Guide to the San José State University Academic Council Records

Collection number: MSS-2009-02-04

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

SJCU Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0087
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://library.sjsu.edu/sjsu-special-collections/sjsu-special-collections-and-archives

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Processed by:
Kevin Turner
Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Mary Ellen Petrich
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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Academic Council Records
Dates: 1961-1972
Collection number: MSS-2009-02-04
Creator: San José State University. Academic Council
Collection Size: 4 boxes (5 linear feet)
Repository: San José State University. Library.
San José, California 95192-0028


Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Prefered Citation
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Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Processing Information

Organizational History
In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

In May of 1952, President John T. Wahlquist (1952-1964) authorized the formation of the Faculty Council against the advice of former SJSU President Thomas MacQuarrie (1927-1952). The Faculty Council was the first of its kind in the CSU system. Its purpose was to serve as an official channel between the faculty and the administration. The original membership included 18 members, with 15 faculty representatives. In 1963, the Faculty Council was renamed the Academic Council, and its new charter described the council as the official representative body of SJSU faculty. Through the years more members were added including students. In 1970, with 63 members the council was considered to be too large to be effective.

In 1974, the Academic Council became the Academic Senate and adopted a new constitution, with a reduced membership of 37. As of 2009, the San José State University Academic Senate has 55 members: 36 faculty from seven colleges; the president of the Associated Students and six other students appointed by the Associated Students; nine administrators including the president, provost and college deans. The Academic Senate duties consist of formulating university policy and communicating recommendations to the university president on such matters as faculty affairs, curriculum, instruction, student affairs, finances, and other matters relevant to the welfare of San José State University.

Bibliography

Related Material
Academic Senate Records. SJSU Special Collections & Archives. http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt5k4034vh/
Dean of Academic Planning Records. SJSU Special Collections & Archives. http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt709nf26q
Scope and Content of Collection
The Academic Council Records, 1961-1972, document the history and administrative responsibilities of the Academic Council. The records consist of council budgets, correspondence, meeting minutes, assorted California State University (CSU) information bulletins, and a CSU faculty morale survey administered in 1972.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Academic Council Meeting Minutes and CSU Information Bulletins, 1961-1972; and Series II. CSU Faculty Morale Survey, 1972.

Subject Headings
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
San José State College. Academic Council -- History
San José State College. Academic Council -- Records and correspondence
San José State University. Academic Senate -- History
San José State College. Faculty Council -- History
San José State University -- History
San José State College -- History
California State University, San José -- History
California State University and Colleges -- History
College teachers -- California -- San José
Universities and colleges -- California -- San José
Teacher morale -- California -- San José
Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Series I:  Academic Council Meeting Minutes and CSU Information Bulletins 1961-1972
Physical Description: 3 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series consists of Academic Council budgets, correspondence, and meeting minutes. Topics include early registration, academic tenure policies, faculty resignations and other administrative issues. The records also contain information bulletins from academic councils at other California State University (CSU) campuses from 1962-1972. Also included in this series are Academic Council shorthand notebooks for academic years 1967-1972 (34 notebooks total) documenting the Grievance Committee (1968-1969), Executive Committee (1967-1972), and Academic Council meeting minutes (1967-1972).
Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically by date and subject.

Box 1  Academic Council Records and Shorthand Notebooks 1963-1972


Box 3  Information Bulletins 1961-1963
Series II: CSU Faculty Morale Survey 1972

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series consists of a California State University (CSU) faculty morale survey administered in 1972. Respondents were asked to record answers on a scantron sheet. The survey lists 100 questions with such topics as professional development, academic freedom, salary, and opinions about administration and students. The series also includes question note cards used to generate the survey, as well as 19 separate tracking folders for each CSU campus participating in the survey.

Arrangement
This series is arranged by subject.