

**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**March 4, 2024**  
**Clark 550, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

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

Absent: Teniente-Matson, Sullivan-Green

Recorder: Eva Joice

1. The meeting agenda of March 4, 2024 was approved (13-0-0).
2. The Executive Committee Minutes of February 19, 2024 were approved as amended (13-0-0).
3. There was no dissent to the Consent Calendar of March 4, 2024 (13-0-0).
4. After consultation with the Senators from the College of Engineering, Chair Sasikumar brought forward a candidate, Alessandro Bellefiore to fill the vacant College of Engineering seat for one year, 2024-2025, from the College of Engineering.
5. Update from the Chair:  
There are two Senate elections going on right now. One is in the College of Science, and the other is for a CSU Statewide Senator.

On March 18, 2024, the Senate will meet in Engr. 285/287. However, the April Senate meeting will be held in the Student Union. We will see if it works for us and if it does our meetings next Academic year will be in the Student Union.

Questions:

Q: Is the CSU Statewide Representative election only open to Senators, or is it campus-wide?

A: This election is campus-wide.

6. Update from the President: President could not attend.
7. The Provost discussed issues with the Honors Convocation. On the one hand, it is wonderful we have so many students getting such good grades, but it is costing on average \$75 a student and about \$45,000 in total. There is also an issue of the manpower it takes to host the event. University Policy mandates that the Provost Office host an Honors Convocation at least once a year. The Provost is considering combining Honors with the Commencement Ceremony.

Questions:

Q: Will you be putting in a referral to revisit this policy?

A: Yes, but right now I'm dealing with the immediate problem. If we combine it with Commencement the cost will come down to around \$5,000.

Q: Parents will be upset, is there some way to involve the parents?

A: There is a concern about the lack of inclusion of the parents. We are looking at ways to recognize the Honors recipients.

Q: How much do we spend on Commencement?

A: I really don't know.

C: This is an important achievement. There should be a special time during Commencement for it.

C: [Provost] My favorite ceremony was the Commencement of 2021. I stood for 14 hours taking pictures with students and finding out about them.

C: Many students leave halfway through the ceremony.

C: My favorite part of Commencement is walking down the aisle with students.

Q: Can we have a future Executive Committee meeting for discussing the question of Commencement?

A: Yes.

8. The Executive Committee discussed a proposed Sense of the Senate regarding changes to GE Breadth. Chair Sasikumar noted that anyone but the Chair of the Senate can present a proposal. Senators Curry and Wong did the research about what should be addressed. What they really wanted to emphasize was the value of education to students. Many campuses continue to oppose the changes to GE. Senators Curry and Wong conducted a survey and the clauses in the proposed Sense of the Senate are reflective of the survey. We did not want to use the Sense of the Senate to oppose something both the Chancellor and Board of Trustees (BOT) have already said is a done deal.

Question:

Q: Who should this come from, maybe C&R?

A: [Curry] Chair Sasikumar told us to work on this. This was a request.

Q: Can't it come from more than one committee?

A: Chair Sasikumar is not opposed to having both C&R and the EC forward this.

C: We have a statutory responsibility to manage Title IX. We need to be in the same language alignment that was found on campus. I'm not sure the EC is the right place for this to come from. I have grave concerns over collegiality. This is a faculty-centered issue. Where was the student voice in this? I think we lost the students. They see all good with the reduction of units, but aren't focusing on education.

C: It is the purpose of the Sense of the Senate to oppose faculty losing control of the curriculum.

Q: What is the desired outcome of this?

A: Students still see more benefits than harm from this.

C: It seems there is no opposition to the EC bringing this forward. The comments from the Provost and students were very useful.

C: According to Title V, Section 6, each campus can reasonably change some requirements ("university requirements).

C: Faculty are afraid of losing control over the curriculum.

C: We discussed this at the CSU Statewide Senate. Lifelong learning is my favorite part.

C: Once the BOT do what they will do, we will have to implement. There is no reason colleges can't add curriculum.

C: AB 928 is not about general education (GE), it's about pathways. Unit load is at the heart of it. At the last plenary, the Chancellor said they will support reduced GE units.

C: Lots of students are confused about what this is about.

9. Updates from Administrators:

a. From the CDO:

The CDO will discuss the 5 pillars at the next meeting.

The CDO has been interviewing a number of people regarding time, place, and manner.

The CDO is working on interfaith religion issues.

The CDO is also speaking with people about freedom of speech.

Questions:

Q: Is there a way faculty can contribute to the Presidential Directive on time, place, and manner?

A: We will be having training.

C: Freedom of speech relates to time, place, and manner, so there are guidelines. There are also consequences such as what we saw a couple weeks ago.

C: I believe Stefan Frazier and Ravisha Mathur worked on a draft of a time, place, and manner document. We need more campus-wide training on it.

A: I am looking into how to have a large training event.

C: What about a mandatory online training for all employees?

b. CSU Statewide Senator:

We have an upcoming ASCSU meeting next week.

There will be a CSU Dreamer Conference that I'm going to.

Questions:

Q: Is that an Undocu summit?

A: Yes.

c. AS President:

AS President Multani will release a statement about the incident that occurred with the protesters a few weeks ago. Students have been asking him.

International students travel a long time to get here, but when they arrive there is no one to meet them or tell them how to get to San José. Other universities pickup their students. Our International students feel very alienated. Students won't come back and donate as alumni if they aren't treated right. AS is proposing a Sense of the Senate Resolution, what committee should he send it too? Chair Sasikumar said the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA).

Questions:

Q: I worked with this a lot at the University of Texas. There was a house where they could go get information. Don't we have a college dedicated to International students?

A: We have an International Services Office with six employees, but they have lots of paperwork.

C: You should contact all of these places. There is lots of faculty support and concern.

A: There are structural constraints to what we can do. If AS wants to fund a position, then maybe. We don't have the resources. We could have a lot more International students if we had advisors.

C: Students start coordinating this months and months in advance.

C: We have one of the best not state funded websites in International Studies. We had an outside firm design it.

C: We have discussed student engagement, especially at the graduate level. Students will not come back as alumni if they don't feel helped.

d. From the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):

The VPSA is looking for an Interim Director of the Student Union. In the meantime, VP Mari Fuentes-Martin will be temporarily in control.

The committee asked for an update on the information about the availability of medical abortions as well as options for students seeking options at the Student

Wellness Center. A medical document has been provided by the Director of Student Health Services.

AS elections begin next week.

The VPSA is working on a strategy about how to reach out to students regarding time, place, and manner.

C: My comment wasn't about the number of abortions, just about communications.

C: We usually have one-on-one conversations with these groups.

e. From the Provost:

The Provost put his update in the google drive.

C: Senator Curry thanked the VPAF for fixing the issue with the Smart desks in her classroom she spoke about last week.

The minutes were transcribed by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice on March 5, 2024. The minutes were edited by Chair Sasikumar on March 6, 2024. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on March 11, 2024.