

# THE JOHN C. LIVINGSTON ANNUAL FACULTY LECTURE

2016-2017



## Dr. Edward L. Lascher, Jr.

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

*“Curbing the Inclination toward Populist Reform  
(And Why You Should Appreciate the Faculty Senate)”*

Dr. Edward (Ted) Lascher is the recipient of the 2016-17 John C. Livingston Annual Faculty Lecture Award.

His lecture will advocate curbing the inclination toward populist reform. Many Americans have long been enamored of the idea that “the cure for the ills of democracy is more democracy.” In practice this commonly means supporting reforms that push more decisions to a broader public and undercut representatives and representative institutions. In this lecture, Professor Lascher will argue against such an approach, using examples from the national, state, and university level. In particular, he will draw from his own research on the ballot initiative process.

Professor Lascher is Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Sacramento State; he also teaches in the General Education Honors Program and serves on the core faculty for the Doctorate in Educational Leadership. He offers courses on the political environment of policy making, research methods, and collaborative policy making. His published research has spanned a wide range of topics including regulatory policy, victim compensation, political and economic determinants of life satisfaction, political careers, political parties, legislative deliberation, and state and local elections. Most recently he has focused on examining direct democracy in the United States; he is completing a coauthored book on this topic. He also has multiple publications about teaching methods and approaches.

Dr. Lascher has an extensive record of service at all levels of academic governance and in the community. He has been Acting Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, Acting Director of the Center for California Studies, Director of the Serna Center, and Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate. He currently serves as the campus liaison to the Renaissance Society. He has participated in a number of political campaigns over the years, beginning when he was 16; his candidate lost.

Monday, February 20, 2017  
Redwood Room, University Union  
3 p.m. | Reception to follow

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*“...a strong commitment  
to shared governance and  
administrative leadership...  
committed to furthering the  
educational experiences  
of both master’s and  
undergraduate students.”*

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