

Executive Committee Minutes
August 30, 2021
via Zoom, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Present: McKee (Chair), Curry, Hart, Kaur, Massey, Papazian, Day (12:15 p.m.)
Del Casino, Sasikumar, Sullivan-Green, White, Mathur, Wong(Lau),
Schultz-Krohn

Absent: Faas

1. The Executive Committee approved the Consent Agenda of August 30, 2021 [Executive Committee Minutes of August 9, 2021 and August 23, 2021, Consent Calendar of August 30, 2021] (12-0-1).
2. Chair McKee recognized the work by the Associate Vice Chair (AVC), Kimb Massey, and the Committee on Committees (CC) members in filling vacant committee seats. AVC Massey announced the rest of the vacant seats would be filled with faculty-at-large after the September 1, 2021 Committee on Committees meeting. All of the college seats have been filled but one.
3. Updates from the President:
President Papazian recognized the important work of the CC.

President Papazian noted the tremendous turnout of students at the football game this past weekend. The students were following the COVID protocols and being safe.

We have the largest Frosh class we have had in a very long time. We have 4,300 Frosh. We try not to get above 4,000. We want to be sure students are successful in their classes. However, we also have a second-year class that call themselves “*Froshmores*.” These are sophomores that didn’t get to attend classes on campus last year. That takes us over 8,000 students that were wandering around the campus with their parents last week. Thank you to everyone that stepped in to help direct students. We ran into a lot of issues across the university. There were offices that were not open. We really must get our arms around this. We didn’t know how many students would be on campus and now it looks like there will be about 15,000 at any one time. It is going to be really important for us to be available for students across all divisions. President Papazian recognizes the pressures on the staff, but heard parents commenting, “what is wrong with the university and why aren’t offices open?” This has to be fixed.

Obviously, we are all very concerned about the wildfires and the smoke impact as well. President Papazian will be happy to answer any questions regarding this.

President Papazian just got word that the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting that was scheduled for next week will now be virtual. It was supposed to be hybrid, but they couldn’t get the technology in time to make it work.

Work on the APIDA Center is moving forward. VP Day has launched a search for a director. President Papazian met with Edith Kinney and VP Day concerning the report from the Committee on Policing and Safety. They have a finalized draft now. They apologized for the delay, but they wanted to get the report right. It will go to the cabinet for review now. VP Day can answer any questions you have on that.

The search for the new University Police Chief is underway. We have shared the draft report from the Committee on Policing and Safety so that they understand the issues we are facing.

President Papazian gave kudos to the team that organized the San José/San José State University partnership. There was a tremendous amount of outreach and we are very excited about this. President Papazian spoke to the VTA about getting things up and running for our students. It won't be a full schedule, but a limited one.

We are submitting our WASC Report to the commission today. This effort was led by Pam Richardson and Junelyn Peeples. As part of that report we have started to have a conversation with Carnegie about putting in an application for classification with Carnegie as a "*Community Engaged Campus*." This grew out of the WASC report and all the initiatives we have been enacting.

Questions:

Q: The program I teach in has about eight master's students that are instructors-of-record for public speaking. All of their sessions are in person on Mondays and Wednesdays. Last night I was contacted by one of them saying that she had been informed by one of her students that the student had tested positive for COVID. That student was told by her physician that she should notify those she had come into contact with. I contacted my department chair and we are trying to figure out what to do in these cases. My student teaching assistant emailed me that she felt unsafe returning to the classroom knowing that one of the students had tested positive for COVID. When I reviewed the information on what we should do, I could not find any answers for this situation. I know there are procedures for reporting COVID. Since we could not find a clear answer, we instructed her to teach online via zoom. When and where can we expect instructions on what an instructor should do when there isn't much time between notification and the next class?

A: [President] I'm going to turn this over to VP Day and Provost Del Casino, but let me just say that the first thing the student should do is report the case. We will then follow-up and provide guidance. This is really a tough place for people to make decisions. If that was last week, chances are the classroom has had multiple cleanings already.

A: [VP Day] I need to see the specifics. The specifics really matter in a situation like this. We will have students that test positive. Steps that will happen depend on how we are notified. If a student reports it we will find out how many people have been exposed. Exposure requires a particular distance for a particular amount of time. We will then follow-up with those people we determine have actually been

exposed. We will contact them and give them a series of instructions. Our responses are pretty quick. In this instance, if the faculty member had been exposed and the student had reported it, we would have responded right away.

Q: Part of the issue with the situation above was that it did not follow the sequence of events that you outline here. This is before the student has reported it to SJSU. To the student's credit, she did report it to the instructor right away. In this instance, there was no time for the instructor to reach out to any party. What should an instructor do in this type of situation?

A: [VP Day] Sounds like the instructor did the correct thing by immediately getting it reported. The instructor should reach out to the Student Wellness Center directly. The area where we may run into problems is if the instructor wanted to teach online all week. I'll let the Provost address this. From what you told me the instructor was both responsive and responsible in how they handled this situation. I don't have a different instruction, but I will make a note that we need to provide instructions for this.

