

Hey Cal Poly Humboldt!

We made it to mid-term, and Spring Break is just around the corner. Congratulations! I've so appreciated y'all's work in relation to shared governance so far this semester, and I can't wait to come back from our break refreshed and prepared to continue making positive changes for our shared University context.

In line with that work, we will be addressing a number of resolutions related to accessibility on campus that will hopefully serve to outline and embolden the work needed to create a space that is physically accessible, and, someday, universally inclusive. First, Senator Jim Graham and Campus Diversity Officer Rosamel Benavides-Garb have drafted a Sense of the Senate that outline the work that needs to be done across campus and asks for shared Senate commitment to pursuing and ensuring that work. Then, later in the meeting, Senator Aghasaleh will present a resolution to alter Section 800 of the Faculty Handbook to reflect changes to the description and makeup of the committee that will work to address accessibility concerns across campus. This resolution, specifically, has garnered considerable attention, both in terms of voiced support and material feedback, and is far better for the inclusion of voices across campus. Thanks to all who participated in that process. Finally, we will be working on a policy in the coming week that will outline the University's interpretation of Executive Orders related to accessibility, such that we have a institutionally specific set of guidelines for how we serve each other towards the end of accessibility.

In a note of apology, I wanted to call attention to a set of circumstances over the last weeks that I handled sloppily. Briefly, I received feedback concerning the CFA Interruption Statement pointing to some of the terminology therein that was deemed problematically exclusive. Wanting to address this carefully, I made the unilateral decision to pause the use of the statement for a week and bring the statement to SenEx, with the intention of drafting a version of the original statement that was designed to be as inclusive as possible. In lieu of the Interruption statement, I asked that we read out the Senate's Shared Commitments, a document that we do not generally read aloud, as I hoped it would cover the processual intent of the interruption statement in its brief absence. We, since that meeting, received feedback that the exclusion of the Interruption Statement was deemed concerning and harmful, and thus will be reading the statement prior to the meeting today. I will also bring this to SenEx for further discussion at our next available meeting.

For those concerned by the absence of the Interruption Statement during that meeting, I want you to know that I agree wholeheartedly with the need for that document. I have been in Senate meetings where harmful things were said, and I failed to interject or stand up for those being harmed. I know that the intent of our inclusion of the Interruption Statement was intended to articulate the need for us all to be consistent and vocal allies for each other, and I understand that its absence could convey a lack of care for that need. I am so sorry that I didn't do better here.

But I will do my best to do better moving forward, and I can't tell y'all how much I appreciate your continued support and engagement towards that end.

Yay, Shared Governance,
jim