

**2023-2024 Academic Senate Minutes**  
**February 26, 2024**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and 47 Senators were present.

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

**II. Land Acknowledgement:**

Senator Wong read the land acknowledgement.

**III. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes:**

**A. Approval of Senate Minutes of February 5, 2024 (45-0-2).**

**IV. Communications and Questions**

**A. From the Chair of the Senate:**

Chair Sasikumar's update featured the following:

- Raise your tent card if you'd like to get on the speaker's list.
- If you would like to attend the training by the parliamentarian, on Friday, March 22, 2024 please sign up with the Vice Chair by this Friday.
- Chair Sasikumar announced that she was filled with pride to represent the Senate at the President's Investiture, and the role of the Senate in the Day of Remembrance. On the same day, there was a protest on campus, against an invited speaker. Ways the Senate could respond were discussed such as a Sense of the Senate Resolution, or possible amendments to the Campus Climate and Academic Freedom policies. Chair Sasikumar is open to working with any Senator, and encouraged senators to ask questions.

## **B. From the President:**

President Teniente-Matson

- The President presented a slide on the top 5 priorities.
- Last month the President gave an in depth report on the budget. There will be a Budget Town Hall meeting on March 11, 2024.
- The President is conducting two searches. One for a new AVP of Title IX and the second for a new Chief of Staff.
- The President attended the Day of Remembrance. It was very moving.
- The President attended Advocacy Day in Sacramento. This is the day the CSU and Board of Trustees (BOT) lobby the legislators for additional funding.
- Yesterday was CSU Super Sunday and across the state CSU leaders visited Black churches.
- The Strategic Plan is in its final stages. The President's goal is to wrap it up in the next week or two.
- The President said she could not get into all the details of last Wednesday's disruption, but would share what she could. Last Wednesday, February 14, 2024, a faculty member submitted a normal form in which a guest speaker was invited to come on campus. The faculty member did not request police presence for the event. On February 16, 2024, both Chief Carroll and the faculty member became aware a protest was being planned. On February 19, 2024, Chief Carroll became concerned about the location of the event and the Chief and faculty member decided to move the event back to the original classroom in Sweeney Hall (SH). When they moved back to the classroom the protesters were already there. Chief Carroll escorted the faculty member and students out of the classroom, from there the President made the decision specific for the safety of all SJSU members to shut down the event. The President is working with university leadership and counsel to investigate. Personnel matters

may be involved that can't be discussed. Physical behavior that threatens the safety of this community will not be tolerated.

C: AS President Multani heard about the event from some students. Students feel that their voice and need for safety is being heard. The Senate is a very diverse body of people. However, if we can't have conversations about what is going on at this campus, then how do we expect the students to have these discussions? All perspectives need to come to light.

A: [President] I think you've met our new diversity officer. This was already the pathway we were going down to have a broader discourse between the various communities.

Q: When you released your communication you said the faculty member was already on administrative leave. I just want to know if that is paid or unpaid administrative leave?

A: Paid.

Q: If you were talking about open debate and an open dialogue, how do you reconcile shutting down an event?

A: Chief Carroll thought it was the safest thing to do. It became unsafe, also if it had escalated off campus police would have had to come on campus to assist. This was not about the topic.

Q: My office is in SH 200, so I was facing and watched the event as it was happening. My concern was for my students. The event seemed to be very disorganized and to escalate fairly quickly from my observation. Was there a discussion about the space? For example, the door they were all hanging around is the only disabled door for a disabled person to access. It was completely blocked by the protesters. There were also people from outside SJSU that were entering the building. We all need key cards to enter the buildings, so how did they get in? It would be good to have a discussion about not letting people outside SJSU into the building with the faculty member and also putting this in the Time, Place, and Manner policy might be a good thing. As a member of the SH Building it was very frightening. We had staff that didn't know what to do. We had to lock down our offices.

A: [President] I don't have answers to your questions. Part of that will occur during the investigation.

C: This comment comes from the protesters. There was a police officer present. Protesters heard him say some derogatory comments about the protesters. Something should be done about this police officer.

Q: This comment comes from the students of the professor. Many students are uncomfortable continuing to take this course. The last drop day was the day of this event. I was wondering if there is any chance for students to drop this course without having it as a withdrawal on their transcripts?

Q: The Budget Town Hall is on a Monday, March 11, 2024. There are afternoon Executive Committee and policy committee meetings. Will this interfere?

A: [Faas] No, it is from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Q: You mentioned that the class was moved from MLK back to SH, does that mean it was moved from a public event to a private event?

A: That is my understanding that the faculty member and Chief Carroll made the decision to return it to its original classroom and then only the faculty member and students were escorted back to the classroom.

