

Academic Senate Vice Chair Statements

Dennis Quinn Statement

Dear Senate colleagues and friends,

I am honored to be nominated for a second term as your Vice Chair. I humbly ask for your vote for the 2024-25 Academic Year.

I am a Southern California native, son of an immigrant and first-generation child of immigrants, a CPP alumnus (History 1993), and a first-generation college student. I began teaching at this institution in 1999 as a lecturer in History (CLASS) and IGE (CEIS). In 2005 I was hired as Assistant Professor in IGE. I was Department Chair from 2011 until 2022 when CPP management divested IGE of its department status and we merged with Liberal Studies (CEIS). I also served as interim Associate Dean of CEIS during the 2016 calendar year. I served on the Senate from 2014-15, 2017-present on the Academic Affairs Committee (2014-16), General Education Committee (2018-19, Chair 2019-21), the Executive Committee (2021-present), and Vice Chair (2023-present). I am a Full Professor.

In my many years of service on committees and leadership roles charged with the maintenance of shared governance, I have learned that it is not a state of being but rather a process of communication and negotiation that requires transparency, respectful discourse, and alignment of goals between faculty and administration. I participated in this process regularly while Department Chair when I advocated for our students and faculty. When working with our several Deans over the years, my goal was twofold: 1) to clearly lay out the questions and concerns of Department faculty, staff, and students; and 2) to understand what abilities and restrictions the Dean has at their disposal. An open conversation based on information and data is essential. The goal is always to make things better for faculty, staff, and students. Whether it is to recognize and better support members of the department, advocate for saving entitlements (i.e., people's livelihoods), and overall promoting equitable working conditions and a culture of appreciation, the true success of shared governance is measured by the amount of transparency, respectful discourse, and alignment of goals of faculty and administration are achieved in the process. I have seen successes and failures in this process. And sometimes we win and lose at the same time.

This is also the case in the Senate. When I was Chair of the GE Committee and AB 1460, which instituted Area F Ethnic Studies and saw the elimination of Area D3 Social Science, I observed my colleagues lose faith in the process of shared governance even more. I did too. We unanimously supported the institution of the vital new GE Area F; we opposed the elimination of Area D3. The GE committee voted not to support the referral in its current and advocated for other solutions. I read a forceful statement on the Senate floor, lamenting the current state of shared governance, and the Senate voted to oppose it too. We still lost D3. The negative effects of the elimination of Area D3 are still being felt. But it was still a battle we needed to fight. We have a new GE challenge to our Areas E and C in the coming year. I am ready to lend my support as Vice Chair to this effort, along with the GE committee and Academic Programs. Out of loss we will also find new opportunities through shared governance. We will achieve this through advocating for transparency, respectful discourse, and alignment of goals because we need to be on the same team.

I approach my role as Vice Chair of the Senate in the same way. Shared governance begins with recognition of the will of the body of the Senate because we represent the voices of our constituencies. Although the Vice Chair is primarily about keeping up with all the referrals, assisting the Chair both with bureaucracy and paperwork, and bringing faculty concerns to the President and Provost during our Senate Leadership meetings, I continue to focus on

communication and negotiation that requires transparency, respectful discourse, and alignment of goals between faculty and administration. Where I believe administrators could be more transparent, I say so. When Senators want tough questions answered during those meetings, I ask. Treating people respectfully and with humor works best in this process, in my opinion. When the No Confidence Resolution passed the Senate and I went with Chair Kumar to meet with the President, it was clear that we all wanted to have the issues stated in the Resolution addressed as quickly as possible. And we are working closely with the President's office to do just that and, moreover, to continue to advocate for increased transparency. The Senate recently passed Resolutions on workload and one to hire an Ombuds. We are still working on workload, and have made some progress, and the University is currently looking for an Ombuds and Conflict Resolution person. So, we are experiencing some success in shared governance. I would like to continue to work for you to help bring more positive changes to the University, faculty, staff, and students, who are the most amazing group of people and why we are all here.

