

**STAFF SENATE
CHAIR'S REPORT
DECEMBER 9, 2019**

Committee Charge

I want to take my report this month to have a discussion on something that is becoming more and more of an issue. That is the increasing challenge in filling committee vacancies.

Between our Standing, University Wide and Ad Hoc committees, we have over 40 active committees. The standing committees have between seven and sixteen members. Some Ad Hoc committees have two to four members. There is a round of calls coming out soon for the Strategic Plan Implementation Sub Committees that will need between nine and eighteen more spots. There are 99 of us. We are close to that number in committee assignments right now with the impending Strategic Plan calls still to come.

Numerous times this semester we have had the exact number of applicants to serve on an ad hoc that has come up as we had spots on the committee. Once I told the EC that if we did not receive any more nominations by the end of the day I was submitting some of their names.

I think there are three dynamics in play here.

One, and I get this completely so please don't take this as a critical or judgmental statement, there are fewer of us than there were several years ago when a number of staff received rifs in the budget cuts. Many of us have taken on additional job responsibilities and just cannot carve out more time in addition to our jobs and just serving in the Senate. I get that and appreciate you for doing what you have to do just to be able to serve here.

The second dynamic is this. We have a lot of newer senators in our ranks right now. I think some of those are hesitant to volunteer for an ad hoc or search committee because they are not comfortable taking that on yet. I want to encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. They are valuable for the Senate and also provide outstanding networking opportunities for the participants.

Finally, I think a number of us think "there's 99 of us, there are plenty of people who can take this one." I am hoping that understanding the numbers we went over at the start of this demonstrates the need for anyone who is able to volunteer when a call goes out.

Again, this was not meant to be critical of anyone. I just wanted to share the scenario we are experiencing. As leadership continues to advocate for the "seat at the table" we need to insure we have people willing and desirous of filling those positions.

Shared Governance Workgroup

There is movement on the Shared Governance Workgroup. There was every intention to have the group meeting before now but with the complexity of the hospital acquisition and the number of hours that has required by some people who will be part of this workgroup, it just has not been prudent to try to start. Krista Wallace-Boaz Chair of the Faculty Senate, and I have been recently named co-chairs. We are having discussions and will have an organizational meeting in January. It will be exciting to see this group actually start work on what could be a critical document that could shape much of the way our university conducts various operations in the future.

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Provost Search

Krista and I have also been named to the provost search committee. We submitted four names for an additional seat on that committee but have not been informed as to who has been selected to also represent us. The timeline is to have the search completed and a new provost on campus by the middle of the summer.

Meetings since November Senate Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, Mark Watkins Meeting, 2:00 PM, Grawemeyer Hall

Wednesday, November 13, Budget Model Meeting, 3:00 PM, Shumaker

Thursday, November 14, Financial Statements Meeting, 8:30 AM, MITC

Thursday, November 14, C&N Meeting, 10:00 AM, MITC

Friday, November 15, Student Affairs Title IX Interview, 1:00 PM, SAC W303

Tuesday, November 19, Donor Meeting, Noon to 2:00 PM, U Club

Wednesday, November 20, Leadership Meeting, 1:00 PM, MITC

Wednesday, November 20, Dr. Bendapudi, 2:00 PM, Grawemeyer Hall

Friday, November 21, New Student Orientation, 11:30, Davidson 205

Monday, November 25, Budget Model Workgroup, 9:00 AM, Belknap Academic Building 218

Monday, November 25, Staff Senate Executive Committee, 3:00 PM, Ekstrom Library

Monday, December 2, Secretary of State Pompeo, 8:30, U Club

Monday, December 2, Joint Senate Leadership Meeting with Dr. Bendapudi, 11:00 AM, Grawemeyer Hall

Friday, December 6, Provost's Reception, Coconut Beach, 3:00 PM