<u>Senate Executive Committee</u>
Michael Law- *President*
Norma Boakes- *Vice President*
Marc Richard- *Parliamentarian*
Kristen Hallock-Waters- *Secretary*
Tara Luke- *Union representative*
Lauren Balasco- *At-Large*
Robin Hernandez-Mekonen- *At-Large*
Zheng Li- *At-Large*

Executive Summary

This document serves to summarize the work of the Senate over the past Academic Year. The Senate Executive Committee would like to formally acknowledge the collective efforts of faculty across campus as we continue to improve our community. This is the first Faculty Senate Year End report that has been made available since the 2018-19 Academic Year.

The Faculty Senate met nine times, hosted three faculty assemblies and one faculty forum during the 2023-24 Academic Year. The Senate voted to endorse the following action items:

- A communication flow chart
- Constitutional Amendments and new Senate rules
- Three undergraduate degree programs, two minors, one new master's degree, and four accelerated dual degree programs
- Two university policies and two procedures
- Recommendations from seven task forces
- Honors Program recommendations

Senate also discussed faculty concerns about students that are accepted to the university but have a documented low retention rate.

Some significant accomplishments that the Senate Executive Committee noted during its retreat in June 2024 included:

- Task Forces completing their work and providing recommendations to Senate
- An audit of the task forces and resolutions from the past five years
- Increasing transparency in decision making at the university through multiple mechanisms, including:
    - Open Q&A with the President and Provost at the beginning of every Senate meeting
    - Fall Faculty Assembly to discuss the Provost search and opportunity to submit an electronic vote communicating candidate preference to the search committee
    - Spring Faculty Assembly with Jennifer Potter, Chief Financial Officer, to discuss the budget at the university

- - - ▪ Faculty commented that this was 'the most transparency that they have experienced in their time at the university'
    - o Two Town Hall meetings with President Bertolino, highlighting the achievements of Faculty and Staff and providing opportunities for Q&A
  - Working closely with the Stockton Federation of Teachers, Librarians, and Professional Staff on issues that have overlap with Senate.

The following includes a comprehensive list of action and/or discussion items that were supported or endorsed by the Senate. Supporting documentation can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

Enhancing university-wide communication
A major goal for the Senate Executive Committee was to enhance communication with Administration and to ensure that faculty have opportunities to continue to contribute to the shared governance process. To do this, we instated an opportunity for open Q&A with the President and Provost as the beginning of every regular Senate meeting. In addition, we established a communication flow chart that delineated how the Faculty Senate would communicate with the Office of Academic Affairs and President regarding the institutional decision-making process. This flow chart was drafted by the Senate Executive Committee, then reviewed by Senate, President Bertolino, Dr. Sass, and Provost Palladino prior to its endorsement during the March Senate meeting. This reflects the open dialogue and shared governance process that we are striving for at the university.

Constitutional Amendments and Senate Rules
Establishing hybrid meeting structure
During the COVID pandemic, Faculty Senate met using virtual and hybrid meeting modalities, but these meetings were not formally supported by the Faculty Senate Constitution. To officially establish electronic meetings, the Faculty Senate Constitution was amended to allow for electronic meetings and these meetings would follow Parliamentary rule. These amendments were approved by Senate during the October 2023 meeting by a vote of 28 In-Favor, 1 Opposed and approved by Faculty Assembly by electronic vote 93 In-Favor, 2 Opposed.

Following these amendments, the Senate deliberated on Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order that helped to further establish meeting structure. Our standing rules allowed Zoom to be used for the meeting modality, unless 2/3 of Senators requested a different modality. Furthermore, the Standing Rules were formed to mirror Robert's Rules of Order using a hybrid meeting modality. The Standing Rules of Order were approved during the November 2023 meeting by a vote of 25 In-Favor, 2 Opposed.

The Special Rules addressed the distribution of the regular meeting agenda and supporting documents, how pending motions are debated on the floor and formed a process that allowed for general discussion. The central aim of the special rules was to allow for enough time for review of senate business that would facilitate open discussion and deliberation of

important university business. The Special Rules were approved during the November 2023 meeting by a vote of 23 In-Favor, 2 Opposed.

Additional constitutional amendment
During the process of making amendments to accommodate electronic meetings, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee thought it would be good to amend other parts of the Constitution as part of the housekeeping process. These amendments established the following:

- Both the Senate and the Senate Executive Committee may hold special meetings
- Library Faculty elections to the Standing Committee on Research and Professional Development was altered so that is synchronous with other Standing Committee elections
- Titles for ex-oficio members of Standing Committees were updated
- 'Discipline' was removed as one of the charges for the Standing Committee on Student Affairs.