But as Vice Chair, I understand it is you, my Senate colleagues and friends, who are the key to any success we have in shared governance. We need to continue to work as a team. I am just the messenger, liaison, and advocate for the great work we do in the Senate, but I also believe I am well suited to continue to help bring the successes of the Senate to fruition.

I feel like I have finally gotten the hang of my role as Vice Chair during the past year, and I humbly ask for your support for me to continue another year.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Quinn

Peter Hanink
Assistant Professor, Sociology
CPP Academic Senate Vice Chair Candidate Statement

I am honored to be nominated as Vice Chair for the Cal Poly Pomona Academic Senate.

While my time at CPP has been relatively short, it seems as if I have witnessed a career's worth of changes since I was first hired as a lecturer in 2017 in what was then the Psychology and Sociology Department. Over the next few years, I along with you experienced semester conversion, the disruptions caused by COVID-19, a threatened strike in 2022 and a real one last winter, the ongoing gutting of the Social Sciences and Humanities in general education, the simultaneous bloating of the university's administrative ranks and shifting of administrative and bureaucratic processes onto already overworked faculty and staff, and the unprecedented vote of no confidence, all while we try to serve more and more students with the same or shrinking resources.

Since coming to CPP, I have devoted myself to understanding how the university functions and reflect on how it can be improved. I have tried to observe how the university functions from as many perspectives as possible. For instance, last year, I served on the Exceptional Assigned Time Committee Appeals Committee. This experience motivated me to co-chair the Exceptional Assigned Time Committee this year; based upon my experiences reading appeals the year before, I revamped how the committee gives feedback to be more helpful for applicants who are not awarded. I am currently working on revamping the EATC as part of the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, on which I have happily served the past two years. Similarly, I was the chair of the UPD Chief of Police Search and have interviewed police officer applicants and I also serve on the Police & Safety Advisory Committee.

During these experiences, I have had the privilege to meet, get to know, and learn from many previous Senate Chairs and Vice Chairs. I was honored when Jocelyn Pacleb and Phyllis Nelson adopted a statement I had written condemning anti-Asian racism in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic and elevated it to a Senate Resolution. I am happy that I get to continue to collaborate with Dr. Pacleb, most recently on the CLASS Strategic Planning Committee, and Dr. Nelson, who I have worked closely with for the past three years on the Police & Safety Advisory Committee. I have been lucky to learn from Rita Kumar's example during my time as an Academic Senator, Senate Parliamentarian, and on the ongoing Provost Search Committee. I have been happy to march next to Nicholas Von Glahn on CFA picket lines from Golden Shore to Red Gum Lane as well as share an office wall with him in Building 5. And I have appreciated the sense of camaraderie and collegiality that Dennis Quinn brought to the CEIS Dean Search Committee, on which I served as an outside member. I have had fine examples to learn from.

So, what have I learned? I have learned that many on our campus – be they students, lecturers, tenure line faculty, coaches, librarians, counselors, or staff – feel that **they are not being heard**. I recognize that the Academic Senate is not the CFA. Our role is not necessarily an adversarial one. Indeed, during my time on the Senate, I have witnessed inspiring examples of constructive collaboration between the university administration, faculty, staff, and students. However, like the CFA, the Senate has the opportunity - and sometimes, the obligation - to be the voice of the

faculty and push back against the CSU or the administration. As Vice Chair, I will strive to do everything I can to ensure that that voice is heard.

I have learned that many on our campus feel that there is a **lack of** transparency in how decisions are made. As Vice Chair, I will strive to maintain open lines of communication, especially in my role as liaison between the Executive Committee and the standing and ad hoc committees.

Finally, I have learned that pretty much **all of us are tired**. Tired of instability. Tired of unpredictability. Tired of chaos. It's a lot. As Vice Chair, I cannot work miracles, but I can promise to represent the Senate in every room I'm in and say the inconvenient or uncomfortable truths that sometimes need to be said.

Those of you who have served alongside me in the Senate and the Faculty Affairs Committee know that I am not afraid to speak my mind. You have observed how I think through issues and heard how I advocate for what I believe in. You have seen also, I hope, that I strive to be respectful and collaborative, even in disagreement. I promise that I will bring that commitment to my role as Vice Chair should I be elected.