Thank you for agreeing to serve on the CSUSB Shared Governance Steering Committee. It is the university’s tradition to appoint and actively involve Committee members from all stakeholder groups (faculty, staff, students, and administrators) in this critically important process and your commitment to serve is greatly appreciated.

Earlier this academic year, the Shared Governance Consultant Selection Task Force, consisting of representatives of the Associated Students, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and Administration, reached a consensus and recommended that the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and Dr. James Lyons be selected to serve as consultants to assist CSUSB with further strengthening shared governance across the university. Your role with the Shared Governance Steering Committee is to assist the President with supporting and guiding the campus community through a series of shared governance conversations with the desired hope of producing a statement of shared governance at CSUSB, including an enhanced understanding of differentiated decision making at the university and what each stakeholder group should generally expect. This work is anticipated to continue through the end of Fall Quarter, 2019.

The Committee will meet both as a group and individual members and will be called on to periodically meet with AGB and Dr. Lyons. While the Committee is made up of multiple campus constituencies, each member is expected to serve for the betterment of the university and not just for a particular constituent group. Upon the conclusion of work by AGB and Dr. Lyons, the work of the Shared Governance Steering Committee will end.

I have asked Provost Shari McMahan and VP Doug Freer to take responsibility for convening the Committee, setting a meeting schedule that meets the needs of the members, and ensuring that work of the Committee is successfully completed.

Specifically, the Committee is charged with responsibility for the following:

1. The Conveners shall set the tone and pace of the Committee’s work, presiding at meetings, and delivering the Committee’s recommendations to the President.

2. In anticipation of a full campus conversation on shared governance in Fall 2019, the Committee shall develop an educational/informational resource for the campus community to inform them of some common definitions/understanding of what shared governance is and is not. This resource should be ready for campus dissemination no later than September 15, 2019.

3. The Committee shall openly advertise and encourage participation from its stakeholder group and the campus community at large with scheduled meetings and open forums that are conducted by AGB and/or Dr. Lyons. The consultants may encourage additional meetings of stakeholder groups throughout the process and Committee members should strongly encourage participation.

4. Each Committee member shall makes themselves available for Committee meetings and individual meetings with AGB and/or Dr. Lyons as needed.
5. Committee members are not expected to be negotiators of the final shared governance statement or final output. AGB and Dr. Lyons will be primarily responsible for any negotiations required between stakeholder groups. Committee members will be expected to encourage productive participation in the process of the campus community members they represent.

6. Each member of the Committee shall work in the spirit of constructive collaboration, mutual respect, and collegiality with all other members of the Committee.

Again, thank you for your service on this Committee. I look forward to working closely with you over the coming months.

Tomás D. Morales
President