C: [Chair McKee] I think a list of step-by-step instructions for when you are contacted at 11 p.m. the night before a 9 a.m. class are what is needed to make it very clear for faculty.

A: [Provost] I want to be clear that it isn't that you are not allowed, it is that there is no evidence to suggest that you should. What we know about COVID is that the risk of going to class is not that high. However, we are going to have COVID transmission this year. The issue of allowed or not allowed is a cautious one because that ties into the issues of accommodation and other types of things. We have laid out very clearly that unless someone tells you that you have been directly exposed, you should meet your class. For example, we had a case in a residence area where everyone was told to check for symptoms every morning, and what we found when it was all said and done is there were no more cases. What we are telling people to do is go to class, but if you have a symptom stay home. That is where we are and will be for a very long time unless we start to see a jump in cases.

A: [President] Thank you Provost Del Casino. We are probably in as good a position as any place can be to manage this in terms of readiness. That isn't particularly because of anything we have done, but because Santa Clara County has a very high vaccination rate. Our students are even wearing masks outdoors. We are probably safer than when we are out in the community doing chores and don't know the vaccination rate around us.

C: If I might make a suggestion, we should really have a hotline to call.

C: VP Day will follow up.

A: [VP Day] Feel free to shoot me an email if anything pops up that you don't know how to address. Santa Clara County has a higher vaccination rate than any other county in California and California has a higher rate than the rest of the country.

C: [President] There is trauma around managing this.

C: We need an app that people can access.

A: [VP Day] We are developing one.

C: Having a graduate teaching assistant feel unsafe is something we should address. How we handle people's feelings is important. My department feels between a rock and a hard place.

4. Updates from the AS President:

We have established a donation fund to help students from Afghanistan and Haiti. We are interested in seeing what the Executive Committee, Academic Senate, and SJSU can do.

C: There is an International Gateway meeting next week. We are going to ask the leadership if we can think about ways to offer instruction for people that have left their studies in a hurry after leaving Afghanistan.

C: The Veterans Resource Center has a lot of programs to help veterans in this situation.

AS President Kaur asked for suggestions of what other things AS might do to help with the Afghan Crisis.

C: A suggestion was made for the University to establish a course on Afghan history.

C: A suggestion was made to have someone coordinate Afghan questions.

AS President Kaur thanked the President for inviting her to view the game from the President's box.

AS President Kaur thanked the President for her leadership during COVID.

Questions:

Q: Can you give us the date of the AS House reopening?

A: It is on 9/29/21.

5. Updates from the Policy Committee Chairs:

a. From the Professional Standards Committee (PS):

The PS Committee will not have any policy resolutions for the Senate meeting on September 13, 2021.

PS will be working on RTP and SOTE issues this semester. Faculty are concerned that deleted SOTES could be repopulated in Peoplesoft.

C: [Provost] This is the first I've heard of this. If there is a problem talk to Madalena Barerra about it.

PS just received referrals regarding the Board of Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility (BAFPR) and digital spaces.

b. From the Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R):

The C&R Committee will not have any policy resolutions for the Senate meeting on September 13, 2021, but will have resolutions for the October 11, 2021 Senate meeting.

C&R has two pending referrals they will be taking a look at today.

There is no curriculum on the schedule for C&R to review yet.

Finally, C&R will be participating in forums on General Education (GE) offered by the Office of Undergraduate Education.

Questions:

Q: How would AB 928 affect the GE Guidelines?

A: C&R hasn't discussed this yet.

- c. From the Organization and Government Committee (O&G):
O&G will be working on referrals regarding sabbaticals and expansion of the Senate.

Questions:

Q: Is the Senate expansion referral to consider adding staff to the Senate?

A: Yes. Also O&G is considering the composition of the Senate in terms of all manner of inclusivity and diversity issues.

- d. From the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA):
I&SA will not have any resolutions for the September 13, 2021 Senate meeting.

I&SA will be working on a second resolution regarding grade forgiveness.

- 6. Updates from the CSU Statewide Senators:
The next meeting of the ASCSU will be virtual. We will have more updates after next week.
- 7. Updates from the Provost:
Repopulation and COVID messaging are the highest priority right now.

We have some apps to support Afghan scholars. We are looking at different avenues.

We have spent lots of time meeting with students where they were this week. Lots of offices were not prepared to handle the volume of people and some had locked doors. Also, some offices had phone messages still that say send an email. This has to be fixed. The welcome events sent us a strong message that we needed to increase the number of staff on the campus.

Other issues included WASC Accreditation.

Questions:

Q: When will WASC show up?

A: We keep getting bureaucratic answers. It is messy right now. I don't know. What will long term after COVID look like? It is on the Chancellor's Office agenda. Right now if a program is 50% online, it will be considered online for reporting purposes for the year.

These minutes were taken by the Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, on August 30, 2021 and transcribed on September 14, 2021. The minutes were reviewed and edited by Chair McKee on September 15, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on September 20, 2021.