

## **Senate Year End Report**

**2018-2019**

**Donnetrice Allison, President (2017-2019)**

This report examines the tenth year of operations of the Faculty Senate, and my second year as president. Once again I want to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Senate Executive Committee. There was a slight change in membership, with two new senators joining the team, but they too were just as fantastic and hardworking as the previous members, particularly given some of the challenges we faced this year.

The Senate met eight times this academic year, at the new meeting time on Fridays at 12:45. The May retreat was also held on a Friday in the new academic building in Atlantic City – The Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room. The Faculty Assembly met four times, which included a special meeting called to discuss the issue of shared governance at the University, and a meeting with the University President on the State of the University. This document will provide an overview of the actions undertaken by the senate this year, and also a review of issues raised and discussed. The document begins with a simple listing of actions, then continues with a more detailed summary of each. Additional information about each meeting, standing committee and task force can be found on the senate webpage <https://stockton.edu/faculty-senate/index.html>.

### **Senate Actions**

1. Formed Task Force on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.
2. Formed joint Task Force (SFT and Senate) on Faculty Leadership Positions.
3. Passed a resolution to recommend that the Provost end the practice of early registration for athletes.
4. Approved B.A. in Psychology with Early Childhood Education Concentration.
5. Endorsed Resolution on Age Friendly University Principles.
6. Called special Faculty Assembly on Shared Governance, held December 2018.
7. Approved B.A. in Literature/M.A. in American Studies 4+1.
8. Approved Minor in Sustainability.
9. Passed a resolution to delay the timeline of the University Strategic Plan.
10. Passed a resolution to adopt a Shared Governance Notification Form.
11. Proposed a special Town Hall Meeting with the University President to continue Q&A on the state of the University, held over from February Faculty Assembly Meeting.
12. Approved BA in Digital Media Design and Practice (DIGI).
13. Approved Minor in Urban Education.

14. Approved Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Healthcare Administration.
15. Approved Master of Science in Coastal Zone Management.
16. Approved Clinical Nurse Leader Track in Master of Nursing.
17. Approved new concentrations in Economics: Economic Policy Concentration, Pre-Graduate School Concentration & Pre-Law Concentration.

## **Summary of Senate Actions**

### **Proposals**

This year, the Faculty Senate approved two new Bachelor's degrees – one in Psychology with Early Childhood Education Concentration and one in Digital Media Design and Practice (DIGI). The Senate also approved a 4+1 BA in Literature/MA in American Studies. Additionally, the Senate approved two minors, one in Sustainability and one in Urban Education, and two graduate degrees – Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Healthcare Administration and Master of Science in Coastal Zone Management. There was some contention regarding the M.B.A in Healthcare Administration concerning whether the degree favored a business approach to healthcare over a humanistic approach, and the presenter had a difficult time assuaging those concerns for some senators. As such, the final vote was 28 to 8 in favor. We hope that the program took heed to the concerns raised and the recommendations to incorporate more humanism into the degree curriculum. Finally, the Senate approved three new concentrations in the B.A. in Economics – Economic Policy Concentration, Pre-Graduate School Concentration & Pre-Law Concentration. There was some concern expressed about the “need” for those concentrations, particularly the Pre-Law Concentration, as one senator asserted that research does not support Pre-Law degrees being helpful to acceptance into Law School. Hence, the final vote was 24 to 7 in favor.

### **Task Forces**

The Senate formed two additional task forces this year: the Task Force on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and a joint task force with the SFT on Faculty Leadership Positions.

The Task Force on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was formed due to concerns expressed by the coordinator of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies that perhaps the University should do more to address this national issue. As such, the Senate agreed to form a task force of individuals on campus who most encounter these issues so that they could conduct research specifically related

to Stockton and offer recommendations on how the University could make some internal improvements. At the end of this academic year, the group asked for an extension into AY19-20 to complete its work, and the Senate approved. Additionally, one specific request made by the group and supported by the Senate was that the task force members become more involved with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Culture of Respect initiatives, and research the ways in which Stockton University can become part of the national cohort of institutions <https://www.naspa.org/rpi/posts/introducing-the-2018-culture-of-respect-collective-cohort> prioritizing sexual assault prevention.

