

University Senate Chair Report October 26, 2021

I hope everyone is hanging in there during week 10 of this semester. I was in numerous meetings last week that caused a whipsaw of different emotions. During the Polytechnic Steering Committee meeting, there was a sense of eager anticipation. The mood was light, folks were excited and motivated to do the work and help HSU transition to Cal Poly Humboldt.

In a number of different meetings, I heard from lecturer faculty that are concerned about keeping their jobs, department chairs and ASCs that are trying to keep their heads above water and about how budget reductions are affecting student, staff, and faculty morale. These meetings (rightfully) had a much more somber mood.

We are in a weird place. It feels like HSU is about to rocket off into a bright future, but there are many that feel like they will be left behind. As we bridge to that bright future, let us use our collective wisdom to ensure that we all make it off the platform. Our isolation on the Lost Coast makes finding local talent with the expertise to teach our courses difficult. Let us do what we can to hang onto our lecturers as our enrollments recover. Let's figure out how to fix in-range progressions so that our staff can see a pathway toward higher wages. Let's make sure that the workload is manageable for all of us.

Thanks,
Monty