

Executive Committee Minutes
January 31, 2022
via Zoom, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present: Karthika Sasikumar (Acting Chair), Steve Perez, Anoop Kaur, Brandon White, Julia Curry, Kimb Massey, Stefan Frazier, Ravisha Mathur, Vincent Del Casino, Tabitha Hart, Winifred Schultz-Krohn, Charlie Faas

Absent: Wong (Lau), Day

1. The Executive Committee Agenda of January 31, 2022 was approved unanimously (12-0-0).
2. The Executive Committee discussed the Executive Committee Minutes of January 12, 2022. Corrections were made to the minutes that were friendly to the body. The Executive Committee voted and the minutes were approved as amended (12-0-0).
3. There was no dissent to the consent calendar of January 31, 2022.
4. A special election was held in the College of Science, but no candidates came forward. In accordance with Senate bylaw 1.6.2.4., AVC Massey consulted with the Senators from the College of Science and brought forward two candidates to fill the Senate seat for the semester. William Andreopoulos was selected by the Executive Committee (11-0-1).

[Bylaw 1.6.2.4: If no candidate files for that vacancy, it shall be filled for one year by a person in that constituency selected by the Executive Committee after consultation with the Senators from that constituency. A permanent replacement shall be elected to fill out the remainder of the term as part of the next general election.]

5. Updates from the President:
Spring 2022:

Interim President Perez announced that we are still on track to resume our posted spring schedule on February 14, 2022. Interim President Perez has a meeting with the county this week to go over the COVID numbers and see where we are in regard to the Omicron variant. East Bay started their face-to-face classes today and so far, so good. They have about the same mix we do of face-to-face vs. online classes (60%/40%). We will keep communicating and updating our website.

As VP Faas has said, the budget is a good start at a budget. Last week at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, there was conversation about the work still left to be done between now and June 2022. We will need to work collaboratively to try and get the state to give us more funding. Interim President Perez believes this budget request from the BOT shows a change in strategy and a good change by asking for what we need instead of what we think we can get. What we need is about three times as much as what the governor has proposed in this budget. There is still a lot

more work that needs to be done to get more funding. As a campus we have done a great job in showing what we can do if we are given more funding and what we need for our students to be successful.

Other things that came up during the BOT meeting included the ratification of the agreement with the California Faculty Association (CFA). This is fantastic. I don't know if there has been a vote by the CFA or not, but hopefully that is successful.

The BOT updated the sustainability goals for the CSU system. There was a presentation about what different CSU campuses are doing and about 13 of the 23 campuses were STARS gold. STARS stands for Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System. SJSU is STARS gold. We should be very proud of ourselves.

The chancellor also announced that there would not be any tuition increase this year. That is very good news for our students.

The BOT changed what a campus has to do to be removed from the impaction program. Interim President Perez believes this is a Title V change and may need to come back to the BOT in March to get voted on again. This is a positive move by the BOT.

The BOT voted to eliminate the ACT and SAT as admission requirements. This is a very positive move as well.

Questions:

Q: Can you speak to why staff were required to be on campus during the first two weeks of the semester when the faculty and students were told to stay at home?

A: We didn't ask students and faculty to stay away. What we did was go virtual in most of our classes, but the fact that we do have people here means that we have to have services available to them. Students need to be able to go to the Student Health Center and we need to maintain operations on campus. There are some positions like mine where you need to be on campus every single day. That being said, it is great to see people on campus.

Q: I was especially interested in the BOT meeting when they talked about the Bond Initiative and why we are unable to have a bond. The governor said he didn't think it was a good time to ask for a bond in such a good budget year. Then Trustee Sabalius asked why didn't they give us more money. I appreciate that some of the hard questions being asked are coming from Trustee Sabalius. What did you or VP Faas think of that?

A: [Interim President Perez] The governor is probably correct. It would be very hard for the state to ask for a bond when you have trillions of dollars in surplus, particularly when we've lost bond elections in recent years. It would be a hard thing to sell. As for Trustee Sabalius, I agree. I've known Trustee Sabalius for some time now and I'm very impressed.

A: [VP Faas] I was on vacation last week and have not seen the BOT meeting yet. I did spend time with Trustee Sabalius when he came back from Europe and I agree that he is doing an excellent job. He asks the right questions, and he reads the room appropriately during the meetings.

Q: Last week the ASCSU sent out one of their resolutions that was talking about legislative advocacy. It encourages the ASCSU to be more deliberate and active in advocacy as legislation comes up, especially around curriculum. I'd like to know if the presidents have had any discussion about that resolution yet, and how the presidents across the campuses will partner with the ASCSU in those legislative advocacy efforts to ensure that faculty are the loudest voice in curricular decisions on the respective campuses. I'm very much against legislative intrusion in curriculum decisions and very much for campus autonomy in making decisions to meet the needs of their specific campus population. Have presidents had this discussion or will they have this discussion about how to partner either with the ASCSU or with their campus faculty as those continued intrusions occur?