Since these additional amendments were considered under the same vote as above, they were approved during the October 2023 meeting by a vote of 28 In-Favor, 1 Opposed.

Facilitating Academic Program review
The Faculty Senate Executive Committee put forth a motion to strike Part 2a from the 'Senate Internal Procedure for the Consideration of Motions- First & Second Readings'. This eliminated academic proposals as 'major motions', thereby reducing the requirement of a second reading for academic proposals on the Senate Floor. This motion passed with 28 In-Favor, 2 Opposed.

Academic Programs
The Standing Committee on Academic Programs and Planning reviewed two proposals for new undergraduate degrees, one degree change from a BA to a BS, one new graduate degree, two minors, and five accelerated degree pathways. Their critical and thorough review of each academic proposal is made available at least one week prior to each Senate meeting, which facilitates the deliberative process by the Senate body.

Undergraduate programs
Majors
1. A *BS in Entrepreneurship* from the School of Business was considered by Senate in the November and December meetings. The Senate approved the proposal by a vote of 27 In-Favor; 3 Opposed. The proposal has not yet been reviewed at the State level.

2. The Senate deliberated on two proposals from the School of Business that were focused on *Hemp and Cannabis Management*. The first proposal was a BS/MBA accelerated dual degree program, which was an entirely new BS degree and MBA program. Due to numerous concerns, the Senate unanimously voted to refer the dual

degree component of the proposal back to the Academic Programs and Planning Committee (29 In-Favor; 0 Opposed).

The Senate then discussed the BS component of this new undergraduate degree only and expressed concerns about the heavy reliance of this degree on General Studies. The Motion to approve this proposal failed with a final vote of 14 In-Favor; 17 Opposed. The authors of the proposal provided an edited version for the March Senate meeting at which point it was passed with a split vote of 21 In-Favor; 13 Opposed.

3. The Criminal Justice Program drafted a proposal to eliminate the current *BA in Criminal Justice and convert the degree to a BS*. Senate approved this proposal in December with a vote of 28 In-Favor; 3 Opposed. The State decided against considering this proposal, as they had new pathways for degree conversions, and it was unclear what criteria would be considered for this transition. A full proposal for a BS will be required for this to move forward.

Minors
1. The School of Health Sciences proposed a *Communication Studies Minor* that would replace the BS in Health Sciences track in communication studies. This proposal was unanimously approved during the March Senate meeting (29 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).

2. The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences proposed an *Archaeology Minor* that was approved during the February Senate meeting (25 In-Favor, 1 Opposed).

Graduate degrees/accelerated dual degree programs
Graduate Degrees
1. The School of Business developed a new *MBA in Global Sustainability* that was approved by Senate during the April meeting by a vote of 30 In-Favor; 2 Opposed.

Accelerated Dual Degree Programs
1. The School of Health Sciences developed a *BS in Health Science/Master of Public Health* that was unanimously approved during the February Senate meeting (31 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).

2. The School of Business developed a *BS in Esports/MBA in Business Studies* that was approved during the February Senate meeting (28 In-Favor, 1 Opposed).

There were two accelerated dual degree programs that were collaborations between the Schools of Business and Health Sciences.
1. *BS in Health Science/MBA in Health Administration and Leadership* was unanimously approved during the February Senate meeting (30 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).

2. *BS in Public Health /MBA in Health Administration and Leadership* was unanimously approved during the February Senate meeting (29 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).

Dual degree
The School of Health Sciences proposed a *BS in Health Sciences/Associate in Science in Medical Lab Sciences dual degree*. This is an existing articulation agreement between Stockton and Mercer County Community College. The proposal was reviewed by the Academic Programs and Planning committee and discussed at length during the April meeting. It is unclear what the plan is for the dual degree for the upcoming academic year.

Informational Items
1. Faculty of the Communication Disorders program in the School of Health Sciences agreed to a name change to become a program in *Communication Sciences and Disorders*.

2. The School of Health Sciences developed a curriculum map for a *BS in Health Science/Pre-Physician Assistant Concentration*. This concentration was informational only at the Senate level and was discussed during the May Senate retreat.

