

University Senate Chair Report March 30, 2021

Submitted to the University Senate
by Mary Virnoche, General Faculty President & University Senate Chair

Denouncing Violence against Asian American Communities

The Senate Executive Committee on March 23, 2021 voted to sign on to the Atlanta Asian Americans Advancing Justice Statement, denouncing violence against Asian American Communities. Individuals may also sign on to that same statement. There is also a mechanism at the bottom of the signatory list for making donations “directly to support the victims and their families and to support crisis intervention across the AAPI community.” The University Senate will likely vote on March 30, 2021 on signing onto that same statement. The SenEx requested updated information on an [ADPIC](#) cultural center at HSU.

Bookstore Move Downtown

The Senate Executive Committee discussed with AVP of Housing and Dining Steve St. Onge and VP Jason Meriwether the decision to move the bookstore downtown. They reported that students and staff have been engaged since 2019 in conversations about the need for additional space for students and strategies on accommodating those needs. AS President Finley confirmed a recent and formal student request for Student Union space currently occupied by the bookstore.

Students did not request the move of the bookstore off campus and were not consulted on that part of the decision to accommodate the ongoing request for consolidated student space. AVP St. Onge reported that the decision to move the bookstore downtown had a short window of opportunity. I take responsibility here for not connecting the dots earlier -- when the UC Board closure was announced and their operations were divided up -- I should have requested faculty engagement with a likely bookstore move that I understood was in the works.

Senate Executive shared concerns about consultation on the move to an off-campus location, the absence of faculty in the ongoing conversation, availability of materials and supplies on campus, and potential impact on Northtown, the independent bookstore. We also discussed the timing of the HSU and community news coverage and the ongoing need to get those communications right.

SenEx requested that moving forward AVP St. Onge facilitate proactive communication with faculty and students across disciplines, as we prepare for the move. In particular, we requested broad input on identifying materials and supplies to stock at campus outlets, as well as other

decisions that may support mitigating negative impacts and maximizing benefits of the in-community location.

The University Space and Facilities Advisory Committee (USFAC), a subcommittee of the Senate University Resources and Planning Committee (URPC), will be bringing their recommendations on space allocations to the University Senate on April 13, 2021. From my understanding, this report will include their recommendations on Student Union spaces.

Shared Governance Appointments and Elections

The Appointments and Elections Committee verified and released [the results](#) of the third round of elections for those who will take office starting AY 21-22. Thank you to everyone who engaged in nominations, and to all those who accepted nominations and appointments. AEC approved following appointments:

Professor Whitney Ogle: Disability, Access and Compliance Committee (DACC); University Sports Facilities Advisory Committee (USFAC)

Professor Tyler Stumpf: Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee (IAAC)

Professor Diedre Pike: Instructionally Related Activities Committee (IRA)

University Senate Actions

There are no pending Senate resolutions. In cases where an administrative decision was required, those decisions were communicated and [recorded](#).