A: [Interim President Perez] I share your discomfort about legislative intrusion into the curriculum. I haven't been in a president's meeting where we have talked specifically about this resolution. I've talked with others in the past about this not being the way we want our curriculum developed by the state legislature. Sometimes our hands are tied as a campus. Sometimes the CSU system will take a position on a matter and then we follow suit with that. I don't know who would be in favor of legislative intrusion. I'm not sure where that will go and I haven't been a part of those conversations yet.

6. Updates from the Chair:

Acting Chair Sasikumar commented that Senators Mathur, Schultz-Krohn, and Acting Chair Sasikumar have divided up the work of the Senate Chair for this semester due to the unexpected departure of Chair McKee. Chair Sasikumar also commented that they could not do this without the assistance of the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice.

The Senate Retreat will be held on Friday, February 18, 2022, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All Senators are invited. It will be a little shorter than usual. We hope to make this a working retreat where the four policy committee chairs will present Senators with issues that the university has been grappling with and we hope to then come up with action items that can be put into policies and resolutions. Please send Acting Chair Sasikumar any questions you may have.

7. Updates from the CSU Statewide Senator:

There were resolutions passed in the January plenary. Several had to do with faculty having the authority to exercise pedagogical and curriculum decisions. We had an extensive one-hour discussion that had to do with how people are continuing to cope with COVID on their campuses. There were multiple dilemmas given the multiple ways in which issues are interpreted. This isn't about people wearing masks, or not wanting to come back. It has to do more with the longevity of COVID

and people's mental health. Many people are just burnt out emotionally. Not only in terms of their own families and communities, but in terms of their students and the inability to address some of the issues that go along with not being able to be there in person. Amazingly, it turns out we need human contact. This is very, very, important.

Other highlights include continued discussions about the impact of some of the legislation that has taken place, such as AB 927 and AB 928 and what that will mean particularly with regard to the shared educational mission of the community colleges, the CSU, and the UC and how to we get to a place where we are all working together to address a multiple array of shared issues that have to do with things like the transfer initiative and a common course numbering system, etc. There is currently a survey regarding AB 928 that the CSU is rejecting. I sent out the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) reports developed by Senator Van Selst.

Another resolution that I requested feedback from our colleagues on campus about is the "S" factor. This is part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and has to do with credits accumulated by faculty engaged in supervision classes. Many of the faculty are asked to serve as thesis advisers, or internship guides. Those positions do not count towards the WTUs. The CBA tells us how to address the Wtu credit accumulated by the individuals to get reassigned time. The whole issue has to do with the fact that this is work overload. It is presented and acted upon in different ways at different campuses. The majority of the faculty that responded were not aware that they had the right to accumulate credits. That is an issue that may come up again in relation to coming out of COVID, but still feeling a lot of the work overload that COVID imposed upon people. I'm using the word imposed, because we kept doing the work but there is no recognition. How are people to be compensated for being able to pivot on a dime? Those are discussions going on right now.

Questions:

C: [Acting Chair Sasikumar] Thank you for reminding us about the GE proposal that was put forth and not accepted by the ASCSU. This points to the fact that the CSU might not be unified in how they view GE and how that makes it more challenging when we negotiate with the more powerful UC in determining what GE should look like for the state of California across the three systems. I know that everyone believes the law says we have to reduce GE, but that is not in the law. However, this is the assumption people are making because we are working with the UC. The CSU and the ASCSU together should be more unified to see what we would like to see in our GE. I'd like for SJSU to be the loudest voice in that group. Our package has been negotiated over many, many years and was carefully put together and discussed by departments and has a lot of value to students. I know this personally because Senator Frazier, Thalia Anagnos, and I put together a report on GE and we looked at thousands of comments. I hope the ASCSU continues with a strong

advocacy to keep what we have in our CSU GE package and not just focus on reduction.

A: [Senator Curry] Part of the dilemma is that there isn't good public relations and communication about what GE is and does. Instead there are perceptions about not only the difficulties that some people think there are in terms of the folklore around somebody being disgruntled because their kid wanted to transfer and couldn't take their GE to another campus. We need to communicate to each other what is the evidence and reasons for the GE package. I think you are absolutely right that we have a very strong package and we have documented that strength. The other thing I think is complicated with AB 928 in particular, has to do with the fact that we have to negotiate with all the community colleges and they all have different chancellors and procedures. We are dealing with multiple layers and I think people feel that is a little bit daunting.

