

2023-2024 Academic Senate Minutes
November 6, 2023

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Hart confirmed the quorum and the meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Chair Sasikumar reminded members that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of taking minutes and the recording will be destroyed when the minutes are completed. The Chair requested all senators to sign in using either the QR code or the signup sheet. 42 Senators were present.

Ex Officio: Present: Curry, Multani, Rodan, Sasikumar, Van Selst, Absent: McKee	HHS Representatives: Present: Baur, Chang, Sen Absent: None
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Administrative Representatives:

Present: Del Casino, Faas

The Chair acknowledged the minutes takers Joanna Gaona and Maharsh Soni (for 10/02 minutes) and Reiko Kataoka (for 10/16 minutes) for their work.

IV. Communications and Questions

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

The Chair acknowledged Diwali (Hindu Festival of lights) and announced the holiday reception for all senators at the President's residence on November 30, 3-5 pm

New senator Gita Mathur from the College of Business joined the Senate.

The Committee on Senate Representation has formed.

The Senate leadership had a meeting with a CSU Trustee Jean Firstenberg and another meeting with NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) reviewers.

There will be a talk by Ken Yeager, a prominent activist and politician, sponsored by the Political Science Department.

President Teniente-Matson is absent today, and Provost Del Casino will present the President's update.

B. From the President: (by Provost Del Casino)

The provost announced that the "President's Report" slides will be distributed to senators. The slides lists President's priorities as follows:

Holistic Student Academic Success

Leading the Campus (transparency) to a financially sustainable and balanced budget

Rebuilding a Culture of Caring, Trust and Inclusivity

Best in Class: Institutional Values and Strategic Plan Recalibration

Business of Running the University

The provost shared updates on the following points:

There is an ongoing search for the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and a new search for the Chief of Staff.

Black Student Success Report – This is a systemwide report. SJSU was asked for recommendations and focus areas of the campus. The President formed a tri-chair group with: Shaun Fletcher, Professor in Journalism, Patience Bryant from ODEI, and Tijon White from EOP. They will be supported by VP Barrera and the CDO.

Mission, Vision, and Values (MVV): The Strategic Planning Steering Committee reviewed the MVV statements. The SPSC will review the goals and outcomes next.

Budget: There will be some mid-year adjustment given our financial obligations and our current financial position. The Budget Advisory Committee will make recommendations. I have had a conversation

with the deans on teaching schedules so that students will know what may or may not be on the schedule.

Questions:

[Q]: Can you explain what caused the need to shift the schedule?

[A]: One is compensation requirements that are retroactive to July. Another is structural budget problems. We cannot borrow money this year so we have to make it up somehow. We do not lose seats, so the students can continue to progress through their degrees while managing the financial situation.

[Follow up Q]: But we were told to cut 70-90 sections in our college in the next few weeks. We do consolidate, but we are likely to lose sections, starting with electives and GE courses. Could there be a message from the administration to students about this situation?

[A]: We cannot offer four electives with 15 seats if we can do with two electives with 30 seats, but I will take a look to see the best options for us.

[Q]: The cut could be equivalent to over 100 FTE, which will be more for lecturers. How did you arrive at this number? Also, since it is going to affect upper division classes, why not wait and see if it fills? Finally, wouldn't it make more sense to wait until registrations are over?

[A]: For the number, we see our financial position and work backwards to arrive at the number. For the third question, if we know we cannot offer as many sections as before, it is better we consolidate now so the students know what they can take. If we wait until January, the chaos will be more severe.

[Q]: There was an increase in tuition fee, then the new chancellor came in, then 95% of CFA members approved a strike authorization, then more budget cuts was announced. The budget cycle is July, so this is suspicious. There is a presentation of a reverse picture on CSU budget with plenty of operating money, reserves, etc. If there is austerity, why not dip into those funds?

[A]: Each campus is different. We have \$180 million, but most of it is not general fund reserve. The system does not move funds across campuses, so we do not have access to anything beyond this campus. We also have new compensation requirements.

[Q]: Has there been a rise in the campus safety issue? The Clery Report does not show anything concerning but there has been a rise in discussion around campus safety.

[A]: No, it is more of preparedness. We have a new Emergency Operation Manager and we had a lot of exercises.

