

# Minutes: Full Senate

## Date

September 8, 2025

## Chair

Tabitha Hart

## Members (in alphabetical order)

Geoffrey Agustin, Ma'Kayla Akin, Joshua Baur, James Brent, Teairra Brown, Raymand Buyco, Harish Chander, Megan Chang, Laura Charles, Caroline Chen, Maria Chierichetti, Michael Dao, Jhony De Oliveria, Vincent Del Casino, Stefan Frazier, Rachael French, Dashiell Fryer, Mari Fuentes-Martin, Katelyn Gambarin, Tabitha Hart, Dawn Hackman, Ranko Heindl, Vlad Ionescu, Melinda Jackson, Colleen Johnson, Priya Kannan, Reiko Kataoka, Kathy Kaoudis, Hojeong Lee, Judith Lessow-Hurley, Thomas Madura, Kelly Masegian, Ravisha Mathur, Marco Meniketti, Eduardo Muñoz-Muñoz, Emily Paredes, Vishnu Pendyala, Kenneth Peter, Sabrina Porter-Parees, Sarika Pruthi, Priya Raman, Shannon Rose Riley, Simon Rodan, Romey Sabalius, Carmen Saleh, Karthika Sasikumar, Soma Sen, Scott Shaffer, Raha Shojaei, Erin Siebert, Ryan Skinnell, Janet Stemwedel, Laura Sullivan-Green, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Anne Marie Todd, Mark Van Selst, Cristina Velarde, Julian Vogel, Hiu Yung Wong

## Apologies (in alphabetical order)

Kristin Dukes, Christian Jochim

## Guests (in alphabetical order)

Marc d'Alarcao, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Interim VP for Research and Innovation

## Location

This meeting was held in person on campus in ENG 285/287.

## Start & end times

2:00-5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

## Minutes to be taken by

Grace Barbieri, Senate Administrator

## Call to Order

At 2:00 PM, Robert Bain took a group photograph of the AY2025-26 Senate cohort. The meeting officially commenced at 2:06.

## Roll Call

## Land Acknowledgement

read by Sabrina Porter- Parees

## Consent Agenda

1. [Minutes of the May 5, 2025, 2:00-4:00 PM meeting](#) of the full Senate
2. [Minutes of the May 5, 2025, 4:00-5:00 PM meeting](#) of the full Senate
3. Senate committee [appointments](#) (under “Consent Calendar 9/2/25” tab)

Approved unanimously

## Communication & Questions

### From the Senate Chair

#### Recognition of Senators

- Thanks to Past Chair Karthika Sasikumar for her service and all she did for the Senate.
- Recognition of all Senators who ran for Senate office in May 2025: Josh Baur, Megan Chang, Rachael French, Thomas Madura, Vishnu Pendyala, Sarika Pruthi, Shannon Rose Riley, Romey Sabalius, Janet Stemwedel, Laura Sullivan Green, Mark Van Selst, Julian Vogel, and Hiu-Yung Wong. A special thank you to outgoing ISA chair Sullivan-Green, who chaired for eight years.

## Referral tracking project

- The Senate Office continues to work on its referral tracking project, which will show in real time where open referrals are in the process.
  - Senators are asked to please check the sheet and see what your committees are working on to help the chairs ensure they are completed promptly.

## Senate vacancies

- AVC Madura and the ConC continue to do a great job filling committee vacancies. The presentations at all the college welcome back events also helped to fill seats.
- Open seats can be seen on the committee vacancies sheet. Please encourage your colleagues to apply.

## Who's Who booklet, quick-start guide & zip-up jackets

- During the New Senator Orientation, members asked for a who's who booklet, and the Senate Office is working on this. The Google form for the who's who booklet and Senate zip-up jackets is due Sunday the 14th. The jackets will be black and include the Senate logo on them. Names will not be included.
- The Senate Office prepared a quick-start guide (Ed. 01) which has been provided for today's meeting.
- The Senate is an early adopter of the new SpartanMessenger platform, which will be used to communicate with all faculty and staff about Senate matters. Currently, the Senate is messaging once a month, but will have more frequent messaging when needed.
- The Senate is also looking into other marketing materials, like a banner, as well as a website refresh.

