



# Faculty Senate NEWS BRIEF

The purpose of the Faculty Senate **News Brief** is to keep faculty informed about Faculty Senate meetings. Agendas and minutes of meetings can be accessed by clicking on the [Faculty Senate Homepage](#).

## **FROM THE SENATE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

The Faculty Senate received word that President Newsom has received and is currently reviewing the Compensation Proposal drafted jointly by the **Budget (BC)** and **Personnel Policies (PPC) Committees** and passed by the Senate during the February 8 meeting. Based on the Salary Card Working Group's previously drafting principle, this proposal calls for an adjustment for inflation since the last known update to the Salary Card in 2008.

Another previous Senate-approved update to policy, the Office Hours Policy, was officially approved by the Student Government Association. The [Academic Policies and Procedure Manual](#) will be updated to reflect these changes (Section 4.9.1).

**The new policy states:** *Unless contractually obligated otherwise, a full-time faculty member is required to schedule office hours according to the following ratio: half as many office hours per week as credit hours taught in a given semester. In addition, full-time faculty are expected to be available additional hours by appointment. Of the given number of office hours, full-time faculty members teaching online classes should be available for synchronous online office hours in approximate proportion to their online teaching load. Departments will establish policies regarding the expected mechanisms for online office hours, and for publicizing faculty office hours.*

The **Executive Committee (EC)** did not meet but passed along several updates from the university president, including potential institutional collaborations on the horizon, an addendum to the Academic Partnerships contract for specific programs, upcoming micro credential offerings through SE, campus improvements, and proposed student fee updates that will be present to the Regents. Additionally, the **Strategic Planning Committee** plans to finalize and submit its report to President Newsom by February 24.

The **Planning Committee (PC)** wishes to remind faculty members to upload materials for their award nominations by the February 24 deadline!

The **Committee on Committees (CoC)** reported that it will begin soliciting preferences for committee and council appointments in the coming weeks. The CoC reminds all faculty that service is a necessary component for promotion and tenure. For new faculty hires especially, please consider which committees or councils you would like to serve on before completing the forthcoming preference survey.

The Senate received further updates on **ChatGPT**. Several themes emerged in the conversation, including (a) there are no definitive “best practices” regarding the use of this technology because it is so new and (b) this is an opportunity to connect with students about course expectations and ethics. Senators committed to creating an ad hoc committee that will host a **Brown Bag Lunch Session** in late March or early April on the topic.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

The Administration-led **Shared Governance Forum** for this Spring has been rescheduled for March 21, 2023. Be on the lookout for further announcements about this forum.

The **Mutual Mentoring Group** will hold a meeting on Friday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Collaboration Room of the Library and on Zoom ([LINK](#)). The topic for this meeting will be *Preparing your Promotion & Tenure Portfolio and Faculty Development Plan*. Join us!

Faculty members are always invited and welcome to attend meetings of the Faculty Senate.

**The Faculty Senate will next meet at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in Russell 100 and on Zoom.** The Senate will also meet on 3/29, 4/12, and 4/26. Please visit the [Faculty Senate website](#) for detailed information concerning your representative body!

**This Faculty Senate News Brief was produced by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate: Kate Shannon, chair; Amy Ganff, vice chair; Randy Clark, past-chair; Steve Csaki, treasurer; Andy Kramer, archivist; Matthew Sparacio, recorder; Rob Shauger, parliamentarian.**