

# HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

## Senate Chair's Report

### Senate Meeting, April 21, 2020

I hope that you, your family and friends are safe and well in this time of emergency. Many of us have loved ones in Humboldt and across the country who are facing job loss and illness. We continue to work under what feels like extreme conditions, and this is wearing on many of us, myself included. We are doing our best. The good news is that we have demonstrated already that we are stronger than we thought we might be, and I am proud of how we have come together as a campus to try to make the best of a bad situation.

The Senate business that we must complete by the end of this academic year has expanded due to some additions by the ICC presented at the April 14 Senate Executive Committee meeting. Last week, you should have received a google form asking you to indicate whether or not you are available for the Tuesday, May 19, "as needed" meeting (if you did not receive this form, please contact Mary Watson). Twenty-two senators must commit to participate in order to have a quorum; proxies count towards quorum, but a senator can be a proxy for only one absent senator. The agenda and length of the May 19 meeting will be based on how much business has been resolved after the May 5 Senate meeting. I appreciate your patience and your service as we navigate shared governance in this unprecedented time.

Since our last Senate meeting, many of us have become more educated about very challenging enrollment and budget projections for next fiscal year. President Jackson's response to the URPC budget memo is included in the URPC's report. In addition to the presentation on enrollment and budget at the April 7 Senate meeting, Jason Meriwether, VP for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs and Doug Dawes, VP for Administrative Affairs and Finance, hosted zoom webinars on Monday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 15. These webinars were well attended, with over 100 participants each, and the question and answer portions added an extra layer of information, which will contribute to a FAQ. Individual plans for reductions given the AY 20-21 revenue contraction our campus faces are currently being crafted at the division and MBU (major budget unit) levels (see this [budget oversight policy](#) for definitions).

Recently I have encountered heightened concern from faculty about shared governance processes, specifically around budget, college reorganization plans, and academic master planning. Faculty, staff and administrators are involved in shared governance every day, but this reality may not be effectively communicated across campus. I want to assure the campus community that shared governance is alive and well, even if sometimes it is imperfectly executed. HSU's understanding of shared governance is represented mainly in sections 100 (Chapter 1) and 200 (Chapter 2) and appendix B of the [Faculty Handbook](#). (For other resources on shared governance consult this American Association of University Professors (AAUP) [site](#) and this San Jose State 2015 sense of the Senate [resolution](#)).

There is always room for improvement in shared governance, and when critical decisions are being made about the future, it is understandable that members of the campus community want to learn more about these processes and how to effectively participate. As senators, we must respond to this moment by educating our colleagues about shared governance, including providing them with resources for navigating Senate processes. I encourage all senators to reach out to their constituencies to touch base and to gather input to bring to our remaining Senate meetings. To facilitate education and participation, I have drafted a "Quick Guide to Shared Governance at HSU." While this two-page document still needs some polishing, it can be shared immediately with those who are interested in learning more about shared governance on campus. Please contact me directly if you would like a copy, or if you have any questions or concerns about shared governance.