

**Executive Committee of the Academic Senate  
Minutes of the Meeting of January 29, 2024  
Clark 551, 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Present: Baur, Curry, Del Casino, Dukes, Faas, French, Fuentes-Martin, Kataoka, McKee, Multani, Sasikumar (Chair), Sullivan-Green, Teniente-Matson, Wong

Absent: Hart

Recorder: Wong

1. Chair Sasikumar called the meeting of the Executive Committee (the “Committee”) to order at 12 pm.
2. Welcome and brief report by the Chair
  - a. Senate General Election 2024-2025 was announced (3 days later than scheduled).
  - b. A new person (Grace Barbieri) has been hired to help the Senate office and will start on Monday. She will also assist the Special Committee on Senate Representation.
3. Approval of the minutes of November 27, 2023
  - a. The minutes have not been circulated and will get approval by email.
4. Consent Calendar
  - a. The 1/29 consent calendar was approved.
5. Introductions of new members by the President
  - a. The president introduced Dr. Kristin Dukes, the new Chief Diversity Officer, and Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs.
6. Budget issues—report by the President
  - a. Situation: Last Spring: California had a surplus; SJSU structural deficit was 37.5M; BAC recommended action: 23M. This Spring: CA has 38B deficit; 24/25 compact funding is honored but deferred to 25/26. SJSU has a 14.7M shortfall in addition to 12M salary increases (after taking the Governor’s compact funding into account). Revised 2023-2024 budget: a shortfall of 20.61M.

- b. Navigating the 2023-24 forecast: Soft hiring freeze, reduce expenditures, year-end borrow fund, general fund reimbursement
- c. Actions: Several working groups have been created or identified to provide recommendations by April 30 on
  - 1. AA / Research
  - 2. AA / SA
  - 3. Admin & Finance / IT
  - 4. Auxiliaries / Enterprises
  - 5. Athletics
  - 6. University Personnel
    - 1. UP: moved from Chief of Staff to Admin/Finance; Will bring in an external firm to evaluate the move

[Q]: What are we reviewing for Athletics and AA / Research?

[President]: research has overlaps with academic affairs. An external firm has been hired and will submit a report this month on Athletics. We need to determine which level of football we should play.

- d. Communication: Will have a new budget communication plan so the community can be engaged.
    - 1. Update the budget website
    - 2. Monthly budget update messages to campus
    - 3. Town hall meeting (March and June)
    - 4. Additional meetings with stakeholders (leadership groups of faculty, staff, and students)
  - e. Budget Advisory Committee Survey Result:
    - 1. ~900 responses
    - 2. 60% suggested reducing admin expenses
    - 3. 13% suggested reducing athletics expenses
7. Other Q&A and Discussions
- a. [Q]: Does the 12M additional expense due to the salary increase include the 5% GSI in July 2024?  
 [A]: It only includes the 5% GSI retroactive to July 2023. GSI in July 2024 belongs to the 24/25 fiscal year.  
 [Q]: How will the deferral of the compact funding affect the budget?  
 [A]: The deferral of the compact funding will be covered by the system-wide reserve. This might impact the interest to be earned.
  - b. [Comment from a non-admin member]: The impact of salary increase on the budget is real but saving in the budget is meaningless if one cannot survive with the salary.
  - c. [Q]: Which personnel will be cut?  
 [A]: It is a soft hiring freeze. Vacant positions will be reviewed at the Cabinet. No cut in instructional hiring as classes have started.
  - d. [Comment from a non-admin member]: Open faculty positions are difficult to fill with what we can pay.

- e. [President]: This might be an opportunity to regain the momentum and reset. [Provost]: We can do something different.
- f. [Provost]: The increase in student tuition will give 35% more revenue eventually. [CFO]: This can be offset if we keep increasing salaries. Therefore, we need to grow enrollment and sponsorship.
- g. [President]: VPSA search: has engaged with a consulting firm and posted the position already. Has talked to 3 faculty to serve on the committee already. Need to fill one more.
- h. [Provost]: The enrollment number is about 100.1% for Spring. Back to the pre-pandemic level. The percentage of returning students in Spring is 96.2%, the highest since 2017.
- i. [Comment and question from a non-admin member]: CADAA (California Dream Act application) is difficult to complete. Provost: Bringing in new tools with IT, allows the release of more aid.
- j. [Comment and question from a non-admin member]: Two undocumented student AB540 FAQ sessions on Jan. 29 and Mar. 17. The difficulty in CADAA might shrink that group. [Provost]: SSN can be used to pull data for FAFSA application but not CADAA. [same member] will put booths in school for undocumented students to complete the CADAA.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm.

The minutes were taken by Committee member Hiu Yung Wong on January 29, 2024; reviewed and accepted by Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar on February 6, 2024 and approved by the Senate Executive Committee on February 12, 2024.