Q: Were the SJPD involved or just SJSU police?

A: [President] Just SJSU police.

Q: Were SJPD on standby?

A: [President] I'm unsure of their procedure.

Q: I think the event was based on invited guests, and you also mentioned a form they filled out. I'm wondering if specific things could be included in that form to be sure it isn't going to cause these issues?

A: [President] My understanding is that this was standard procedure for a public event on campus. The faculty member made the decision to make it a public event.

C: I understand then it's about the move of the venue and not necessarily the topic.

A: [President] Yes.

Q: I saw the flier for the protest and there was no indication on the flier who the organizers were or who was sponsoring the event. That leads me to thinking about when the instructor found a speaker that was talking about the two state solution and the need for peace, she had to fill out paperwork to make that a public event. Is there some reason someone planning a counter offense, if you will, shouldn't have to fill out some paperwork to alert the campus? It would seem to me that faculty have a right to free speech like everybody else. I looked at the video and it would seem to me there were at least two or three administrators there. Anyone in an administrator role should have handled this differently. Do you know who was there and what they were doing and will this be part of the investigation?

A: [President] Yes.

Q: It is my understanding that while people have the right to freedom of speech and they have the right to protest, there is a prohibition on a heckler's veto. Your right to free speech and to protest cannot silence someone else's right to free speech. Protesters if protesting peacefully, that would be fine. However, if they are interrupting the teaching of the class, or the speaker, that seems to me an ethical lapse on the part of the people that organized the protest. Is there a discussion of the heckler in the details and the fact the university will not tolerate this?

A: [President] What caused the event to stop was an altercation within the protest.

C: The President thanked Chair Sasikumar for her comments at the investiture and also thanked the Senate.

**V. Executive Committee Report:**

**A. Minutes of the Executive Committee:**

**EC Minutes of January 29, 2024—no questions.**

**EC Minutes of February 12, 2024—no questions.**

**B. Consent Calendar:**

**Consent calendar of March 18, 2024**

There was no dissent to the consent calendar.

**C. Executive Committee Action Items: None**

**VI. Unfinished Business: None**

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

**A. Organization and Government Committee (O&G): No report.**

**B. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA): No report**

**C. Professional Standards Committee (PS):**

Senator French presented ***AS 1861, Amendment A to University Policy Selection and Review of Department Chairs and Directors (Final Reading)***. Senator Chang presented an amendment to line 410 after, "sixth semester" to add (as defined as Spring and Fall). The Senate voted and the Chang amendment failed (0-47-0). Senator French presented an amendment to add a new line 132 to read, "Throughout this policy, the term semester" shall be defined as Spring and Fall terms." The amendment was seconded by Senator Riley. The resolution was friendly to the body.

Senator Pinnell presented an amendment to line 266 to add after, “probationary and lecturer faculty.” Senator Curry seconded. Senator Del Casino made a motion to refer the Pinnell Amendment to the Professional Standards Committee. Senator Kaufman seconded. The Senate voted and the Del Casino motion passed (38-0-0). **The Senate voted on AS 1861 and the resolution passed (34-0-1).**

**D. University Library Board (ULB): No Report.**

**E. Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R): No Report.**

**VIII. Special Committee Reports:**

Chair of the Student Fairness Committee (SFC), Mahima Agumbe Suresh, and Feyon Lau, Ombudsman gave their yearly report to the Senate, Time Certain: 3:30 p.m.

Chair Suresh commented that most of the work had been done in the fall semester. The SFC met 10 times and voted on four cases. There was some carryover from the previous year. The SFC would like to speed up the process of appointing students to the committee. Last year, they could not get started until both a student and faculty member were seated and the student wasn’t appointed until October. There are several cases of cheating and dishonesty issues. The SFC discussed what cases would be appropriate for the committee to hear. In our report, we have a couple of policy recommendations. Right now if students have an ongoing case with the SFC they are unable to graduate. We would like to modify the policy to allow for “extraordinary circumstances” in S09-7.

Ombudsman Lau commented that there are some issues with the timelines for grade changes. A timeline for the investigations needs to be in the policy (S14-3). The SFC would like voting rights for the staff and administrators, who participate in the case reviews.

**Questions:**

Q: I have a question about the date you said that you weren’t able to start until October 26, 2024, but AS appointed four students right away?

A: This is for Fall 2022-Spring 2023.

A: This year it was more about the students not showing up. It would help if they were not appointed every semester, but every year.

Chair Sasikumar: We are working on it.

Q: The student should be able to graduate. What happens if no passing grade? Not sure how to resolve the issue. How will it work if they don’t pass the class?

A: We don’t know either.