## From the University President

### WASC

- In July, SJSU received a letter from WASC with five recommendations regarding the special visit in Spring 2025. The goal for the next special site visit in Spring 2028 is a full ten-year reaffirmation.
- Going forward, SJSU will continue to focus on alignment and commitment to building its strategic plan, academic master plan, and its processes and practices in complete alignment with evidentiary support.
- Dr. Barrea has been appointed as the accreditation liaison officer.
- A special task force on shared governance, chaired by Karthika Sasikumar and Shawn Whalen, is being formed to build on SS-S15-6, clarify the roles of the Academic Senate, Staff Council, university committees, and student governance, and strengthen cross-representation across the university.

## Recruitment

- The national recruitment model that follows Senate policy in filling positions will be used in the University Personnel position search. The search will launch sometime this fall.
- The national search for the VP for Research and Industry Impact and Dean of Graduate Studies will also launch soon. It will be a dual report role to the President and Provost. This combination helps with salary savings as the topics are closely aligned.

## Initiatives

- Continuing the Chancellor's Office GI 2025, which last year was the Year of Engagement, and this year is the new student success model. One of the primary responsibilities around that is closing equity, enrollment, and enrollment management.
- Later this semester, an Academic Master Plan Task Force will be launched, led by the Provost, to look at these alignments around our academic master plan.
- Last year, there was the People Centered Excellence Initiative, and it is now the People Centered Practices. This work is underway, and we will launch a Sense of Community survey in October.

## Budget

- We started this year with a balanced budget, which is a 1.8% budget reduction, whereas the system as a whole has a 3% budget reduction. With our enrollment growth and increase in tuition revenue and fees, we're able to offset some of those reductions. The increase in revenues is covering our instructional costs.
- We've been focused on optimization of our spaces and utilization of our plant from a technical perspective. Our highest priority is ensuring students have access to the classes where they need them and graduate on time. We're very closely managing and monitoring our persistence, retention, and tagging degree and data metrics, which are all going up.
- We are on standby for any potential bigger reductions, if we have them. Some of our over-enrollment dollars were set aside and enrolled in reserve to offset shortfalls if we have some. At least \$2 million was put into campus operating reserve this fiscal year.
- With the adoption of the AI Everywhere initiative, we're really focused on our administrative operations and practicing with our staff.
- We have not yet had the in-depth conversation about how all of our consumption costs are going up across all of our utilities. However, it is something that we've talked about relative to climate and sustainability.
- Due to the increased enrollment, we're reviewing all our facilities to assess their usage outside of peak times and determine how best to utilize them. The reinvigoration of the Campus Planning Board will hopefully help with this.

## Mission

- The University will continue to celebrate diversity and the different languages that come with a diverse population. SJSU is not changing its mission. How we do our work might just look a little different due to the changing federal political landscape.
- Concerns we raised from the ERFA faculty since they were taken off the graduation platform and not asked to stand to be recognized. This will get looked into.

## Executive Committee Report

### Minutes of the Senate Executive Committee

1. [Minutes of the July 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting](#)
2. [Minutes of the August 10, 2025, Executive Committee meeting](#)
3. [Minutes of the August 25, 2025, Executive Committee meeting](#)

Historical information was provided regarding past Executive Committee discussions on S69-18. Questions were raised about how best to handle it following the spirit of shared governance.

### Executive Committee Action Items

Senator Romey and Hiu Yung presented AS 1896: [Modification of the Senate Constitution Related to Powers and Responsibilities \(Timely Responses to Senate Resolutions and Policies\)](#) as a First Reading.

- SJSU currently has a good record of policy-making and the president's signature; however, there was a time when the use of pocket vetoes hindered policy passage.
- Three years ago, the ASCSU wrote a policy on how Senates could clarify in their bylaws or Constitutions what to do when a president takes no action on a policy.
- In January 2023, our Senate passed an amendment and followed a referendum to add a 60-day clause. However, it slipped through the cracks and was not sent up to the President for review until this summer. After reviewing it, our President returned it for further work.
- The Executive Committee worked on it, taking direct feedback from the administration and the faculty members of Senate Exec (policy committee chairs, Vice Chair, Associate Vice Chair, and ASCSU rep).
- Concerns were raised about this work not being done by O&G, and also about the current language, which does not force any real action to take place and creates no conclusion.

