

Executive Committee of the Academic Senate  
Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 2024  
Clark 551, 12 p.m. to 1:30 pm

**Present:** Joshua Baur, Julia Curry, Vincent Del Casino, Tabitha Hart, Ranko Heindl, Colleen Johnson, Ariana Lacson, Shannon Rose Riley, Karthika Sasikumar, Laura Sullivan-Green, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Hiu Yung Wong

**Absent:** Charlie Faas, Kristin Dukes, Mari Fuentes Martin

Minutes taken by Grace Barbieri

Colleen Johnson moved to amend the agenda to add a briefing by Shawn Whalen, the Chief of Staff, regarding Title IX updates. Tabitha Hart seconded the motion.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2024- approved unanimously.
2. Approval of the Consent Calendar- Approved unanimously  
This was corrected regarding the terms of the members of the Academic Freedom Committee so they could be staggered. We have discussed this with the members, and they are okay with their terms.

Q: There was a previous discussion regarding the campus safety committee. Is there an update on those appointments?

A: That is not a Senate committee. When the Chief of Police and CIO Bob Lim visited this body a few weeks ago, the Senate Chair was asked to forward the names of faculty members interested in sitting on that committee.

3. Update by the Chair

We may meet in January if something comes up, but it would be on Zoom.

- a. Results of the referendum on Senate expansion and staff representation  
The results were overwhelmingly in favor. 250-20-3. However, the turnout was less than 1 percent of the electorate. We have sent it to the President and are awaiting her signature per the Constitution. Once signed, we will modify the allocation of seats for

the next election, and there will be a greater staff representation. This is just the first step in shared governance; next steps are to ensure staff inclusion on appropriate committees.

Q: This expansion of the Senate connects back to the referrals regarding splitting Instruction and Student Affairs into two different policy committees. O&G might want to consider this since two different committees provide new seats for the new faculty and staff senators. Additionally, what can we do to support and accommodate the expansion of the Senate with the various roles within the relevant committee structures.

C: For O&G, it is hard to say what we will be looking at. If there is going to be complete redistribution, we may need a special committee to do the heavy lifting on that; however, O&G can be prepared to start working on that in the spring, so we ask for patience. We currently have a referral about non-voting members on ISA, and these are MPPs. OG has reason to believe there are compelling reasons for these members being non-voting members.

C: To reorganize ISA, it is crucial to sit down with people in Student Affairs and talk about who would be on that committee. It is important not only for the work of the proposed new committee but also for ensuring participation from people in Student Affairs, which hasn't been strong on ISA. Only one of the people from Student Affairs has been active on ISA. The bigger issue with splitting up ISA is identifying these ex officio seats and making sure they are taking the committee work seriously.

C: Committees are allowed to take up issues other than those from referrals. If you have decided to address something, feel free to put that on your agenda. I can write a referral if you want; I know past chairs have, so you don't have to wait. For example, in the February meeting, if you want to, you can start addressing the issue of whether to include staff on your committee and review the charge and membership of your committee.

C: I just pulled up Professional Standards because I was curious. Currently, I believe that SSPs fall under the General Unit, so they are already eligible for PS. However, now that they will be outside the General Unit, they will not be. I think it would be valuable to have a table showing the current representation of all the committees and if constitutional changes cause people to fall out. Now, do we need a staff member on each committee? Given the number of staff that we've just put on, it might not be right because you're going to make them do all this work now. I think a table can make this clearer.

- b. Impending SoS (Muwekma Ohlone federal recognition and Interim Time, Place, and Manner (TPM))

There will be two different Sense of the Senate resolutions on Monday, which is the last meeting of the semester. The TPM SoS came to the previous meeting. The co-sponsors took some of the comments into account. They also have consulted with the VPSA and the CDO. I don't know whether that led to making many changes in the context of the SoS but they just sent me the new text yesterday.

Q: Will this be a second reading with debate and voting?

A: Yes

The Muwekma Ohlone SOS will be brought by Associated Students (AS) and presented by Ariana Lacson and Leo Plazola. It is basically in support of the tribe's federal recognition. AS passed a version of this, and this SOS is a shortened and modified version of that.

C: We have been mentioning this topic at previous senate meetings. It is something we feel very strongly about, especially with Thanksgiving so recently and the history behind how it affects Indigenous people. We want to make sure we are supporting our tribes and the people who were here first. When the Muwekma Ohlone went on the Trail of Truth, they mainly advocated for federal recognition for all non-federally recognized tribes. We also thought it would be impactful to focus on the Muwekma Ohlone since SJSU is on Muwekma Ohlone land. We have the AS version on our website if you want to take a look at it.

C/Q: With our collection, we are currently working with multiple tribes, most of which do not have federal recognition. So, if you want to bring an SoS, I would consider it broader, such as stating that California tribes should be federally recognized.

Q: Would you be willing to look at the draft and give some feedback to AS?

A: If that is appropriate for AS. I do appreciate where the spirit is coming from.

Q: Have our two representatives working with our collection been consulted?

C: I am happy to bring them in since they do tribal work almost daily if that would be useful.

Q: What do you mean by working with 12 tribes?

A: When we had a collection and put it out there in the world, 10-12 tribes had identified potential claims to various parts of our collection. So, if you go to the Native American

Heritage Commission website and look up SJSU, you will see multiple tribes because we have remains and cultural artifacts from surrounding counties.

C: I think that it is important we reflect on whether we, as AS, the body, and the University, are aligning ourselves with one tribe or deciding in a way through the power of our narrative things that are so contested and there is much history that has been erased and is long, in which borders were variable at best, I think maybe we not the right people to like sort of definitively say, we align here, or we align here, which is why I really I think the broader gesture is not only effective from our collections and honoring the California tribes that aren't recognized, but I think it's probably the morally better thing to do for us as an institution.

C: If AS wants to wait for the February meeting, that is fine, too.

4. We received an update from the President/ Chief of Staff, Shawn Whalen, regarding Title IX efforts on campus.

5. Proposed SMR for temporary disposition of Joshua Baur's senate seat (Karthika)

Senator Baur is moving from the College of Health and Human Sciences to the College of Social Sciences at the start of Spring 2025. He is also the chair of the Organization and Government Committee (O & G). With Baur's transition to CoSS, the question of senate representation arises. Baur remaining as senator and chair of OG will ensure continuity in OG and permit continued OG work uninterrupted to hold a new election for OG Chair. One way the situation can be resolved and cause less disruption to the Senate and the two departments is through a Senate Management Resolution (SMR). The bylaws are silent on this issue.

An SMR is introduced on the Senate floor and debated but does not require the President's signature. Chair Sasikumar asked Ken Peter to draft it. Essentially, it calls for a very specific time-delimited resolution that allows Baur to continue as a senator and chair of O & G. The purpose is to cause the least disruption. There were two questions previously, one from Hiu Yung regarding the resolved clause at the end, which Ken Peter added asking for O & G to deal with the issue in the spring semester, but we decided to drop that because the chair of the O & G committee felt that this would not be feasible given workload; moreover, it is a separate issue from Josh Baur's situation. Also, Julia

Curry's suggestion to suspend the bylaws cannot work since there are no bylaws relating to the issue, and we would not want to suspend all the bylaws.

The committee discussed and edited the clauses and voted 11-0-1 to present them at Monday's Senate Meeting as a final reading. AVC Heindl will present it.

The minutes were taken by Grace Barbieri on December 2, 2024, reviewed and accepted by Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar on December 10, 2024, and approved by the Senate Executive Committee on January 27, 2025.