C: I'm in Graduate Studies and I can tell you we can't post that degree unless we are 100% certain that student is done. There cannot be any question that that student is done. We are very cautious of that. You could talk to the registrar about extraordinary circumstances.

A: The policy says no grades can be posted after graduation, this is where we would like except under extraordinary circumstances.

Q: If I have a student with an issue about a grade for a task, can I refer to you or where does the student go? I'm not clear.

A: First, they go to the instructor to try and resolve, then they go to the chair, dean, and then Ombudsman.

Q: Is this your recommendation?

A: It is very hard to say. It could be related to personnel issues. For certain things, reach out to the Ombudsman.

**IX. New Business:** None

**X. State of the University Announcements:**

**A. Vice President for Administration and Finance (VPAF):**

The Budget Town Hall will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Student Union Theater.

Food Announcement: Halal Shack in the Student Union will have extended hours starting March 11, 2024. Also, Nirvana Soul will be open by the end of March. We will have a grand opening.

**Questions:**

Q: What training in conflict resolution do our police officers receive?

A: They have constant training in the CSU and they also go to the Police Officer Standard Training (POST) classes.

C: Given the current climate on campus, they need a lot of training.

Q: Can you give us an update on the Alquist Building?

A: We are continuing with the process and it is continuing to move along, still it is slower than we would like. We have been distracted by the Signia project.

Q: A year ago, I asked about the need for cards to get into the building and you provided a reasonable answer. It is pretty clear from the events this week that people are just letting people in, so are they still needed?

A: We can't prevent people from holding the door open for someone. Lots of people went into the building that weren't staff, students, or faculty. Security is everyone's responsibility.

Q: Doesn't this put the responsibility on faculty?

A: This is everyone's responsibility. There are a lot less issues in our building using key cards.

C: Clearly you don't need a key card to get into the building during the day, but at night it is comforting to know the doors are locked and secure. It is also very nice to have access to the buildings at night and on the weekends without having to call the police department to let you in, so I appreciate that.

Q: There was a question in the Executive Committee about students not being able to get into the Engineering Building on Saturday and Sundays. This is because we do not want them using the labs without staff or faculty supervision. Staff train the students and they have to be recorded as knowing how to safely and properly operate the equipment in the labs.

A: Still, students can bring friends in with them and if there is no regulation on nights.

C: Most labs have Omnilocks and need codes. They keep good control over the labs.

C: I do not like the badging system. It feels as if big brother is checking on me, but it is safer.

C: I'm in HGH, but I won't confront someone bigger than me.

A: Make a phone call to the university police.

Q: I keep hearing about the investigation into the events of February 19. Who or what entity is doing this investigation?

A: Any number of people. There is the personnel side. There is the police department side, etc.

C: For 40 years, I worked here in SH. Sometimes faculty would prop open the doors for their students. Key cards have made this safer. I used to bring my dog if I came in on the weekend.

A: Thank you.

Q: I have a question about what the costs are for modalities other than key cards?

A: We have looked at using phones, but it was too cost prohibitive.

Q: Lots of students are reaching out to the AS President about the investigation and how long it will take? Will a message go out to the campus with the details?

A: The president has been very clear about the transparency and doing what is necessary to find out what happened.

Q: Can I get a rough estimate of how long it will take?

A: I just spent a couple of hours going over video footage today. It could take a while. There were quite a few folks in the room and the hallway and some were wearing masks.

**B. Provost:**

We sent out admissions letters. If we can land the class that we have, we'll have the largest class ever. North of 4,800, which is large. Transfers are down, but we had a really big push in January. Graduates are looking strong for California. International numbers are still down.

Dr. Goward and the Provost are putting out a summary letter about the NACADA report. This should go out shortly along with the 2019 and 2023 reports in their entirety.

We will be announcing the next phase of the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) later this week.

As far as the investigation is concerned, investigations are complicated and different pieces may be completed at different times. There will be Academic Affairs implications in all of that.

**Questions:**

Q: Can you speak to enrollment and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

A: There has been CSU systemwide strategy on this that is very useful including support to implement information technology (IT) updates. We moved the date from May 1 to May 15, 2024. This gives students more time to get everything in before they make their decision. One of the problems we are going to have is packaging financial aid in a timely manner so students can make choices. There is also communication on how to do it and where to get resources and things like that. We are going to be watching closely. We have no idea what kind of impact that can have on students. There was a Board of Trustees meeting where they talked about expanding financial aid past tuition to do more comprehensive financial aid. Really one of the biggest challenges is the cost of living. That was a topic when I was in Sacramento last week and had a very sobering conversation with state lawmakers about our budget which got a bigger hit to it. If we have to expand past May 15<sup>th</sup>, we are going to do it to give students more time.

