

Executive Committee Minutes
August 8, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Present: Alison McKee (Chair), Stephen Perez, Julia Curry, Rachael French, Charlie Faas, Brandon White, Reiko Kataoka, Laura Sullivan-Green, Vincent Del Casino, Tabitha Hart, Patrick Day, Nina Chuang

Absent: Priya Raman, Karthika Sasikumar, Kathy Wong(Lau)

Recorder: Eva Joice, Senate Administrator

1. The committee approved the Executive Committee Agenda of August 8, 2022 (EC Agenda of August 8, 2022, Consent Calendar of August 8, 2022, and Executive Committee minutes of June 10, 2022 and July 7, 2022) (10-0-1).
2. Chair McKee announced that in accordance with the approved Senate Calendar for 2022-2023, all Senate and Senate Committee meetings would be via Zoom, initially and/or until further notice. This is a rapidly changing situation, however—literally day by day.
3. Update from Interim President Perez:
The 2021-2022 budget closed at the end of June. We need to see where we are and if we have to cover any year-end deficit. Last year we used \$15 million of reserves. The CSU received a new allocation this year, but costs are up.

We received WASC reaccreditation for six years. We also have a three-year mid-review visit. That means we will start this process again right away. The official letter from WASC talked about the need for shared governance and the equity gap. We will start working on these issues as soon as possible. We need to reactivate the Accreditation Committee and maybe repopulate it.

Mask Mandate:

The next message to the campus will most likely be that we will keep masks on when indoors. The CDC has a measure for this. They publish it every day and it gives recommendations. We have remained in the high category. This is a constantly evolving situation.

Monkeypox:

Monkeypox is transferred a different way by skin-to-skin contact. There is also a new Ebola strain. We need to be considerate and care about each other and to communicate effectively.

Questions:

C: Everything you said relates to the question of modality. Some of this speaks in favor of Zoom meetings. This is very relevant to the Senate right now.

A: Some meetings might be best left to Zoom. Again, these are unfolding issues.

Q: You mentioned using reserves of \$15 million last year. Can you explain why? Was money mismanaged?

A: No, not mismanaged. Costs have gone up.

Q: Does our budget include pay raises?

A: The raises are separate. We get an allocation from the State but is not dependent on what raises are. We will need to raise revenues. We should not cover deficits and have no reserves left.

Q: WASC says we must respond to the concerns listed. There are lots of concerns that are tied to the budget. Has the cabinet talked through how to address this? How will we involve faculty and staff in those conversations?

A: We need to show WASC we have thought about it and have started to implement changes. As for Campus Climate, we need to find out why people are feeling bad about the campus and hopefully make changes over the next two years. I will be speaking with the Executive Committee and Senate about Shared Governance.

Q: WASC also says there is a lack of uniformity in staff support across divisions, as heard from the staff voice. Lecturers also feel the difference in treatment across departments. In some departments and divisions, staff and lecturers feel they are not very valued, included, or supported. How would you respond to these voices?

A: I don't have answers for this today, but in three years we will. We need to find out why lecturers and staff feel they are not treated well and address this.

C: You said the WASC Commission received messages that you didn't have access to. I think it is important to ask for the list so we can address it.

A: This is not our decision. We do know at least enough people raised the issue to WASC for it to be a concern.

C: I don't respond to the Campus Climate Surveys any longer, because nothing ever gets done about it.

A: I encourage you to respond to the surveys.

C: The last Campus Climate Survey was in 2020. Maybe it's time for another one. It is important to get research and know the dates of the survey. There is a lot to do in three years.

Q: Concerning shared governance, O&G is working on some referrals that tie into this. We are finding that there are some policies on the books that people are not aware of. How do we let people know about new policies?

C: It is pretty clear that shared governance on campus is imperfect. It means different things to different people. It is critical to have conversations about that.

C: From the student perspective, we see that there are procedures for things like student grievances, but not for other things.

C: Shared governance means different things to different sectors. We need to identify where it is broken. Not all areas of shared governance are broken.

Q: Why is there a deficit? How much is the deficit? These are the types of questions that will be heading your way.

A: These are totally natural and appropriate questions and we look forward to discussing it with everyone.

4. Update from the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA):

In terms of enrollment, we are doing very well. We are on track with first-year students: around 4,000 or a little less. The VPSA will have firm numbers available in about a week. Transfers are down significantly. About 1,000 students are on hold pending Orientation.

We held the first in-person Orientation this summer. Students were very engaged. Some parents are worried about students having become more introverted since COVID began. We are still struggling with transition issues going into fall. People are excited to be back. Students must be compliant with vaccinations this fall. Our housing is at 102% and that is a good sign. We have 4,200 beds on campus.

We are looking forward to six Weeks of Welcome for students. The Spartan Speakers Series is about to start. It has been extremely successful online and we will continue with that.

We will keep you informed about SB 24 related to having the abortion pill on campuses.

We actively solicited students to get them vaccinated last year. We won't be doing that this year. Instead, we are doing entry testing of students moving into housing. Students will get a deadline. We will communicate to students that they need to take more responsibility for their health.

Questions:

Q: We started the year with strategies for enrollment planning. Was that used for summer/fall?

A: Yes, we have been following the plan. We wanted to be somewhere around the 3,900 first-time students and we are. However, we are down in transfer students.

Q: When you say you are pulling back on COVID testing, does this mean that you will pull back on testing for everybody else?

A: We are pulling back on COVID testing routinely, because we should all be vaccinated by now.

C: You should prepare for objections on that.

A: You are equally likely to get COVID from the grocery store as you are to get it on campus.

C: Any microbiologist will tell you that you need a multi-level approach.

Q: Do our enrollment numbers show how our undocumented students are doing?

A: We don't know the numbers right now. We are concerned about the decline in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applications. There is a substantial decline in people filling out the form. The VPSA will get the numbers and report back.

5. From the Provost:

There is a lag in the update of enrollment data. We will look into that. Graduate enrollment is up significantly by 5.5%, but not in California residents. California resident graduate enrollment is down. The challenge is getting students into high impact programs.

There will be a Town Hall for staff on this Friday.

The Provost has been working on hiring discussions and raises.

The SJSU Online website and campaign launched today.

The Provost is working with COACHE to see if we can expand it to include part-time faculty.

Our third cohort of Public Voices Fellowships will be announced soon.

The Provost has been asked to sit on the systemwide task force on barriers related to PACE.

Questions:

Q: Are we still using the 70/30 online/face-to-face class formula?

A: We need to start evaluating. Some departments want more online and others do not. It will be important for us as we move forward.

C: Many online sessions are filled, but the in-person classes are not in my department.

A: This will take a new level of enrollment management in the department. We won't go back to 95% in person. Students want a voice in that. We need to have conversations locally.

6. From the AS President:

Our policy agenda this year includes discussions on homelessness, accessibility, representation on campus, and mental health issues.

Recently eight of our members attended the first in-person CSU meeting in three years.

7. From the CSU Statewide Senator:

Because the ASCSU is not in session yet, there is no real report. However, our Faculty Trustee, Romey Sabalius, sent out his report of the July Board of Trustee meeting to all Senators via email. Our first ASCSU meeting is September 7 to 9, 2022.

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

UPD has held two recent events. There was a monthly meeting at the MLK Library. The campus community was invited to attend as well as the public. The second event was last Tuesday and UPD held a National Day Out and hosted rides and pop-up tents for kids. Both events were well-attended and are good steps forward.

9. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The minutes were edited by Chair McKee on August 19, 2022.

The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on August 29, 2022.