

Dear Members of the Academic Senate:

It is with great humility, as well as great excitement, that I accept the nomination to continue serving as the Chair of the Academic Senate during the 2016/17 academic year. In accepting this nomination, I am committed to serving Cal Poly Pomona and its academic mission as we continue to make significant progress toward our historic quarter-to-semester calendar transition.

It has been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Academic Senate this year, serving all of you, Senators, as well as all of the constituents of the Academic Senate. This has been a tremendous learning opportunity for me, and I thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you and the Academic Senate during this critical time for Cal Poly Pomona. This academic year, in addition to routine items, the Academic Senate has devoted significant effort to all issues related to semester conversion. The Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Elections and Procedures committees have been very busy reviewing policies that need to be revised in preparation for operation on a semester calendar. The Budget Committee is hard at work, trying to understand and report the intricacies of our university budget. The General Education committee has approximately 350 course proposals to review in order to ensure a fully-converted general education program for the semester calendar. The Academic Programs committee has approximately 150 semester program proposals to review. It can be justifiably argued that the General Education and Academic Programs committees currently have the largest workload volume these committees have ever experienced in the history of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona. Moreover, Vice Chair Julie Shen, Ms. Valerie Otto, and Ms. Casandra Horner have all been working hard to support the activities of the Academic Senate and its standing committees. Because of my unique vantage point, I have developed an immense level of respect, appreciation, and admiration for the hard and diligent work senators and the staff do every day to support and advance the work of the Academic Senate in order to develop and improve policies that serve the best interests of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

It will be an honor for me to continue serving in the capacity of the Chair of the Academic Senate for a second term. I am, as always, committed to working in a collaborative manner with all constituents and aim to establish an environment of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding of the constraints under which we must operate to achieve our collective goals, mission, and vision. These three principles of mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual understanding, all of which involve clear and open communication based on transparency and integrity, have guided and will continue to guide every decision I make as Senate Chair as I work with the Senate and the constituents it serves.

As Cal Poly Pomona prepares to transition to a semester calendar, it is imperative that all faculty, staff, and administrators work together in a collaborative and synergistic manner not only to ensure a smooth transition for our students and academic programs, but also to build a solid foundation upon which our university can continue on its path toward excellence. Serving as the Chair of the Academic Senate will provide me with the opportunity to contribute to this important process in a meaningful way. I am excited to continue working with all constituents to sustain our strong momentum as we approach the conversion date of Fall 2018.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sep Eskandari
2015/16 Chair of the Academic Senate
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