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Statement on Shared Governance

I first started at CPP as an assistant professor in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department in Fall of 2014. During the Spring of 2022, I became Interim Department Chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry and officially took over the role as Chair in Fall of 2022. I was promoted to Professor in Fall 2024, while I also served as Interim Chair of Kinesiology and Health Promotion. During Spring of 2015, I took over as Advisor and Graduate Coordinator for the department's M.S. in Chemistry. In this role, I reduced the time to graduation, increased advertising, and led the creation of core curriculum that was implemented during semester conversion. As I worked collaboratively with faculty within my department and with administration, I quickly came to realize the importance and balance of shared ownership, cooperation, and goodwill between administration, faculty, and students. This approach has been only further developed in my role as a department chair and managing a complex, service-heavy department with 7 staff and almost 40 faculty and TA's.

In 2019, I joined the Academic Senate and was placed on the Faculty Affairs Committee and from AY 2021 through AY 2024, I had the privilege of chairing the FAC. Over the 6 years I've served on the FAC, 4 as chair, I continued to learn the value of dialogue and cooperation while remaining firm in ensuring faculty are first. We tackled difficult tasks such as major revisions of the RTP policy, Student Evaluations, MPP hiring, and faculty hiring. Through these processes, we were guided by the idea of shared governance – working with administration and stakeholders for the benefit of our faculty through changes in our policies. My work continued during the AY 2025 as Vice Chair of the Senate. In what has been a tumultuous year between GE recertification and new course proposals, redistribution of senate leadership workload, University leadership transition, and turbulent launch and revocation of the Ombuds office, my purpose has been to support the Senate Chair while advocating for faculty. I have built strong, working relationships with administration while continuing to foster relationships with fellow faculty in the senate. While not all of these conversations resulted in outcomes all parties were happy with, my goal has been to mediate where possible, decide where necessary, and be intentional in my representation of the faculty to advance our goals and maintain our voice in decisions that impact our campus

In the coming year, we have an opportunity to continue repairing and building our shared governance on campus. With a new incoming administration, I want to ensure that we build a collaborative relationship focused on our mission of providing the best education available in the Cal State system. As the Chair of the Academic Senate, I look forward to using my experience as a department chair, senate vice chair, and FAC chair to establish a positive and productive culture of shared governance with the new administration.