

Statement from Tabitha Hart, candidate for Vice Chair

May 3, 2023

Dear Senate colleagues,

My name is Tabitha Hart, and I am running for election to serve as the next Vice Chair of the Senate. I feel highly motivated to fill this role, and excited at the prospect of working on key issues such as training, capacity-building, mentorship, developing support and opportunities for current and future Senators, and exploring processes and resources that would strengthen our shared governance.

Since joining SJSU's Academic Senate in Fall 2016, I have served on three different policy committees: Organization and Government (O&G), which handles policies related to our university's governance; Professional Standards, which handles policies on faculty affairs; and Curriculum and Research, which develops curricular policies. For the last two academic years, I was elected to be O&G's chair, in which capacity I have also served on our Senate's Executive Committee.

Outside of the Senate, I am a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Social Sciences, where I have worked since joining SJSU in 2012. As an interpretive scholar, my approach to conducting research relies on understanding how others experience the world around them. Similarly, as an ethnographer of communication, my tried-and-true methods include participant observation (i.e. carefully watching, listening, and taking fieldnotes), deep consultation with others, asking a lot of questions, poring over and making sense of qualitative data, and checking back to see if I've accurately captured people's perspectives and experiences. If elected as your next Vice Chair, I will bring these skills to the role, along with 25+ years of experience in project coordination and management; 11 years of SJSU committee work at the departmental, college, and university levels; 25+ years of experience facilitating professional meetings (which I like doing!) in a variety of modalities, including in-person, online, and hybrid; and my pedagogical commitment to designing and implementing frameworks for civic engagement, active learning, and shared success.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I hope that I will have your support and your vote.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Tabitha Hart