

University Senate Chair Report

August 29, 2023

Hey y'all,

I am so looking forward to working for and with you in this role during this academic year. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate in shared governance with such brilliant colleagues towards the end of co-authoring a safe, just, and equitable University space and community, through consensus, dissensus, and countless deep conversations and negotiations in between.

In this week's first Senate meeting of the year, we will be engaging in discussion around a number of topics in an introductory manner. These topics will be addressed continuously throughout the semester and academic year (and beyond), each in their own way, but we are hoping to set the stage for ongoing dialogue around a handful of areas that will have far reaching implications.

The first of these topics will be an overview of the Cozen-O'Connor Title IX and DHR Investigation Report and the resultant work of the Implementation Team that will be helping to facilitate the recommendations of that report. This first presentation will consist of a broad synthesis of the findings in the report, some details around the work of the Implementation Team, and time for questions and answers. Following this initial presentation, we will be agendaizing a 3:30 time certain in all of the following meetings this semester such that the Implementation Team can communicate their work in the intervening weeks and seek feedback and questions from the campus community. Please use this as one of the many emerging spaces to communicate with the Implementation Team.

The second major topic we will take a look at is the current budget and enrollment picture at Cal Poly Humboldt. The context around our available resources is looking considerably different than it did when the URPC sent their budget recommendation to the President in the Spring Semester, and it will be important to get on the same page about emerging understandings as the Fall Semester begins. I would like to thank Jaime Lancaster and Provost Capps for agreeing to join us in providing an overview of those changes in circumstances on incredibly short notice (especially as the URPC met for the first time this semester last Friday).

Last but not least, Associate Vice President and Campus Diversity Officer Rosamel Benevides-Garb, following on the heels of an incredibly successful Professional Development Day, will briefly introduce us to our impending work on the campus Institutional Anti-Racism Action Plan, a document that the Senate will have the opportunity to engage with continuously over the course of this year.

Finally, I have to admit: I have no idea what I'm doing. What little I know about helping to facilitate a University Senate has been gleaned from watching my predecessors do so with style and enviable competence, and I will strive to follow their modeled examples to the extent I am able. I would like to enlist your help, too, to make sure we pull off this important work: please hold me accountable, ask me questions, tell me about your concerns, and keep me informed of the issues that are important to you so that we might address them together. The more input I receive on how to serve in the office, the better. I am nervous, but hopeful that we'll achieve a lot this year in the University Senate. For my part, I will try really hard not to mess it up.