Next, the joint task force on Faculty Leadership Positions was initiated by the presidents of the Senate and SFT out of concern for the potential restructuring of faculty leadership positions in connection with the developing strategic plan. The task force was approved in October 2018, however, it was unable to complete its work during the AY18-19 academic year. As such, the Senate approved an extension into AY19-20. The extension of this timeline will also coincide with SFT statewide contract negotiations.

Regarding completed task forces, both the Task Force on LIBA and the Task Force on Hate Speech submitted proposals to the Senate, including various recommendations. The Task Force on LIBA recommended the following:

- Stockton should remain true to the spirit of the original intent of the LIBA degree as a student designed program of study, and continue to support the creation of prompts for students to begin the design of a LIBA proposal.
- The creation of LIBA prompts should not be used to circumvent the approval process for new degree-granting programs.
- There should be a structure in place to periodically review any approved prompts within LIBA to determine whether evolution to a major or minor is appropriate. This should be considered as the Life Cycle for Degree Programs (Procedure 2040) is revised in the near future.
- Because of the unique nature and specialized path, as well as regulations for education certification, the current EDUC pathways within LIBA are acceptable but do not set a precedent.

- No new structured LIBA offerings like EDUC early childhood and elementary education should be introduced.
- If additional prompts are approved, there must be a fair approach to faculty workload and compensation.

The Senate unanimously endorsed these recommendations.

Furthermore, the Task Force on Hate Speech in Academia recommended that the University adopt a definition of Hate Speech developed by the group (see full [Report](#) here); draft a formal hate speech policy and develop criteria for inviting speakers to campus; and draft an off-campus conduct policy. The group hopes to work closely with other University constituencies to develop these plans, keeping in mind all pertinent legalities. The Senate endorsed their efforts.

### **Additional Actions**

In addition to all of the important actions noted above, the Senate was also involved with a variety of other University issues. First, the Senate endorsed a Resolution on Age Friendly University Principles, based on 10 principles of age friendly Universities, which offer more inclusion of older adults into the campus community (see [Resolution](#)). Second, the Senate passed a resolution to recommend that the Provost end the practice of early registration for athletes given the lack of clarity as to why such a practice is necessary and/or beneficial. The remaining actions all related to the University's strategic plan. Those actions included: calling a special Faculty Assembly on Shared Governance in December 2018; proposing a special Town Hall Meeting with the University President on the state of the University; passing a resolution to adopt a Shared Governance Notification Form; and passing a resolution to delay the timeline of the University Strategic Plan.

Of chief concern among those listed was the issue of shared governance. The Senate had concerns about the pace of the strategic plan timeline, asserting that it might not offer enough time for a thorough review and discussion among faculty. Moreover, some senators raised concerns about specific items in the draft document and whether all constituent voices had been heard in developing those items. Lastly, given that the Senate had endorsed recommendations made by the SAT Test Optional Task Force regarding the implementation timeline, but the administration

moved forward sooner than recommended, there was concern that faculty voices would not be fully considered in the strategic planning process. As such, there was a special Faculty Assembly called at the end of the fall semester, there were two Q&A meetings with the University President, and there were a number of open session meetings called by the Provost to discuss the matter. An agreement was reached that developing a strategic plan should last the full academic year, and at the final Senate meeting – May Retreat 2019 – after several discussions and revisions, the Strategic Plan Document was approved 29 to 1. This is a great example of shared governance, as all constituent voices were considered. Our hope is that we can continue to address issues together, as a full campus community.

### **Final Thoughts**

The AY18-19 academic year was yet another busy and active year for the Senate. It has been my honor to serve the institution in this capacity and see all sides of the campus community. As president, I was able to get to know and work with so many individuals that I never would have as a traditional faculty member. My time has been well spent and I wish the next president well.