



Student Voices in Shared Governance

Elias Kamal
June 21, 2018
SSBT Meeting

Students in Shared Governance Task Force: Hyon Chu Yi-Baker, Dawn Lee Tu, Tony Santa Ana, Cynthia Kaufman, Karen Hunter, Karen Chow, Anisa, Chaudhry, Elias Kamal

Where We Are...

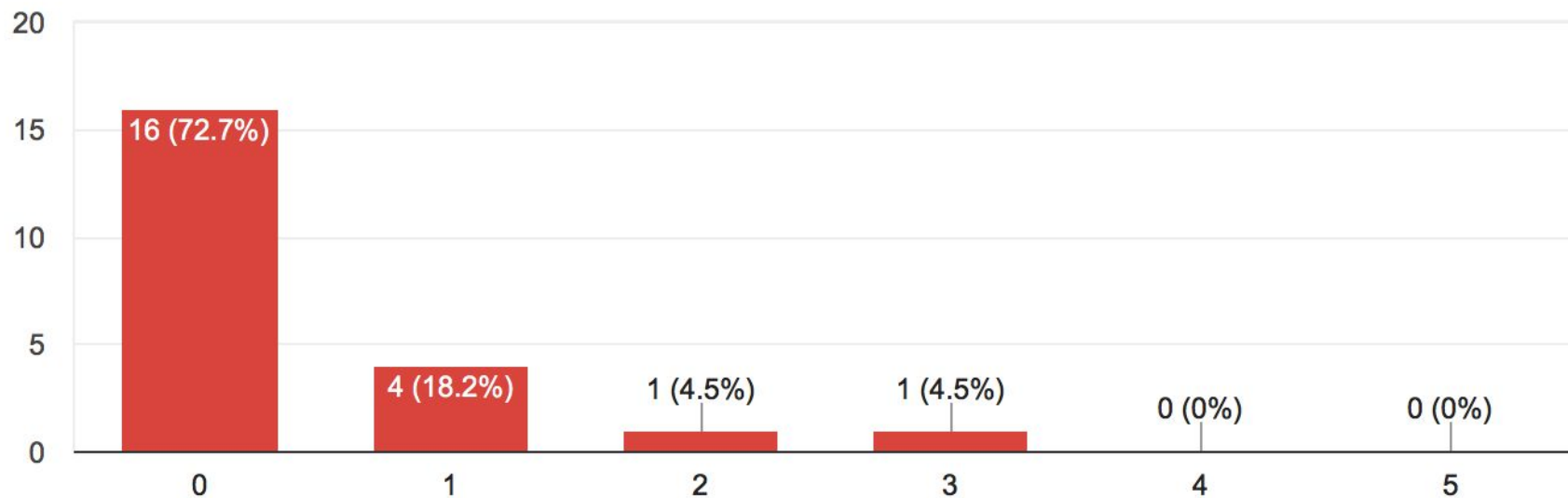


Students from the 2018-2019 DASB Senate have been assigned to serve on the following shared governance committees:

- College Council
- Academic Senate
- ~~Classified Senate~~
- Administrative PBT
- Student Services PBT
- Instructional PBT
- Campus Budget
- Campus Facilities
- College Planning
- Curriculum
- Educational Technology Advisory Committee
- Equity Action Council
- Health Services Advisory Committee
- Inter-Club Council
- Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC)
- Chancellor's Advisory Council
- FHDA Board of Trustees (*Student Trustee*)

