

Forbidden Topics Seminar: Spotlight on Student to Faculty Ratio and Growing Class Size -- Wed. May 2 at 4pm in SH209

Panelists: Dean Jerry Stinner, Kris Kouri, and Harvey Rich
Moderator: Kate Stevenson

Deans, together with chairs, tend to set average section size targets, although there are constraints on certain programs. Does the practice of setting class size have faculty consent? Is increased class sizes encouraged by the deans and provost's office? How are the students faring in class with very high class size (say, over 50) in comparison to smaller sections of the same course? How much release time is generated for tenured faculty? Should we review the quanta for labor compensation as a function of student to faculty ratio (a step function with more steps?) ? Could the university's practices be considered "exploitative" of our part-time pool? [How is "exploitative" defined?] Are there classes where average section size does not matter? Should we have higher SFR classes to support research and upper division classes? Release time is one of the only ways to award research since there are very few mechanisms to reward to merit.

The Forbidden Topics Seminar series is not sponsored by any department, college, CSUN committee, CFA, or the Faculty Senate. It is organized by a group of CSUN faculty who feel that some of the most important topics concerning the university have no forum for discussion. We invite faculty from all colleges and departments to attend and weigh in on topics that do not otherwise get discussed by CFA and non-CFA members.