissions will be going out to recruit first year students and I can tell you a lot of work has been done to open up more availability in some of our more impacted degree programs. We will be shooting for the largest class ever coming in. If it works out we will be north of 4,800. We have 4,500 right now. This will impact Area F so we are going to start conversations about that very soon. We don't have transfer numbers yet. Transfers still haven't rebounded though. We were a campus that had 4,450 transfers, and we are hovering north of 3,100. If everything holds, we've been given a slight enrollment bump. They did make a move to move base dollars around the system. They were moving 3% off campuses that were under-enrolled. While we didn't get 3%, we are getting something.

At the same time, we had a 15% fall over fall increase in enrollment in self-support PACE programs. That was partly SJSU Online and the growth of the Graduate program. The graduate program is quite strong right now spring over spring.

We still have a lot of faculty searches out right now. We are going to go into some of our impacted areas and probably add some searches.

The last update is on the RSCA program. I'm trying to get a final count and then those will go out. However, per the BAC it's going to be a slightly tighter program. It should be announced soon.

Questions:

Q: I'd like to know about the Ad Astra Tool and also why if you are sick, you cannot hold class online?

A: I do not know the answer to the second question, as that didn't come out of my office. The Ad Astra Tool is a class scheduling tool. We are trying to do a lot of scheduling to train people.

Q: Can I get an update on the NACADA Report?

A: We received our report and what I am trying to do right now is look at the report and do some summary. We have to have better communication and better learning outcomes. Then we need the training of all advisers, both staff and faculty to get more consistent advising in that. We will get that together for everyone and send it out in February 2024.

Q: How many courses have been cut?

A: As far as I can tell, spring-to-spring, we lost about 1.5% or 120 sections. Classes got larger. I will bring the details to the next meeting.

Q: Are there numbers on the International Students?

A: No, International Student Applications are still open.

Q: You spoke about RSCA, but do you know anything about the sabbaticals?

A: I do know about the sabbaticals. We have a lot of applications. There are way more than we have ever funded. I'm looking at all the numbers right now. I'm going to have to make some hard decisions.

Q: In one of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes in November I think, it talked about up to 60 programs could be eliminated. Can you give us an idea what kind of representation would be on that?

A: The system office asked all the campuses to evaluate a list of what they call low conferring degrees. That was a new metric for the Academic Master Plan that came from the BOT. We had 60 programs on there of which we had 32 that had the wrong name, were already discontinued, or we don't know where they came from. That left 28 programs, some of which were brand new. For instance the women's studies programs were a concentration under sociology that became a major, so that kind of thing. We were asked to report and then say what we were going to do about it. What we did was say we have a normal program review cycle and that's when they will be reviewed and that is our action. We closed about 13 minors this year. Our program works pretty well.

Q: Did SJSU have a decline in enrollment? I know some of the programs are more successful than others and they had seats available. What about the funding for HonorsX?

A: No, SJSU online reached north of 480 students this spring. Last spring we had 200. We built a funding program to assist for three years. We should be up to 900 students next year. As to whether we could co-enroll, right now the EO says never the twain shall meet. We are trying to get this changed. We are changing the HonorsX program up to reduce its costs.

Q: How often is the course catalog updated?

A: We need to tighten that up. There is some curriculum showing up that isn't required. I think with the Ad Astra, this will help. It is not an uncommon program.

D. Chief Diversity Officer (CDO): (by Kristin Dukes, Chief Diversity Officer)

None

E. CSU Statewide Representative(s): None

F. Associated Students President: None

XII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.