

University Senate Chair Report

October 12, 2021

Thank you.

Last week, I attended the virtual CSU Campus Senate Chair's meeting. We chatted about repopulation, spring 2022, AB 927 and 928, various ASCSU resolutions and numerous other topics. What struck me again and again over the course of the four hour meeting was how thankful I am to be at HSU.

Now, I will be the first to admit that things aren't perfect here. Far from it. However, when I hear other chairs talking about the yelling at their meetings (yes, we have had yelling), or the heavy handed policies implemented by their administration (yes, we have had this happen too), or their faculty senates only being able to pass resolutions and not policies (wow!), I am truly thankful to be at HSU right now. In fact, throughout the whole meeting, I felt like I had a found \$20 bill in my back pocket.

Of course, part of my exuberance is our conversion to Cal Poly Humboldt and the unbelievable support we have received from the state. But, a big reason to be proud of HSU has to do with the folks that make up our campus community and how we have chosen representation of these folks on our senate. Believe it or not, within the CSU, our version of shared governance is on the cutting edge. Our senate is the most inclusive of the lot. We also meet more often than most and as far as I can tell have one of the more active senates with regard to the number and breadth of policies and resolutions. Some campuses might look at us and say we're too busy or shouldn't include this group or that from our campus community to be voting members. I see our activity as engagement, and a willingness to do the work to actually share the governance of our campus. I also see *our* University Senate (there are others) as *the* model that other CSU campuses will look toward as they evolve.

So, thank you. Thank you for being engaged, for caring about HSU, for your commitment to shared governance. Thank you for your concern for the new faculty hiring process, for ASC workload, for students' basic needs.

Thank you to all of our staff that have worked short handed over the last few years of budget reductions, have pivoted to working from home and back to campus again, kept the lights on, our air filtered, provided academic and departmental support, made sure the bills and salaries were paid, and all the other things our staff do daily.

Thank you to our faculty who've learned to teach online, who've come back into the classroom, who've provided opportunities for our students to become scholars in their fields, and continue to support our students in MANY different ways.

Thank you to our administrators, who've convinced the state that we should be the next Cal Poly, that envision a more diverse faculty, and who've *listened* to our faculty and staff when they needed to be heard.

Thank you to our students who've put up with WAY too much disruption, who've had to learn in ways that they did not envision as part of their college experience, who've shown incredible resilience over the last few years of climate change related disasters and a global pandemic.

I am overwhelmingly grateful to be a member of this incredible institution. Thank you all!

Thanks,
Monty