

Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
Minutes of the Meeting of March 24, 2025
Clark 551, 12 p.m. to 1:30 pm

Present: Joshua Baur, Julia Curry, Kristin Dukes, Tabitha Hart, Ranko Heindl, Colleen Johnson, Ariana Lacson, Karthika, Sasikumar, Laura Sullivan-Green, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Hiu Yung Wong

Absent: Vincent Del Casino, Shannon Rose Riley, Stan Nosek, Mari Fuentes Martin

1. Update by the Chair

- a. The committee preference form will be sent to the faculty today. Some technical difficulties prevented it from going out on Tuesday, but it was already sent to the General Unit and staff.
- b. Senator Raman and the President brought up the issue of students on committees. Historically, recruiting students and having them regularly attend committee meetings has been difficult. When I was the chair of O&G in 2021, the AS President and I worked together to come up with some reforms of the membership of committees so there would be more latitude to appoint students. For example, we changed the student member of the BAC to the AS controller and made other changes on the operating committees. However, the decision rests with AS on the seat designations. While working with the AS President, I found that the resistance to changing the seats did not come from the Senate but from the AS board members at the time.

C: Why were the students opposing it then?

A: The AS board might have felt that it would lessen the incentives of being on AS, that they got to sit on these committees.

C: I think this fluctuates by leadership. Mari and I meet with the students to share how they can balance their time because, as Senator Raman pointed out, these student senators being on 2-3 committees is not effective or suitable for their well-being.

C: AS has seven student senators, and there are seven seats on the policy committees for students; however, when the seat is designated only for student senators, it limits who can be chosen. If seats were changed to student-at-large, we could get more options and fill the seats more easily without AS board members having to pick up so many committees. It would help our student senators if some of the AS bylaws and the senate bylaws were changed to make the seats less restrictive to only student senators. Recruitment is also hard for students because there are few incentives to join committees, and the meeting times are hard to coordinate with classes.

C: AS could do what ConC does, where, on a specific date, the seat changes from senator to Faculty at Large, so you could change the student senator seats to Student at Large and have the date close to registration so they can plan their classes accordingly. I am also working to write more student-friendly descriptions of the committees so students are more inclined to join them.

2. Update by the President

Last Saturday, the Silicon Valley Women in Engineering event at the Student Union was sold out with nearly 500 students and featured a Senior VP from Google. The first Juvenile Justice College and Career Fair also took place, drawing 150 students. On Tuesday, SJSU hosted the NVIDIA GTC Student Experience with 2,700 attendees, an AI career panel, and a live stream of the keynote address. Five GPUs signed by the CEO were given away. The students have expressed great appreciation for what this type of event does for their experience and exposure to this level of opportunity. There is definitely an opportunity for more of these types of events. On Wednesday, SJSU hosted the NIT men's basketball tournament, which aired on ESPN, and we had a full Event Center. Friday was the Women in Leadership League Conference, which included a Fireside Chat with Hydra Mendoza from Salesforce. On Saturday, SJSU had a Holi celebration. Additionally, I attended CSU Advocacy Day in Sacramento on March 18-19. Lastly, at our Tower Foundation Board Retreat, we discussed our projects and momentum. As mentioned at the Senate meeting, we've raised \$21.6 million toward our \$25 million goal, with a stretch goal of \$30 million for this fiscal year.

The WSCUC special visit is from April 9-11. The Chancellor, the team chair, Dr. Lassner, and I have met. The team has requested who they want to meet with, and we will follow the team's requested meeting schedule. We have submitted our institutional report, which was about 30 pages. The team has requested to meet with the Senate Executive Committee on Wednesday, April 9. On the 11th, I will meet with the Chair, and there will be an exit meeting that anyone can participate in, and once the team leaves, there will be a small thank you celebration. When talking with the team, remember that this is a narrow visit, but it is also an opportunity for you all to share progress made.

Q: Has there been any study on how much extra we need to spend for the special visit?

A: A lot of people power has gone into this visit, and we pay a fee to WASC and pay for the expenditures of the team that will be here.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2025 - approved unanimously
4. Consent Calendar
5. Reports

a. C and R Committee Chair on AI forums (Wong)

There were two open forums, one last week and one today. Last week's event was a debate by some invited speakers who gave very good perspectives and brought up a lot of issues that we did not expect. About 25 people were in person, and 45 were online. Today's event continued the debate in an open forum, where we discussed the statements and other things. About 22 were in person, and 25 were online. We invited Yingjie Liu and Michelle Hager, one from CFETI and the other from the University Writing Center, to talk about the tools and resources available to faculty. Both forums were recorded, and the public speaking parts will be published and shared with faculty. C&R will meet today to review them and can come back gradually with more information.

C: We owe a lot of gratitude to Hiu Yung and C&R for putting on these events. They are very needed since AI is a concern for everyone. When forums were intended to get a slice of opinion on the campus, there were some concerns about representation at these forums; however, my response to that is that there was an attempt to get a cross-section, but it should not be a concern since this is far from the last word on what is going to go into the policy. One of the first questions posed was, "Do we need an overall blanket and binding policy?" Additionally, there was a lot of discussion about using AI in the classroom in terms of evaluation, but that is only one aspect of looking at AI. ISA is where questions about cheating and structuring assignments should come through. There should be a discussion about AI regarding research ethics, productivity, and using AI to generate papers.

Q: Were there any questions about the energy and water consumption AI requires?

C: That is not something we can solve at the campus level. This technology will continue, and we should be hesitant about commenting on things beyond our control.

C: SJSU should very much be concerned about the implications of AI in its daily operations, regardless of SJSU's direct control.

Q: What are C&R's deliverables concerning this event? You should keep in mind the timeline since, in the next few weeks, the ChatGPT tool for students will start to roll out.

A: In the committee, we will discuss the data collected from the forums and then decide whether we should develop a policy and whether it should come from C & R, or ISA or PS.

b. ISA Committee Chair on the Honors policy survey (Sullivan-Green)

ISA is collecting information from students and faculty on alternatives for the Honors Convocation. They would appreciate it if everyone could fill out the sent link. They have received 81 responses so far. ISA hopes to bring a first reading on this policy by the end of the semester.

- c. O and G Committee Chair on the Final Reading of the SMR on Senate Committee reorganization (Baur)

O&G will vote on the proposed SMR at their meeting today. They have considered the comments at the last full Senate meeting and will present it for a final reading on April 14th.

The minutes were taken by Grace Barbieri on March 24, 2025, reviewed and accepted by Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar on March 26, 2025, and approved by the Senate Executive Committee on April 7, 2025.