

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Senate Chair's Report

Senate Meeting, November 13, 2018

The Senate Executive Committee met with Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Adam Day, on Monday, November 5. During his visit to campus, Chairman Day also met with the family of slain student David Josiah Lawson, with students, with the Student Success Alliance, and with President Rossbacher, among others. Chairman Day observed that communication at HSU between different constituencies on campus and between campus and the community needs improvement. He drew our attention to the struggles that HSU is having recruiting and retaining students, especially students of color. He maintained that the campus is in danger of moving even deeper into a "death spiral," whereby the campus cannot attract enough students to maintain certain levels of state support, which will eventually lead to cuts in our budget and programs, which will then make us an even less attractive campus to students, which will further decrease enrollment and state support. He urged us to work together as a campus community to address racial equity and improve the climate for students of color.

Chairman Day also mentioned that he had read Humboldt State University Senate Resolution [05-18/19-EX](#) "Sense of the Senate Resolution on the CSU Board of Trustees' Policy for the Selection of Presidents". He stated that in his experience with searches for eleven CSU presidents that it was critically important to keep the candidates' names confidential, which makes campus visits impossible. He also stated that the trustees were unwilling to consider making a member of the ACTCSP a member of the TCSP, but that in his experience the ACTCSP and the TCSP work "hand-in-glove" together. On November 7, 2018, the Academic Senate of CSU-San Marcos, which is also involved in a presidential search, passed as Sense of the Senate resolution, AS-746-18, almost identical to HSU's Sense of the Senate resolution (the Senate Chair of their Academic Senate contacted me to ask if they could use our resolution's text). It has been suggested on the Senate Chairs' listserv that the next steps for communication of opposition to the Trustees' Policies on Presidential Searches should be that the ASCSU sponsor a resolution with the basic elements of HSU's Sense of the Senate resolution.

The Senate Executive Committee met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 6. We discussed the format for the November 13, 2018, Senate meeting discussion of the issues brought up by Dr. Marlon Sherman in his remarks during the open forum at the October 30, 2018, Senate meeting. After the October 30 Senate meeting, Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director of ODEI, reached out to Dr. Sherman and met with him and an experienced facilitator from the local community, Ron White, to discuss how to frame the Senate discussion. At the SenEx meeting, Director Johnson and Senator Kerri Malloy asked that the November 13, 2018, Senate discussion be extended to a one-hour time certain from the 30-minute time certain voted on by Senate in the October 30 meeting, and asked that Ron White facilitate the discussion. SenEx Committee agreed with their proposal and today's agenda reflects that decision. Many thanks to Dr. Sherman, Director Johnson and Senator Malloy for working together to ensure a solid foundation for today's discussion focused on the issues of racial equity and elitism that Dr. Sherman highlighted in his remarks.

I encourage everyone to view an effective and informative one-hour presentation from a GI2025 Symposium breakout session titled, "Actually Achieving Equity". This presentation, given by [Frank Harris](#), Professor, Postsecondary Education in the College of Education, San Diego State University and [J. Luke Wood](#), Dean's Distinguished Professor of Education in the College of Education, San Diego State University, is based on their extensive research at multiple campuses and addresses how campuses can shift their cultures and practices to be more equity-centered. It really helped me to put into perspective

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the work we need to do on this campus and to see how we can map our way forward to address some of the challenges we face. To view, see this link:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/symposium/2018-symposium>

The election for faculty representatives and staff representative to the ACTCSP will begin on Wednesday, November 14. Faculty, I encourage you to vote. As reflected in the meeting minutes, in the faculty session of the October 30 Senate meeting, several faculty senators expressed their sense that representation of the CNRS and CPS colleges would not robust without restriction of the election to limit selection of the two seats on the ACTCSP to faculty from CNRS and CPS (because the current Senate Chair's appointment is in CAHSS and the Chair is an appointed member of the ACTCSP). Given the short timeline of the election, with November 30 as the Chancellor's Office preferred deadline for seating faculty representatives on the ACTCSP, I called a regular general faculty election, with nominations open to faculty in all colleges, librarians and coaches. Per section 8.32 of the General Faculty Constitution, "In elections where multiple positions are to be filled, those whose votes when added together constitute 66.7% or more of the votes cast will be elected. If there are more candidates retained than required for multiple positions, a run-off election will be held of those candidates." Depending on the results of the first round of this election, there may be a run-off election scheduled in the week in which we return from Fall Break.

The SenEx Committee is planning an open forum for the campus community organized on behalf of the Senate to occur prior to the Chancellor's Office scheduled campus open forum (the CO open forum is scheduled for Monday, February 4, time and place still to be determined). The purpose of this forum is to provide organized feedback to the ACTCSP regarding the skills, qualities and experience that the campus community would like the next president of the university to possess and the opportunities and challenges that leading HSU presents. Regarding the format of this forum, at the November 6th SenEx Committee meeting, several senators remarked that they appreciated the facilitation of last year's URPC open forum by Dean of the Library, Cyril Oberlander. We agreed that we would like a participatory forum that includes small group discussion with large group reporting, guided by questions and organized thematically around important aspects of the presidency. Some of these themes are likely to be: 1) leading with a compelling vision and effective leadership style; 2) engaging productively with campus and community; 3) ensuring financial sustainability (e.g., budget and fundraising); 4) promoting student success; 5) fostering a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus; and 6) other. Dean Oberlander has agreed to facilitate and he and I crafted a basic design for the forum that is participatory, engaging and effective for a two-hour session, while recognizing that many people will only be able to participate for part of the forum. Unfortunately, he cannot facilitate during the original day and time chosen by SenEx Committee, which was January 25, 2019, 1-3pm, because he is scheduled to be out of town. He suggested an alternative day and time of **Thursday, January 31, 3-5pm**, and given his experience and skill in facilitation, I think it is best for Senate to accommodate his schedule. If you have concerns or objections with moving the forum to January 31, 3:00-5:00pm, please let me know. Since Goodwin Forum is booked at that day and time, the forum will take place in **Library 301H, Humboldt Scholars Lab**. Dean Oberlander has asked for a few senators to volunteer to facilitate some of the small group discussions, which includes participation in a very brief training that he has prepared. I call on any senator who wants to be more involved in the process of choosing the next president of HSU to

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volunteer for this role at the forum. At a minimum, it is important for senators to plan to attend the forum and offer their thoughts for the ACTCSP to consider.