

Dear Colleagues,

I am asking for your support of my candidacy for Chair of the San Francisco State University Academic Senate. I am a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Science and Engineering, and am starting my second term on the Academic Senate. I came to San Francisco State as an Assistant Professor in large part due to our University's commitment to excellence in teaching, and in particular our commitment to engage student in our professional activities as a means to ensure their future success. That focus on student success through supporting our students, faculty and staff in all that they do, remains a top priority for me.

I have held a variety of positions across the University, including chairing several University-wide committees and a couple of administrative positions. Most of these have had a focus on curriculum, and reflect my interest in the education that we are providing our students.

After I found myself baffled by several campus policies, and was informed that they were the result of action by the Academic Senate, I decided that I wanted to participate myself, and see how policies were developed on our campus. During my time in the Senate I have served on the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) and the Academic Policies Committee (APC), and have twice been elected chair of APC. My experiences in the Senate have been deeply gratifying and I have enjoyed being part of shared governance on our campus.

Under my leadership, APC has brought forth several policies and policy changes that positively impact students and faculty. These include new policies on the seventh cycle program review policy, probation and disqualification, and standardized time blocks, as well as changes to the baccalaureate requirements, written english communications and course repeat policies.

As Chair, I would continue the excellent work spearheaded by Chair Carleton on promoting open dialogue and collegiality across campus. In addition, I would like to pursue the following priorities:

- 1) Increase transparency of Academic Senate activities by posting all Senate documents on Box so that they are accessible to the campus community and work to allow the campus to view Senate plenary meetings via Zoom either in real time or via recording.
2. Act on the recommendations set forth by the Foundations of Excellence First-Year Student Self Study.
- 3) Address workload inequities that exist across campus, especially in regards to teaching and service.
- 4) Work with ASI to increase student participation in the Academic Senate and other committees across campus to ensure that students have a voice in campus decisions.
- 5) Work with the newly formed Center for Excellence and Equity in Teaching and Learning (CEETL) to support our faculty in their efforts to become more effective and engaging teachers.

In summary, I believe that I have the energy, enthusiasm and ability to work with a variety of campus constituencies to make an effective leader of our Academic Senate, and I ask for your support.

Regards, Nancy Gerber