

THE FACULTY GOVERNANCE SPECTATOR

COVID FAQs

These [FAQ's for faculty](#) are important reading for this semester! Good luck with all your courses!

Provost Search results

Dr. Karen Moranski is our new Provost! We wish her the very best in her new position.



Senate on Twitter

Are you following us yet on Twitter?

@SSUFacSenate

Posts are directed at faculty, teaching, and issues of higher education.

Convocation!

Welcome Back!

Convocation was held on August 17th in Weill Hall and live-streamed. The was the first time for a hybrid version as are some of our classes this fall. As people were entering Weill Hall, a slide show of faculty and staff who have retired was shown. You can see a recording of Convocation on the [Senate website](#)

Convocation remarks from Chair of the Faculty - Dr.

Lauren Morimoto



Things almost feel normal. Classes start tomorrow. I'm sitting in front of you as the new Chair of the Faculty, ready to deliver a convocation address. As a Cultural Studies scholar, I know this genre of speech carries expectations. The genre calls for a speech that should – by turns – celebrate

weathering the storm of last year; welcome new and returning students, staff, and faculty; validate; inspire; build community; reaffirm shared values and expectations; and reassure. It should reference SSU's past, acknowledge the current moment, and share my perspective of where we're going. Despite the risks associated with breaking from genre conventions – primarily audience disappointment, discomfort, and dismissal – I am following a different script.

I will speak briefly to the past eighteen months and what they have exposed – and how the things uncovered have informed my hopes for the university. From there, I will present three modest goals for shared governance this year. Side note: even with that tall order for this speech, I would usually speak extemporaneously, riff on comments made by previous speakers, and reiterate earlier themes. I'm operating differently because Kim Purdy and the resourceful GMC crew of Caroline Neyman,

Resolutions

Resolutions passed in
Spring of 2021

Resolution in Support of
AAPI Community and
Related Curriculum

On the Matter of Jeffrey
Reeder

Senate Business

At its first meeting, the Academic Senate approved eligible faculty for Emeritus status

We learned that N95 masks may only be given to unvaccinated people on campus per OSHA.

Students have been told to show their "green screen" to faculty when they arrive in class.

Please note that all faculty governance meetings are virtual this year.

Kaman Nikolai, and Jerry Uhlig worked to make the livestream accessible. My small part in ensuring accessibility? To provide a transcript ahead of time – so for once - I shall endeavor to stay on script. I've gone back and forth over what to say today. Since Spring 2020, when we moved all courses and most university functions online, we probably envisioned a return to normalcy that hasn't quite materialized. Yes, there has been progress. Students moved into the residence halls yesterday and tomorrow, some classes will take place in Darwin, Nichols, the Wine Business Center, and other campus buildings. Some call it the new normal, business somewhat the same as usual, but with mask mandates and wellness screenings. Others seem convinced that by putting bodies on campus we can create an illusion of "normal" that will allow us to feel like things have returned to the way they were – and maybe we do need to engage in something that resembles something familiar.

Read the rest of her remarks [here](#).

Leadership Development for Faculty Governance

A new initiative in faculty governance is to develop a self-paced course in leadership development for faculty who are considering chairing a faculty governance committee or becoming Chair of the Faculty. This course will be in CANVAS and we hope to it have ready to use in the Spring.

If you would like to be a "tester" of the modules and give the Senate Analyst feedback on the course, let her know via email, holmstrl@sonoma.edu.

Information Item

The library faculty passed a "Resolution of No Confidence" in their dean, Dr. Karen Schneider in August 2021. Their previous efforts to work with the Dean to enact meaningful change have not succeeded. Therefore, the library faculty took this step to inform the wider campus community about the problematic management of the library and its negative impacts.

For the Good of the Order

Dr. Kevin Fang, Director of the Center for Sustainable Communities, and VP of Student Affairs, Dr. Wm. Greg Sawyer shared that SSU is communicating with the city of Rohnert Park to address safety concerns for students, staff, and faculty on E. Cotati Ave.