Q: Many universities send out admissions letters and immediately afterwards send out scholarship and financial aid information. Are we one of those universities that do this, because it would really be a shame to lose those students we really want.

A: We are doing a lot of things. We also have Admitted Spartans Day. I (Provost Del Casino) will be in Oakland, Long Beach, and Seattle speaking with students. Academic Affairs has only had Enrollment for a few months and we will be evaluating everything. We do too much in the portal. I think we accepted 30,000 to get that 4,800 number which could change.

Q: You said you were in Sacramento last week do you have any sense of what that budget might be like?

A: I don't know yet. I will say that I'm not convinced the legislature has convinced the Governor that a deferral on the Compact is possible. I'm also not convinced that the legislature is in the same position as the Governor in terms of whether or not there will be a budget reduction beyond the Compact funding. That was very sobering to be in a room of legislators. There is interesting debate on projections right now. The legislative office came back now that the hole is \$73 billion and then the Governor's Office came back and said you're missing a bunch of revenue that hasn't come in yet, so we don't know where we will be in May. The CSU system showed up really well last week. They are going to debate this.

Q: I know we are in a soft hiring chill. We have at least two searches going on for Academic Affairs Administrators. Can you tell me the status of those searches?

A: I need to put this forward to the cabinet. It is actually going to be a Dean of Undergraduate Education. It is ready to go as soon as I get approval from the cabinet. The other search, I am waiting in part to find out what the name of the college will be. It will not remain CPGE. They are working on that. I am also trying to get some advisers hired.

C: One of the things we are going to be doing that we haven't done before is some deeper modeling on exactly what we are going to do. I've also been talking to Dr. Goward. Math is one of the biggest courses that sets up sequencing in a lot of the disciplines. However, there are a lot of majors that don't need Math in the first semester. What we are going to do to try and balance out the schedule is create a yearlong roadmap, so that students that don't need math in that first semester are actually told at Orientation that you are going to have math in the second semester. The last thing we are doing is adjusting roadmaps so that there are multiple roadmaps in majors now. We closed up a number of classes, but we opened up the right number of seats this spring. This spring is a test run for doing things in an effective and efficient way. We didn't increase class sizes that much, so we are doing a much better job and we are implementing Ad Astra for math for departments that want it.

Q: There are certain things that are not math heavy, but the catalog shows math. Do you know about that?

A: Yes, I do. Aviation tripled their number of first year students, but forgot to increase their class sizes. We fixed this. We are 100% looking at this.

- C. Chief Diversity Officer (CDO):** Report moved to next meeting.
- D. Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):** Report moved to next meeting.
- E. CSU Statewide Representative(s):** Report moved to next meeting.
- F. Associated Students President:**

The AS Finance Committee allocated \$95,000 to student groups this year. Our goal is \$150,000 by the end of the semester. We are excited to meet that number. What this means is the student groups can go to events, attend seminars, etc. AS raised \$1.8 million on Fundraising Day. Through the I&SA Committee we have been working on some referrals on advising. As for the lobby force in AS, we are bringing a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and reaffirming freedom of speech on campus before the California State Student Association (CSSA) on March 9, 2024. AS is working on revitalizing some sports programs. The AS President has been working on a Student Success Series and it will be a collaboration with the Alumni Association, the Career Center, and Student Affairs. The founder of Oracle, the Executive Director of NASA Ames Exchange, and the Executive Director of the African American Community Service Agency will be on the panel and about 30 or 40 alumni are supposed to be there talking and getting to know the students. AS is also working on the budget. AS raised \$15.6 million through the Tower Foundation this year and their goal is \$30 million for the year.

**Questions:**

Q: You said there is a certain amount of money that hasn't been allocated to scholarships?

A: Yes, these are not AS scholarships. These are scholarships that are supported through alumni and through the Tower Foundation.

Q: Why haven't you awarded those scholarships?

A: [Provost] There has been an assessment and there are a number of reasons why. For instance, there are some scholarships that can't be awarded since they are so tightly wound around an idea that maybe doesn't exist any longer. Also, we don't use the central scholarship system for all scholarships. Lots of departments hold onto them. There are millions of dollars in scholarships not getting into the system where students can find them. We actually went out to donors to ask if we could adjust things and pull things together, but getting everything in the system is really important.

Q: What proportion of students attend sports events? My second question is, how much are we spending and should we be spending that much money on Athletics?

A: I don't know the exact percentage. [Provost] 8.7% of the IRA goes to Athletics. We do know due to the pandemic, we had a huge decline in attendance. We are spending a lot of money, because students want more sports programs. We have 23 sports. Our intention is to connect students and athletics. We changed our approach.

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.