Academic Year 2022-23 proposal updates
Update on the status of proposals that completed the faculty-level review in the previous academic year but had not yet gone to the New Jersey Presidents' Council, Academic Issues Committee (AIC) as of the previous annual report:

AIC review as new items completed:
- BS in Finance Administration (Faculty Senate: November 2022; AIC: May 2023)
- BS in Business Analytics (Faculty Senate: November 2022; AIC: May 2023)
- BS in Esports Management (Faculty Senate: January 2023; AIC: April 2023)
- BS in Education and Human Development (Faculty Senate: April 2023; AIC: November 2023)

AIC review as informational items completed:
- Minor in Community Leadership and Social Change (Faculty Senate: October 2022; AIC: May 2023)
- Track in MSN of Family Nurse Practitioner (Faculty Senate: January 2023; AIC: May 2023)

AIC review not completed:
- MS in Accounting (Faculty Senate: May; AIC rejected: September)

Academic Programs and Planning timeline

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Office of Academic Affairs has been investigating how internal mechanisms for program review facilitate the timely development of innovative curriculum at the university. The timeline for proposal development is available on the [Academic Program proposal, Maintenance, and Closure](#) via the Academic Programs and Planning tab on the Faculty Senate homepage. The Faculty Senate will continue to work closely with the standing committee and the Provost's office to ensure that high quality curriculum continues to be a cornerstone of the university. One area of improvement would be including a separate link for proposal timelines on the Senate website to raise Faculty awareness.

University Policies and Procedures
The Academic Polices Committee Final Report reviewed five procedures, two policies, and one policy-procedure pair during the academic year (see Academic Policies Committee End of Year Report).

Of note, *Procedure 6120-Faculty Leave and Attendance* and *Policy II-13-Student Course-Load Categories* were brought to the committee due to faculty concerns. Neither of these were considered as part of the 2023-24 Senate agenda and will be under consideration during the next Academic Year.

Policy II-13 is linked to *Procedure 2019- Student Status- Categories and Criteria*, so any edits made to this policy should be linked to the procedure. Some notes regarding Student Course Load that should be considered by Senate during its deliberations next year include data provided by Institutional Research. The data show that the number of students that are taking more than 21 credits per semester is small (0.5% of student population). Oversight of these students might include review at the school level similar to students that are requesting additional attempts at courses. The number of credits that students in good standing can attempt should not changes except for summer overload, which should be considered at 21 total credits (no more than 10 in a single session).

Task Forces
The work of Faculty Senate Task Forces was significant during this Academic Year. We started the year with five Task Forces from the previous Academic Year and initiated a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence during the 2023-24 Academic Year. All Task Forces completed their work and presented their reports to the Senate during our retreat in May, which highlights the diligence of the faculty that were serving as members of these committees.

In our communications with the Task Force chairs and co-chairs, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee identified Task Force guidelines as a valuable resource that would support future task force work. We have developed a series of guidelines that will be presented to the Senate during the next Academic Year.

Faculty Senate endorsement for Task Force recommendations have been summarized below. As mentioned previously, complete Task Force reports can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

1. The Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed the recommendations from the *Task Force on Accessibility and Purchasing* during the September meeting (30 In-Favor, 0 Opposed; see *September meeting agenda* for recommendations).

2. During the October meeting, the Senate unanimously approved the *Task Force on Artificial Intelligence* (28 In-Favor, 0 Opposed) and membership was identified during the November 2023 meeting. This Task Force had widespread interest from faculty, as AI has become an issue that universities around the globe continue to grapple with. Despite its late approval in the Academic Year, this Task Force was able to complete a thorough and comprehensive report and provide recommendations for the Senate by the May retreat. The Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the Task Force (27 In-Favor, 0 Opposed; see Appendix A).

   In conjunction with the Task Force work, Provost Palladino has further supported AI initiatives by working with Faculty and Staff on a proposal for the *AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum*. This institute will inform how Stockton will proceed with AI using best practices and collaborations with universities across the country.

3. During the October meeting, membership for the *Attribute Assessment Task Force* was formally established. This Task Force was created during the March 2023 meeting, but no formal membership was established during the Spring 2023 semester. During their work, this Task Force gathered data from Faculty and students regarding the utility of attributes in their current form. The Task Force report was discussed at length during the May Senate retreat. The Task Force identified two independent components for attribute reform: substantive reforms that question how we continue with the attributes and procedural reforms that probe the equity of the application process and administration of the attributes.

   As a result of their work, the Task Force provided models for how the university might consider the attributes as part of student curriculum and to best serve an interdisciplinary curriculum. None of these models were endorsed by the Senate but will hopefully serve to frame conversations in the next Academic Year.

   This Task Force report is the beginning of university-wide evaluation of the attributes, and the Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed the recommendation that *"the Faculty Senate arrange multiple opportunities for discussion and deliberation throughout AY 2024-2025 to ensure inclusion of all stakeholder voices, including a Faculty Assembly in Fall Semester 2024"* (28 In-Favor, 0 Opposed). The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is currently collaborating with the Provost's office to identify how to engage with all stakeholders and provide multiple opportunities to continue this conversation.