## Unfinished Business

N/A

## Policy Committee & ULB Action Items

### Organization & Government (O&G)

Senator Baur Presented AS 1897: [Amendment to Senate Standing Rules #14 - Ranked Choice Voting to Replace Run-off Election for Senate Officers](#) as a First Reading

- This would amend Standing Rule 14 to replace the current voting structure with rank-choice voting when there are more than two nominees for Senate officers. This was shown in practice in May 2025 when the rule was suspended and ranked choice voting was successfully used for the Senate officer elections.
- It was suggested that language be added for when there are multiple positions and the order of preferred nominees might change.

### Professional Standards (PS)

N/A

### Instruction & Student Affairs (ISA)

N/A

### Curriculum & Research (C&R)

N/A

### University Library Board (ULB)

N/A

## Special Committee Reports

N/A

# New Business

## Report on the status of federal grant terminations at SJSU

3:30 time certain, Presented by Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Interim VP for Research and Innovation, Marc d'Alarcao

- There are 410 active extramural awards with a total value of about \$275 million, with 273 principle investigators on them, equaling about \$78 million of annual expenditures on sponsored programs, including extramural-funded programs. 68% of the overall extramural funding comes from federal sources. About 700 students are currently funded on these grants every year.
- SJSU has the second-highest RSCA expenditures, only second to SDSU.
- 25 awarded grants have been canceled, resulting in about \$6.3 million in unspent funds. There has been legal action around grant terminations, which resulted in three grants being reinstated.
- A significant reduction in the workforce at these agencies diminishes the ability of the agencies to process the work, which causes delays in awarding some grants.
- Currently, there is a negotiated reimbursement rate with the federal government of 46.5%; however, several agencies have announced they're reducing that to a flat 15%. There is a proactive effort by the Joint Associations Group to try to come up with a new model for the FAA reimbursements.
- To combat these factors, SJSU continues to work with our government relations team to make sure our congressional representatives know the impacts. Additionally, we are working with the Office of General Counsel at the CSU and filing individual appeals.
- SJSU is also working with University Advancement to get other funding from corporate partnerships and other donors.
- Don't stop applying for RSCA funding. SJSU is working on developing noncancelable expenditures, so some activities can continue regardless.
- It is important to continue to engage more students in RSCA as a high-impact practice. SJSU will be hosting the CSU RSCA competition in April.
- Current RTP policies already have provisions that allow for this to be taken into account when evaluating the productivity on the RSCA side.
- Faculty are welcome to quote or include the Provost's message regarding this issue in their files.

## State of the University Announcements

### 1. Provost

- ARC is continuing to meet, and there will be more open forums. We want to widen campus engagement and create documentary evidence of feedback and continuous improvement to get a ten-year reaccreditation.
- Enrollment & Retention:
  - Retention efforts are focusing on how to expand access to advising, academic support, and early interventions. We are currently at 89.1% retention for our first-year cohort, which is our largest class ever.
  - One of SJSU's biggest challenges is the persistent gap between our Black, Hispanic, API, and American Indian students; however, there has been some strong movement to close those gaps.
  - Graduate Student enrollment passed 10,000, but new graduate student enrollment has declined slightly.
  - For International students, enrollment is roughly flat. We've made up a little in the nonresident with out-of-state US.
  - For transfer students, we've made up for our decline in fall enrollment with spring.
  - SJSU Online has grown to ~875 students, projected to exceed 5,000 professional continuing education students this year.
  - In response to enrollment growth and larger class sizes, SJSU needs to better utilize its classroom space. We need to look into expanding the schedule outside the 9-5 and Mon-Thurs to accommodate students.
  - This fall, the deans expected to hit the 2017 SFR limits, and the colleges that did not meet that limit had money moved around to those who did to give them relief.
  - We need to optimize the relationship between the schedule and the budget so that the entire institutional budget gets spent.
  - Classroom management does need improvement; however, communication needs to improve as well.
  - SJSU is going to look at Second Start as a more comprehensive enrollment campaign. We are going to invest in a couple more SSPs to support reenrollment.
  - To the success we are seeing in enrollment growth, SJSU has always had a strong brand and presence, which has elevated in the last decade with marketing investment. Additionally, SJSU is more understanding with things like missing orientation. We went all-in on transfer enrollment in the Spring, which resulted in 1500 transfer students in Spring last year. Finally, SJSU Online makes an impact.
- In response to the O&G report on the department mergers, there is a difference in opinion on whether there was enough meaningful consultation.
- Conversations at the cabinet level are taking place on how to create more clarity for people and training around how not to intervene in mental health issues because that is not the responsibility of the faculty or staff.
- Since we do not have an integrated parking and transportation strategy, the increase in enrollment is becoming clear. Things like building more housing (in the future), Bay Pass, and reevaluating scheduling can help combat the parking issue.



