

January 29, 2024

TO: University of Oregon Senate Executive Committee
FROM: Gerard Francisco Sandoval, Senate President and Professor of Planning,
Public Policy and Management

SUBJECT: **Senate Task Force for Developing Significant Academic Disruption
(SAD) Plans**

The task force's objective is to amend the Academic Continuity Policy created in 2019.
Policy Number: II.01.06

Members of the task force will be chosen by the Senate President and include representation from the Academic Council, Senators, a representative from the Office of the Provost, a representative from the faculty union, and a representative from UO's emergency office.

The Senate must create two parallel processes for Significant Academic Disruptions (SAD) plans.

1. One for **Expected** SADs and the other for **Unexpected** SADs
2. Emergency = a serious, *unexpected*, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. – Oxford Dictionary
3. Labor Dispute falls within an **expected** SAD plan.
4. The key difference is the context of an unexpected situation that demands immediate attention, whereas an expected situation provides more time for action and pre-approved guidelines.
5. Both emergencies and labor disputes are going to need SAD plans. But they won't be the same.
6. The Academic Council will play a critical role in all SAD plans.
7. The Senate needs more Senate representation in the Academic Council; hence, we need to add voting Senators to the Academic Council.
8. For unexpected plans, the Academic Council can move quickly and vote on a SAD plan without needing a full Senate vote.
9. For expected SADs (such as Labor Disputes), the Academic Council will develop templates that would be pre-approved and voted on by the full Senate with ample time ahead of labor contract expirations.

10. These templates would include guidelines for dealing with SADs at the beginning, middle, and end of an academic term.
11. The Senate President would still be an ex-official Academic Council member but have a vote.
12. The Senate President will serve as the Chair of the Academic Council.
13. A Senate Task Force would be established to explore this structure and provide recommendations to amend the Academic Continuity Policy created in 2019.
Policy Number: II.01.06
14. The entire Senate would vote on the amendments to update **Policy Number:** II.01.06 by the end of this academic year.