Procedural inconsistencies for attribute approval were identified in the Task Force report. Faculty Senate endorsed the recommendation to "*Create a common set of procedures and systems for applying for any attribute*" (27 In-Favor, 1 Opposed). In addition, the Senate unanimously endorsed the recommendation to "*Create a procedure for modifying the definition or requirements of an AHVI attribute that requires broader approval from stakeholders*" (27 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).

4. The *Task Force on Stockton's Approach to Precepting* was established during the 2022-23 Academic Year and provided their final report and recommendations during the May 2024 Senate retreat. Some of the concerns that this Task Force identified included inequitable workload and preceptorial meeting modalities amongst faculty, as well as the need for program-specific precepting needs. The Senate unanimously endorsed three of their recommendations (29 In-Favor, 0 Opposed; see Appendix A).

5. The *Task Force on Stockton: The Next 50 Years and Beyond* was established during the 2021-22 Academic Year and provided their final report and recommendations during the May 2024 Senate retreat. The members of this Task Force should be commended for their commitment to the work and their good faith effort in getting the completed report by the 2024 Senate retreat. In their report, the Task Force acknowledges the history of how Stockton University was named after a slave holder and how this erodes away at the campus climate. The Senate endorsed their recommendations, which focused on mechanisms to consider a name change as well as opportunities to further educate the campus community about Stockton (24 In-Favor, 2 Opposed; see Appendix A).

6. The *Task Force on the Stockton Institute of Peer Evaluation of Teaching (SIPET)* was established during the 2021-22 Academic Year and provided their final report during the May 2024 Senate retreat. This Task Force developed recommendations that were presented at the Senate meeting, but were not articulated in the final report. The recommendations that were presented at the meeting were unanimously endorsed by Senate (27 In-Favor, 0 Opposed; see Appendix A).

7. The *Task Force on Essential Learning Outcomes* was established during the 2022-23 Academic Year and provided a report to the Senate at the May 2023 retreat. This Task Force recommended that we collapse the 10 existing ELOs into three new Integrative Learning Themes (ILTs): communication, community, and competency. During the 2023 retreat, there was discussion about the ILTs, but they were not endorsed by the Senate body at that time. The Senate endorsed the ILTs at the May 2024 retreat (22 In-Favor, 1 Opposed).

8. The Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed a *Task Force on Student Ratings of Teaching* during the April meeting (29 In-Favor, 0 Opposed) and the Senate Executive

Committee established membership of this task force during the May retreat. The task force final report is anticipated prior to the May 2025 retreat.

Other Senate business
- The Faculty Senate Committee on Administration and Finance performed an *Audit of Task Forces and Resolutions* that occurred over the last five years (see March meeting documentation). This audit serves several as an opportunity for both the Senate and Administration to identify examples of exemplary shared governance, to determine areas that may need further attention or follow up, and to revisit prior concerns or issues that are no longer relevant. This check-in will help to frame conversations surrounding the shared governance process and strategic planning in the upcoming academic year.
- Faculty Senate worked collaboratively with Academic Affairs to develop a *Decision Flow Chart* that was unanimously endorsed by the Senate during the March meeting (33 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).
- During the March meeting, Dr. Joshua Duntley was invited to discuss a series of *Honors Program recommendations* that were made based upon the external consultant report by Dr. Kevin Dean (West Chester University) in Spring 2023. Following review by the Honors Council, Dr. Duntley drafted a letter dated July 1, 2023 emphasizing the importance of these recommendations as they relate to supporting the Honors Program. Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed Dr. Duntley's letter (31 In-Favor, 0 Opposed).
- During the March meeting, Dr. Heather McGovern was invited to discuss concerns raised by First-Year Studies faculty related to students with documented low retention (see March meeting documents). The discussion was focused on identifying solutions to the concerns and largely centered around how Admissions can identify students of concern prior to their registration for courses at the university.

Goals for Academic Year 2024-25
1. Develop guidelines for Senators, Standing Committees, and Task Forces.
   a. Distinguish between At-Large and School Senator responsibilities.
   b. Establish regular updates from Standing Committees
   c. Develop an FAQs section on the Senate website
   d. Initiate a Senator orientation

2. Increase faculty engagement in Senate business
   a. Provide opportunities for discussion and interaction at Fall Faculty Conference
   b. Encourage more faculty to participate in Senate-related initiatives to gather input from a large number of voices and ensure equitable distribution of workload

3. Develop a centralized communication system to disseminate Senate matters (in addition to emails).

4. Identify and establish initiatives to recognize the service of Senators