



# SACRAMENTO STATE

Faculty Senate

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Friday, October 1, 2021

2:00pm – 3:30pm

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/84707031069> (Meeting ID: 847 0703 1069)

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### MEMBERS, ATTENDED

Amber M. Gonzalez, Undergrad Studies, CoE  
(Chair)

Lauren Kelly, Design (Vice Chair)

James Fox, Library, LIB

Brandon Carey, Philosophy, A&L

Ali Behzadan, Math & Stats, NSM

Tara Sharpp, Nursing, HHS

Julie Fogarty, Civil Engineering, ECS

Raul Tadle, Economics, SSIS

Won Jung Kim, Accounting

Denys Brand, Psychology, SSIS

Matt Block, Physics and Astronomy, NSM

### NON-VOTING/EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, ATTENDED

James (Jim) German, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Justin Gaulke, University Staff Assembly

### NON-VOTING GUESTS, ATTENDED

Malee Xiong, Graduate Center Coordinator, Academic Affairs

Heather Skocilich, Associate Registrar

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## AGENDA

### 1. Called to Order, 2:07pm

### 2. Approval of the Agenda, approved

### 3. Open Forum

- **Time Conflicts:** Is there a policy on time conflicts? Meaning, a student is unable to register for a class that has *scheduled* meetings at the same time, however, administrators and the Office of the Registrar have the ability to override this *registration system rule*. What approvals are needed to *override this registration system rule*? – are the faculty members involved? How is the decision made? For example, student A is registered in a class that meetings Monday 9-10am, and wants to register in a class that meets in a hybrid manner on Monday and Wednesday 9-10am, with meeting times primarily on Wednesday's but sometimes on Mondays so the student has to miss class...is this considered an *excused absence* for one of the classes? Does one of the faculty members need to make an accommodation for the overlapped class?

- **Excused Absence Policy:** [Policy language: “Instructors shall make reasonable accommodations for students with a verified excused absence, for exceptional circumstances such as a serious illness, death in the family, university approved events, government required activities, an employment related conflict beyond the student’s control, or other serious or compelling reasons. Students who believe reasonable accommodations have not been made, after completion of the course, may appeal their grade through the Grade Appeal Panel or petition to retroactively withdraw from the course through the Academic Standards Subcommittee.”] Members of APC are concerned with this policy: Need for clarification (1) Examples of how students can “verify excused absences”, (2) examples of “reasonable accommodations”?, (3) is mental health covered with “serious-illness” or is that covered with the “other serious or compelling reason”? Why is there not someone else on campus that verifies the student has a right to a reasonable accommodations – comparison made to SSWD in that there is someone else on campus that verifies that students need reasonable accommodations for student with disabilities and ask the faculty member to make reasonable accommodations. Also, what rights do students have while the class is ongoing (before completion of the course) – what if the class is a prerequisite and a student waiting to appeal after the completion of a course delays graduation?

Gonzalez will take both of the above items to open forum with Faculty Senate Executive Committee

- **Will APC meet virtually in spring 2022?**

#### 4. Agenda Items

- a. [Excused absence policy](#) -- Update  
From Senate Exec 9/21/2021 -- Provost Perez sent an email to department chairs and directors on Monday 9/20 clarifying that there is not policy about what faculty can or can’t ask for in terms of verifying an excused absence due to serious illness. However, the recommendation is that faculty not ask for medical documentation because asking for this may overburden medical providers and/or put the student at risk – noting that Sac State Student Health and Counseling Center would not be able to manage the volume of providing medical documentation for students. So...the question is what should faculty be doing to “verify” excused absences? Faculty should take the students’ word – recommendation is to not ask for a documented verification – make the *reasonable* accommodation – however note that the policy does not allow/disallow a faculty member from asking for documentation to verify an absence. Also remember there are other options too such as an I and WU.

The excused absence policy takes into account exceptional circumstances, religious holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances and faculty should follow the [Religious Observance Policy](#)

- b. [Objectives that are part of GE requirements](#) -- Update



# SACRAMENTO STATE

Faculty Senate

From Senate Exec 9/21/2021 – The Faculty Senate Exec will work on a referral to the GE/GR Committee to review learning objectives (ensuring they are measurable) and review language. However, the Executive Committee did recognize that within the [Race/Ethnicity objectives](#) learning objective/outcome #4 included offensive language (“Includes an examination of such factors as race, class...sexual preference, and how these shape the ethnic experience in the United States.” – noting that sexual preference suggests that being gay, lesbian, or bisexual is voluntary or a choice. The Faculty Senate Exec committee (on behalf of themselves) recommended that the President and Provost change LO#4 immediately. President and Provost are going to work with subject matter experts to revise LO #4 and will likely send messaging within the semester.

Also, if a decision is made regarding curriculum approval at the University level that you disagree with, you, the author of the curriculum can appeal the decision using the [GE Appeal Process](#)

- c. Grading Policy, discussed  
Gonzalez will be requesting information regarding the use of A+

**Adjournment, 3:30pm**

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**APC meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm via Zoom**

Zoom, <https://csus.zoom.us/j/84707031069> (Meeting ID: 847 0703 1069)

Fall 2021: Sept 3 (canceled) and 17, Oct 1 and 15, Nov 5 and 19, Dec 3

Spring 2022: Feb 4 and 18, March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, May 6