Q: The ASCSU is asking us to get feedback from the campuses in a very different way than they have in the past. The last time we did this about a year and a half ago it had to be done in a single document from the campus. This time the ASCSU has created a survey that I'm a little concerned about. However, that isn't my question. The chancellor's office has created a webpage to talk about AB 928. The thing that is still unclear to me is who is this committee that is going to be starting this process? On the chancellor's webpage it says there is going to be a representative from the chancellor's office that goes to this committee. If you look at the webpage carefully it seems to suggest that the committee is the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, which basically has representation from all three groups. Do you know any more information about this? I think the chair of the ASCSU is part of this committee, but I could be wrong.

A: [Provost] I don't have a crystal ball, so I won't go there. I was out Friday and missed a joint meeting with the VPs, but I don't think this was a topic. Interim President Perez have you heard anything? We didn't talk about this in-depth last semester as Provosts. What I understand is what you understand, which is that what is on the page is the group e.g., Robert Keith Collins is in the group, etc., so those I believe are our representatives on this group. That is all I know.

Q: So, we didn't have any real say into who is on this group. I'm not sure how this group was ever elected. It is confusing.

A: [Provost] I'm happy to ask.

Q: I'm getting asked a lot of questions about this, and it is still unclear to me. I don't have any answers. I'm not sure this should be coming from me anyway. Perhaps you could address the campus about it?

C: [Acting Chair Sasikumar]: This is very interesting and a very important question. It needs to be clarified, which also brings me to the survey. The survey was meant to be shared with all the faculty on the campus asking for their feedback on how to reconcile the number of GE units. The lower number of GE that the UC has with the higher number that we have. The first line of the survey is incorrect to begin with. It starts off by saying, "As you know AB 928 requires a reduction of GE units." As Acting Chair of the Academic Senate, I was supposed to send the survey out, but I did not send it out because it was factually incorrect. We are trying to figure out

where that survey came from and how we can modify it so it is factually correct. We are working on that.

C: Looking at the chancellor's website, it does say they are going to try and get it down to 34 units, so it seems like we have already lost this argument.

Q: The survey is coming from the CSU, but it is linked to this webpage belonging to the chancellor's office, so do we continue to talk about it or just accept that?

A: [Senator Curry] My recommendation is that there be a memo extended to this committee. I also think the appropriate person from our community to speak to who should sit on this committee to represent us is Mark Van Selst. He does sit on the Intersegmental Council of the Academic Senates, the IGETC Committee, and he is very embedded in this discussion about AB 928 and the relationship to GE, the relationship to the three college communities, and also the discussion with the articulation officer. Perhaps it would be a good idea to invite him to one of our meetings to discuss these things. As far as the membership you just showed, that was the entire Executive Committee of the ASCSU.

A: [Provost] After reading all this, I don't think this is the whole group. It could be those are our representatives from the three systems relative to the question of the Academic Senates, which are the last three bullets in this list. Therefore, the answer is the committee hasn't been put together yet.

A: [Senator Curry] Those are standing committees that the Academic Senate has representatives to that I was saying Mark Van Selst is our representative to.

C: It may be beneficial for us to meet with Mark to see what information he can give us about progress. Some of us also know the Chair of the ASCSU and maybe we can ask him directly as well.

C: [Acting Chair Sasikumar] I will try to form a subcommittee to look into this, but for now we need to move on.

8. Updates from the VP of Administration and Finance (VPAF):

I announced the last time that we had hired a new UPD Chief Michael Carroll. He has been reaching out to different groups to introduce himself already. The Spartan Daily also did an article on him.

As for the budget, we've discussed this pretty thoroughly. It is a process. It starts with the governor putting out a decent budget proposal to spend a lot of the surplus funds. The next few months will be a long slog to work the various legislative groups to try and get them to open up their coffers and get more money for the CSU. We have lots of initiatives to spend the money on and at the top of the list are salary increases for all our employees. We are looking forward to seeing the reports on staff and faculty salaries, but we know what they are going to say and that is that our staff and faculty are way underpaid. We also need to figure out how to address our continued deferred maintenance problems. The new Science Building is gorgeous, but it is just going to show the difference between the new buildings and those in need of desperate repair like Sweeney and Dudley Moorhead Halls. We will continue to work and keep you informed as we go through this budget process.

Questions:

Q: It seems in various places faculty gather one thing that always comes up is Research Scholarship and Creative Activity (RSCA) and how are we going to be able to sustain the RSCA Initiative?

A: [VPAF] We have put forward base budget dollars for this, not one-time dollars. Our strategic plan is very much focused on research and we are continuing on that path. I've asked our Interim President and he says we have no plans to deviate from this.