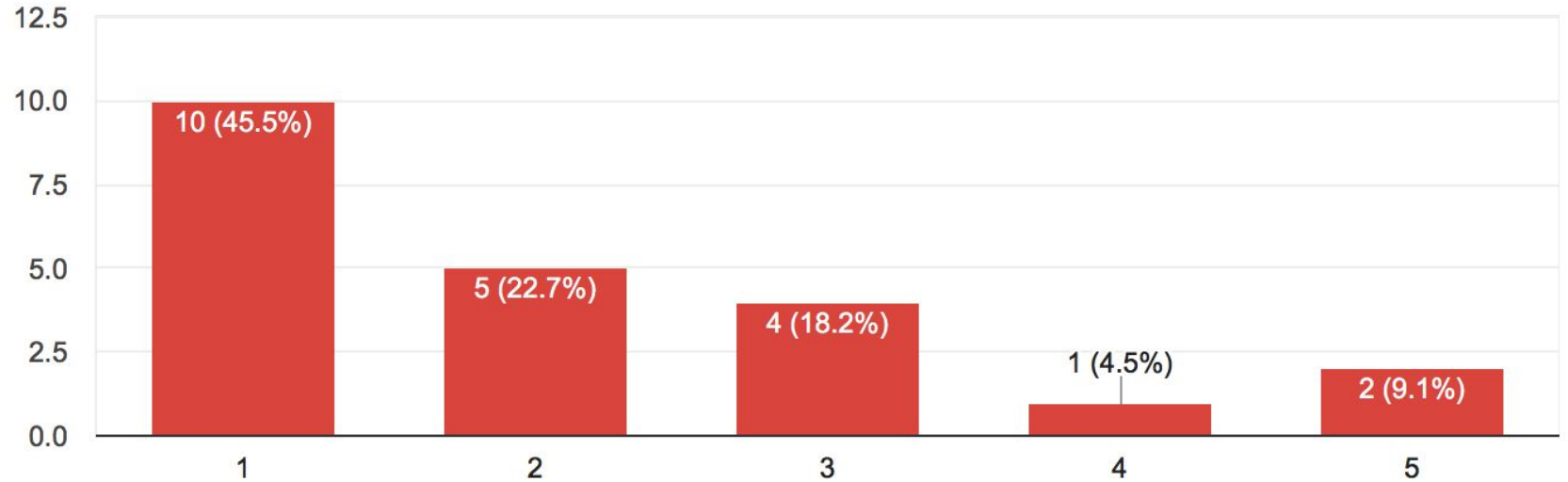
How many shared governance meetings this quarter have you attended?

22 responses



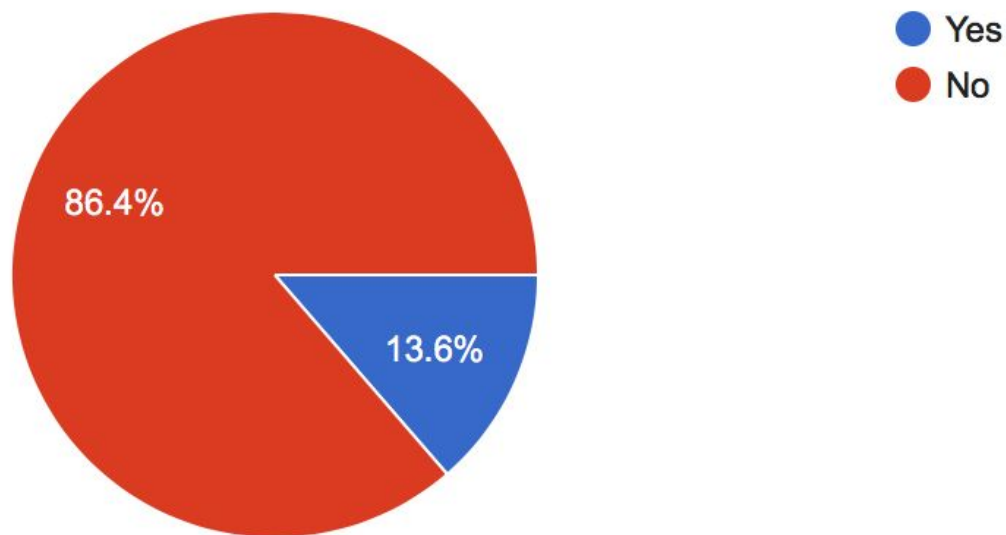
On average, how many total students attend the shared governance committee you attend?

22 responses



Did you receive any training or mentorship from members of your committee?

22 responses



Where We Are... (Cont.)

- *Students describe barriers they face in the shared governance process:*
 - Going into committees feeling unprepared, intimidated, confused, and nervous
 - In some cases, feeling unwelcome, facing infantilization, and spoken down to
 - Inaccessibility (difficulties in accessing agendas/materials)
 - Difficult to navigate bureaucracy of shared governance and understand campus politics
 - Not having context to issues/agenda items when going into meetings
 - Course schedule, workload, lack of interest, benefits

Where We Are... (Cont.)