[Q]: I appreciate consolidating sections now than dropping them later. Is the campus using smart planners to pick which sections should be kept?

[A]: Not much, but now we have functionality on those tools. We are also looking to see if there are rooms for which we can increase room capacities.

[Q]: You mentioned that we cannot borrow more. Why?

[A from CFO Faas]: We have access, but it is for operating funds. It is a different bucket and there is a limit on how much we can borrow to cover structural deficits.

[Q]: Much of the issue seems to be the impact of salary negotiation. Would we have taken different decisions if it is not taken into calculations?

[A]: Yes.

[Follow up Q]: What would they have been?

[A]: In retrospect, it would have been better to resolve it at one sweep and deal with the raises through different strategies, but we did not do that.

[Q]: Course cuts were a major concern at the CSSA (Cal State Student Association). What has been done from the President's Office to communicate with students about it and to assure that they can graduate on time?

[A]: Before we communicate, we want to make sure what we can and cannot do. The top priority is that students can graduate. Some elective courses may not be available but there are enough seats in required major courses.

[Q]: On the Black Student Success Report and the Task Force, is there any student on the task force?

[A]: There are students in the task force and there is a student outcome.

[Follow up A from CDO Lee]: The tri-chairs represent faculty, staff, and students. One priority is to focus on students, with a longer-term goal of creating a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy for black students and a shorter-term goal of looking at a retention strategy for black scholars. These are the areas in which students would be involved.

V. Executive Committee Report:

A. University Library Board (ULB): None

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

Senator Baur presented the **SMR Amendment to Senate Constitution, Section II.2 and Senate Bylaws, Section 1.3 (First Reading)**.

Questions:

[Q]: On the selection process, it says two deans are selected by college deans. What about the third representative? How would the third member be selected?

[Q]: To make that change requires a constitutional amendment by asking the entire campus. Has there been any conversation about how many times we need to ask the campus for a constitutional amendment? Should we suggest the Special Committee incorporate this request to their work so that we get a lot of broad feedback on these particular changes?

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

Senator Wong presented **Amendment C to S19-3 Requirements/Guidelines, University Writing Committee (First Reading)**.

Questions:

[Q]: The proposal says that the alternative assessment must include the process where a student can work to meet the standard. It is usually done as coursework. What would such an alternative process look like?

[A]: It is pretty open at the moment. It can be a series of assignments or portfolio development. The purpose is to make sure that the department has a rigorous process that students go through until they meet the level.

D.

meetings with student organizations and there have been reminders not to tolerate violence. Police Chief Carrol has been working on this, as well.

[A from VP Day]: In addition, there are a number of tactical things and homecoming happening, so we are working to ensure that our events are safe. We have done healing circles and individual conversation, and these works will continue for a while.

[A from CDO Lee]: We have also tried to coordinate and listen to any student organizations who want to organize or protest in public spaces.

[Q]: I appreciate what is going on from the Student Affairs. Is there any comprehensive approach to support faculty as well?

[A]: We have addressed that as well because the necessary resources and support are different for the faculty. There was also a message sent out.

[A from Provost Del Casino]: There has been a question about what faculty would do in classrooms, also relat

becoming more concerning, and this is happening across the state and the

[A]: I have seen more cases with mental health crises, both in classroom and public spaces, that manifest in the type of behaviors that need to be addressed from conduct perspectives so that they will not continue.

[C]: I want all of you to be aware of the problem with counseling. We have no one between us and the provost. Counselor faculty are 13 strong right now, and four or five of us are tenured, but we have no one representing us who has knowledge about RTP, faculty rights, and other critical issues. We would like Academic Senate support and possibly train some of our MPPs so that they understand the position of counselor faculty at our campus.

F. Vice President for Administration and Finance: (by VP Faas)

There are two updates. First, on the safety and security in and outside the campus, since August we have had four different training activities with UPD, the cabinet, and the campus. There have been heighte s1he (m)10.Wiblntent ri3 (,)-11.46 (c)-

[Q]: With this budget crisis, we have seen the steady growth of MPPs. According to one estimate, there is one manager for every 100 students when we only have about one counselor for 2,300 students. Why do we have this severe imbalance? What are the priorities?

[A]: Our priority is the students, that they get a great education, graduate, and make a living.

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