

University Senate Chair Report January 25, 2022

Welcome back to the spring semester! I hope everyone is well and that their term is starting out as well as possible given the circumstances. Who knew at our last meeting in November that we would be where we are today with the pandemic. The uncertainty and anxiety around COVID is exhausting and when you couple that with all of the change occurring on campus it is no wonder that folks are feeling burnout and disconnect. You are not alone! However, I honestly do feel that there is a light at the end of this long (strange) tunnel. I am starting to believe folks when they tell me I need to change my budget-deficit mindset as resources are starting to flow. Vacant staff positions are starting to be filled; faculty searches are underway. Of course, not all of our needs have been met yet and all of this hiring, planning, and training of new employees takes time and effort.

Tomorrow is a big day for HSU as we (most likely) become Cal Poly Humboldt. This is truly amazing! Though this has been a campus wide endeavor for which we should all be very proud, there are those among us that still don't feel heard or valued. Please reach out. I believe that the Polytech implementation working groups are doing good work, but often communication of that good work is challenging. Likewise, many of us are concerned with details of implementation that just haven't been decided on yet and may be years out. Please engage with the [implementation working group leads](#) or reach out to me so that we can get your input. The collective wisdom of our campus community is what will make us a new kind of polytech.

Finally, on a completely different topic: as you may remember, there was some consternation about the process for the Senate to decide on new curriculum proposals. It was unclear in our bylaws if new programs received one or two readings and unfortunately, this body has done it both ways in recent memory. As we have many curriculum proposals heading our way (such as the certificate program we will read today), it was decided in SenEx that we needed to pick a method and go with it. The members of SenEx voted unanimously on January 18 that we will have just one Senate reading for new curriculum proposals (this does not include items on the ICC consent calendar). SenEx has also asked the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to amend the Senate's bylaws to make the one reading on new curriculum proposals clear for future Senates.