

# How to be a University in a World of Conflict: Rediscovering and Redefining Who We Are

## *Year of Conversation Initiative*

sponsored by the Academic Senate, the President's Office, and the Provost's Office at  
San Francisco State University

## Request for Faculty-Led Workshop Proposals

### ABSTRACT

At universities across the nation, we are seeing with alarming regularity increasing conflict and controversy when differing world views and ideas are brought together. Instead of engaging in conversation, or navigating points of disagreement, voices have been silenced, groups have been threatened, and the integrity of free speech and expression has been jeopardized. It is the fundamental mission of any university to question, to explore, to engage, to discuss, to educate, and to serve as safe harbor of free thought. It is in this context that a Year of Conversation is launched. This initiative offers a platform and structure for our community to explore existential questions about what it means to be a university in a world of conflict, what kind of institution we are and want to be, and what our students need from us in order to become tomorrow's leaders.

**All proposals to be received in the Senate Office by September 1, 2017**

Workshop Title:

Workshop Type/Objective: [check all that apply]:

Themed Conversations

Campus climate

Reading group

Learning a new skill

Community building

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility: All faculty (T/TT and lecturers) are eligible to propose a workshop as lead faculty coordinators. All Faculty, staff, students, and administrators are eligible to serve as second coordinators.

#### Faculty Coordinator

Name:

Title:

Department:

Telephone:

Email:

#### Coordinator #2 (Optional)

Name:

Title:

Department:

Telephone:

Email:

#### Workshop Expectations:

1. Each approved workshop/affinity group will meet four times in Fall 2017 for a suggested 90 minutes per meeting. There is an option of applying to extend the workshop into Spring 2018.
2. Each approved workshop will be asked to submit a report at the end of the Fall 2017 semester that outlines the workshop's outcomes, including participant feedback.
3. Each approved workshop will be open to any member of our campus community who wishes to attend, but there may be restrictions on the size of a workshop or affinity group. Such restrictions might be managed on a first-come-first-serve basis.