- *Staff, faculty, and administrators describe barriers they have with getting students involved:*
 - Poor communication and frequent absences
 - Students sitting in but not always participating
 - Turn over rate
 - Students are not adequately trained and/or don't understand the general structure of campus governance
 - Students are not informed enough to continuously provide beneficial input

Where We'd Like to Be...



Governance is defined as “the ongoing and integrated process of planning and decision-making. Based on the assumption that the active participation of all constituent groups and consideration of diverse viewpoints are essential for effective college planning, governance at De Anza College includes faculty, staff, students, and administrators.” (<https://www.deanza.edu/gov/>)

Development of “Best Practices for Student Voices in Shared Governance” after several meetings with student leaders, faculty, and staff on campus

The spirit of this document comes from the desire for all members of the De Anza College community to engage in mutually meaningful participation in the process of shared governance.

Where We'd Like to Be... (Cont.)



Students will...

1. **Be trained** on effective advocacy in shared governance committees in order to understand the governance processes at De Anza College and their role as student representatives in this process.
2. Come to shared governance meetings **prepared**, having reviewed the agenda, and reaching out to the respective chair if clarification is needed.
3. **Maintain consistent communication** by announcing information at shared governance committees and reporting back to the DASB Senate as needed.

Where We'd Like to Be...(Cont.)



Committee and committee chairs will...

4. Be mindful of the impact of items that should be sent to DASB for consultation and **ask the student representative their feedback** on student oriented issues or agenda items.
5. Ensure that every student oriented agenda item **explains how students will be impacted** and provide the opportunity for the student representative to **voice questions and/or concerns**.
6. Encourage the student representative/s to **share agenda items discussed with DASB, gather feedback and information, and return to meetings** with questions or feedback when needed.

Where We'd Like to Be...(Cont.)



Committee and committee chairs will...

7. **Model** positive communication and equitable leadership practices to create a safe space that is mindful and inclusive of students.
8. Understand their **role as mentors** for student leaders and model effective participatory practices.
9. Be aware of the **impact power dynamics** have on students' comfort levels and encourage ongoing attendance and participation.

Where We'd Like to Be...(Cont.)



Committee and committee chairs will...

10. Establish a regular committee attendee (faculty, staff, or administrator) who serves as a “**shared governance mentor**” to the student representative to:
 - a. *Work with the student to establish role and provide training.*
 - b. *Help the student feel welcome and supported.*
 - c. *Sit by the student during the meeting to quietly answer questions and clarify material if needed.*
 - d. *Check in with the student after the meeting or on a regular basis.*
 - e. *Support student through troubleshooting if issues come up.*

Where We'd Like to Be...(Cont.)



Committee and committee chairs will...

11. **Allocate agendized time** for students to provide updates from DASB Senate and report any appropriate student issues, asking questions if needed.
12. **Remain in contact** with the DASB Advisor in the event the student representative stops attending, the committee meeting time or location changes, or if any other concerns arise.
13. **Incorporate** these practices into bylaws or protocols.

How We Get There...



De Anza College
Classified Senate Bylaws

BYLAW V. DUTIES OF THE SENATE MENTOR TO STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Senate Mentor to Student Representative shall:

- a. Meet regularly with the student representative, and sit with representative during meetings to answer any questions and clarify material if needed.*
- b. Provide training on the purpose of the De Anza Classified Senate, the constitution, and bylaws.*
- c. Help the student representative feel welcome and supported.*
- d. Give encouragement to the student representative that their voice is valuable in the decision process of the classified senate.*

How We Get There...



DASB Senate 2018-2019 Implementation:

- Emphasize how essential shared governance is in a senator's role (before elections)
- Presentation on campus governance, politics, and navigating bureaucracy
- Training on working in shared governances (Wednesday, April 25)
- Encouraging more consistent shared governance reports at weekly DASB meetings
- Regular meetings between student leaders and campus administration (college president)

Future Initiatives to Empower Student Voices



- **Students in hiring committees**
 - Eg. Interim College President
- **Public/open office hours with campus administration**
 - E.g. Chancellor Miner's "Open Office Hour" or "Coffee with a Cop"
- **Hourly wage or stipend for executives in student government**
 - (maybe in like 10 years when we're no longer in a budget deficit)



Thank you!

*Contact:
Elias Kamal
kamalelias@fhda.edu*