## 2. Vice President for Administration and Finance

- Went to the new senator orientation, met with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair/BAC co-chair about priorities for this year, and co-led the first Budget Advisory Committee meeting.

## 3. Vice President for Student Affairs

- New this fall is the AVP Equity and Belonging, Dr. Rachel Camacho, supervising all of the cultural centers under one umbrella.
- Currently, the executive director of housing is being elevated to an AVP because of the size of the organization and the revenue that it generates. This position will also be working on the housing master plan and capital improvement plans for housing. It is meant to help us move forward to the next five to ten years of housing development.
- The position of Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives is being reintroduced. Edwin Tan has been the interim.
- Under the AVP and Dean of Students, we are elevating the Director of Student Conduct and Ethical Development to an Associate Dean of Students.
- One of the Behavioral Intervention Team Case Managers has been reclassified as a Student Professional IV.
- A Senior Director is being created under Equity and Belonging who will be working with the units of Guardian Scholars, EOP, TRIO, ISSS, and Study Abroad and Away. That person will also work closely with the cultural centers on education and leadership programs.
- The management of CAPISE and MOSAIC will be combined, as well as CENTRO and UndocuSpartan. Also, the Program Director for BLOC position will be posted.
- Concern was raised about the students' response to combining centers and the importance of specific language to clarify that each center is still in existence.
- Under the Student Wellness Center, paid for through auxiliary funds, the position of Director of Financial Resources was created and recently filled.

## 4. Chief Diversity Officer- not attending

## 5. CSU Statewide Representative

- Last Wednesday, the ASCSU committees met, and Thursday and Friday were the primary days.
- This academic year, there are only 22 CSU campuses after the merger of Maritime and SLO.

- Two weeks ago, former chancellor Joe Castro passed away.
- The Chancellor's Office will have an 8% cut.
- The ASCSU Chair expressed concern about the elimination or restrictions of other faculty or academic standards in the U.S. However, since we are in CA, we are somewhat protected with HEERA.
- The Chancellor announced the new VP for Academic Affairs, Junius Gonzales. Also thanked constituents for their lobbying efforts in helping reduce the anticipated 8% cut to 3%.
- The Associate Vice Chancellor mentioned that the CSU wants to increase its presence in Mexico.
- The Chancellor discussed the decline in enrollment and ways to broaden our reach.
- The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees are very supportive of AI initiatives, while CFA has some concerns.
- Two resolutions were passed, one to protect HIS programs and a statement on the importance of international students.

## 6. Associated Students President

- For the child development center, there are 16 families in the enrollment process. There are two infant and four toddler spots available. Hiring was done over the summer to make sure the classrooms are fully maximized and staff are trained.
- The General Service Center's affordable voucher program was fully subscribed within 90 minutes. The AS Print Shop has adjusted its hours to better serve the community.
- The Event Team has set the new date for Fire on the Foundation for November 6th during Homecoming.
- AS had its board retreat a few weeks ago and has begun formulating its goals for the AY.
- The Director of Student Resource Affairs has been facilitating the Spartans Squad ambassador program, and it has received over 50 applications with only 20 slots available.
- The Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities has been creating a "Know Your Rights" Pamphlet, which includes information and resources that the university community can utilize.
- The Director of Sustainability is working to get Bay Pass available to students so that they can have access to public transit, which will help with the parking situation.