A: [Provost] It is in the base budget. Last year VPAF Faas and I came up with some creative ways to make it fund just so we didn't have to worry about some base dollars. However, those funds are locked in now. We might hit another slight moment of expansion and we'll have to see how that goes. However, everyone that makes it through the next 11 or 12 years with RSCA funding is probably going to be a really active full professor and is going to want to keep going on the 3/3 load. So, there might be another bump in the cost at some point, but our goal is to generate enough revenue around various things to pay for this. It would have to be a shift in our philosophy and goals for a change at this point.

C: What I've heard in my own college is that it is kind of a vetting process every few years and you have to constantly prove yourself.

A: [Provost] It's not every year now.

C: Right, but it is still this process where you have to prove yourself every 5 years you have to go through this process again.

A: [Provost] There is an audit function in the university, so we do need something. I don't think once every 5 years is that bad, because it's not baked into the business plan of the CSU to do this. This is a campus initiative that demands an auditability of our resources.

A: [Interim President Perez] Let me just reinforce what VPAF Faas and Provost Del Casino said. I told you I was excited about the opportunity to come here. That is because of the great things SJSU is doing. I didn't come here to water down anything. It is important that it is in baseline money. I'm here to support this.

9. **From the Associated Students President (AS):**

[AS President Kaur] For our general services centers, we closed the books for December 2021 and finalized our calendar year end reporting, both our 1099 and W2 tax documents. We filled out the Q-Force Tax Returns and filed the 2022-2023 Property Tax for owned and rented property. We will submit our mid-year financial report to SJSU tomorrow and we are working on budget development for 2022-2023 with our Associate Director Jim Wesburg.

For Transportation Solutions, we recently renewed our Smart Pass Agreement and it has been assigned for 2022.

In the Government Department, we hosted Interim President Perez and he met with our board at our Retreat. It was very productive. We also hosted the new UPD Chief Michael Carroll at our first board meeting.

We are still recruiting for our Leadership and Government Coordinator and the Executive Administrative Assistant positions. Unfortunately, these positions have remained vacant for some time.

AS Board of Directors candidate applications are open. I've run in three elections, so if you have any interested students feel free to send them my email address. These applications close at 5 p.m. on February 25, 2022.

We received an overwhelming number of coats and blankets that were donated by the community and distributed them before the holiday break.

We have a new Garden Coordinator, Matt Spadoni, that started in January 2022. Diana Victa is also now serving as President-elect for the California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education.

In Marketing, we have released our annual report for 2020-2021.

The AS Blog will release its third copy.

On January 22, 2022, I have the California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary. We are working on inviting the CSSA President for a campus visit. We have not had a visit from a CSSA executive for about four years now.

We are working on the California Higher Education Student Summit policy agenda. The board of directors reported cosponsoring a financial aid bill that is not yet named and AB 1625 which has to do with inoperable parking meters. I am also working on a bond bill to obtain advocacy at the CSSA level to implement CSU-wide change.

AS has many events planned to engage students this semester. This week I will be hosting a student session with Interim President Perez on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 2 p.m.

On Thursday, March 17, 2022, AS will honor Cesar Chavez Recognition Day on the 7th Street Plaza.

I will be asking for support from all of you in terms of gathering interest from students for COVID Care Packages and student seats on university committees. Stay tuned for an email from me.

Questions:

Q: Is there a way you can give us the information so we can let our students know there is opportunity for them to run for AS seats please?

A: Yes, I'll send it to you for the AS Elections and university committees.

Q: In the past, AS has offered scholarships to students, are you going to do this again? Also, last year there was some discussion in AS about having more connection with faculty, so there could be discussion when it comes to legislative advocacy on different sides of an issue and I wanted to know if there has been any progress on this?

A: We will continue with our scholarships. I will let you know when they are open. We've added an Advocacy Scholarship for students involved with racial equity and justice. That is an additional \$10,000 in scholarships. In answer to your second question, that question came up at our board of directors meeting when the ASCSU chair was there. He mentioned having a better relationship with the CSSA liaison who attended the ASCSU meeting when they were discussing AB 928.

Q: Have you reached out to graduate students to serve on committees and in graduate programs? I haven't heard anything from my graduate students and I'm wondering if they think these committees are primarily for undergraduates. I'm wondering what kind of outreach is done to graduate students?

A: I only have access to the College of Science graduate classes, but if you ever want to invite me, I have a presentation I can give that only takes a few minutes. We have struggled in this area. I can tell you from memory that I have only appointed three graduate students. This is definitely an area we need to work on. I coordinate with Dean d'Alarcao.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

These minutes were taken by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, on January 31, 2022. The minutes were edited by Acting Chair Sasikumar on February 9, 2022. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on February 14, 2022.