

2009

San José State University Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records

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Guide to the San José State University Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records

Processed by Robert Donahue

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Collection number: MSS-2009-04-03



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Processed by:
Robert Donahue
Date Completed:
2009
Encoded by:
Mary Ellen Petrich

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Descriptive Summary

Title: SJSU Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records

Dates: 1950-1994

Bulk Dates: 1978-1991

Collection number: MSS-2009-04-03

Creator: San José State University. Office of the President

Collection Size: 183 Boxes 221.50 linear feet

Repository: San José State University, Special Collections & Archives.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration. The SJSU Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records 1950-1994 (bulk 1978-1991) document Fullerton's tenure as university president (1978-1991). The records consist of administrative files, architectural drawings, correspondence, legal cases, speech files, and awards and plaques. This collection is arranged into five series: Series I. Administrative Records, 1950-1994 (bulk 1978-1991); Series II. Athletics Department, 1985-1992; Series III. Legal Records, 1963-1992; Series IV. San Carlos Street Closure, 1982-1986; and Series V. Restricted Materials, 1967-1986.

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, with the exception of the following materials: specific folders within Boxes 4, 103, 173, 174, 176, and 177 are restricted; all materials in Boxes 180 and 181 are restricted.

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Preferred Citation

SJSU Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records, MSS-2009-04-03, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Processing History

Collection processed by Robert Donahue. Finding aid EAD encoded by Mary Ellen Petrich. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

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.

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.

The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration.

Dr. Gail Fullerton (1978-1991) earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Nebraska by 1950, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1954. The first female president of San José State University, Fullerton served from 1978-1991. She was also the first faculty member to be promoted to the Office of President since the appointment of President Morris Dailey (1900-1918).

Fullerton began her career at San José State University in 1964, as a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Sociology. She later served as Executive Vice President for President John Bunzel (1970-1978) before serving as university president. During her tenure, President Fullerton (1978-1991) supported the university and the Athletics Department and was a firm believer in the "student athlete" concept. In addition, she laid the groundwork for the closing of San Carlos Street between 9th Street and 4th Street, which bisected the college campus until 1996. Appointed in the late 1970s during a severe budget crisis, Fullerton also navigated several controversies and lawsuits, including one highly publicized legal case that concerned the firing of university football coach Claude Gilbert following the 1989 football season. Fullerton's tenure as president took place during a very litigious period of time at the university, and she was jokingly referred to as "the perpetual defendant." Despite several lawsuits and a bare bones budget, Fullerton had a long-term career as president, serving 13 years.

Bibliography

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

San José State University. *About SJSU*. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/

Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration. The SJSU Office of the President, Gail Fullerton Records, 1950-1994 (bulk 1978-1991) document Fullerton's tenure as university president (1978-1991).

Fullerton began her career as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology, and she also served as the Executive Vice President under President John Bunzel (1970-1978) before her appointment as university president. The records consist of administrative files, architectural drawings, correspondence, speech files, and awards and plaques. In addition, copies of legal cases concerning the university, administrative decisions related to the budget and the Athletics Department, and changes to the physical campus are included.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series: Series I. Administrative Records, 1950-1994 (bulk 1978-1991); Series II. Athletics Department, 1985-1992; Series III. Legal Records, 1963-1992; Series IV. San Carlos Street Closure, 1982-1986; and Series V. Restricted Materials, 1967-1986.

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Fullerton, Gail Putney

San José State University. Office of the President -- History

San José State University -- Presidents

San José State University -- History

San José State College -- History

California State University, San José -- History

Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Education -- California -- San José

Series I: Administrative Records 1950-1994 bulk(1978-1991)

Physical Description: 169 Boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of the administrative records of President Gail Fullerton (1978-1991), and include administrative files, correspondence, speech files, and awards and plaques. Dr. Fullerton is the only woman to serve as president of San José State University to date. She is also the first faculty member to be promoted to the Office of President since the appointment of President Morris Dailey (1900-1918). Fullerton began her career as a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Sociology in 1964. She also served as executive vice president for President John Bunzel (1970-1978) before her tenure as president. This series also includes Fullerton's personal files while she was a faculty member and executive vice president.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Access Restrictions

Specific folders within Boxes 4 and 103 are restricted.

Boxes 1-70

Administrative Records 1950-1991

Box 71

Administrative Data, Speeches of Various Campus Presidents 1950-1973

Boxes 72-73

CSU Annual Report, Miscellaneous Reports 1959-1994

Box 74

Awards, Plaques, Citations Honoring Fullerton 1970-1994

Box 75

Alcohol Beverage Control 1970-1988

Box 76	Alphabetical Files, P-W 1973-1980
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Box 77	G.I. Forum 1975-1992
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Box 78	Alphabetical Files, G-L 1976-1988
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Boxes 79-80	CSUC Memos to Presidents 1977-1980
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Box 81	Alphabetical Files, P-W 1978-1988
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Box 82	Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Search 1978-1992
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Box 83	Chancellor's Council of Presidents and Board of Trustees 1979-1980
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Box 84	Alphabetical Files, L-P 1979-1980
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Box 85	Budget & CSU Policies & News 1979-1981
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Boxes 86-98	Correspondence 1979-1991
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Box 99	Award Considerations 1979-1986
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Box 100	Faculty and Staff Relations with CSU Chancellor 1979-1987
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Box 101	Parking 1979-1990
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Box 102	Alphabetical Files, D-M 1980-1989
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Box 103	Affirmative Action Program Coordinator Search 1980-1981
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Box 104	Alphabetical Files, F-P 1980-1981
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Box 105	Alphabetical Files, P-U 1980-1981
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Box 106

CSUC Memos to Presidents 1981

Box 107

Faculty Affairs, Gail Fullerton Documents 1981-1982

Box 108

Executive Vice President Candidate CVs 1981-1982

Box 109

CSU and Colleges: Memos and Reports 1981-1982

Box 110

President's Annual Events 1981-1984

Box 111

Commencement and Grievances 1981-1984

Box 112

Faculty 1981-1988

Box 113

Black Issues in Higher Education 1981-1991

Box 114

Alphabetical Files, L-P 1982-1990

Box 115

Administrative Files, Commission Reviews on Affirmative Action 1983-1984

Box 116

Personal Grievances 1983-1984

Box 117

Alphabetical Files, J-P 1983-1988

Box 118

Accreditation, Reports 1983-1988

Boxes 119-122

CSU Files 1983-1989

Box 123

Master Plan, Board of Trustees, Amendments 1984-1986

Box 124

Various CSU-Wide Subjects, Preliminary Call for Affirmative Action Proposals 1984-1986

Box 125

Personnel Files 1984-1987

Meetings 1984-1991

Boxes 126-140	Meetings 1984-1991
Box 141	Memos Regarding Budget Bills, Proposals 1985-1986
Box 142	Grievances 1985-1987
Box 143	Government Materials, Project Plan to Improve Facilities, Programs to Assist Foreign Woman-Owned Businesses 1986-1987
Box 144	Academic Senate, Alumni Association, American Colleges Testing 1986-1987
Box 145	Academic Senate 1986-1988
Box 146	Various University Catalogs 1986-1991
Box 147	Director Search 1986-1991
Box 148	CSU Affairs 1987
Box 149	Dean of Student Services Search 1987-1988
Box 150	Alphabetical Files 1987-1988
Boxes 151-154	Publications 1987-1989
Box 155	1988 Annual Fund 1988
Box 156	CSU Correspondence and Reports 1988
Box 157	Chronical of Higher Education 1989
Box 158	Administration Affairs, Services and Relations 1989
Box 159	Meetings, Lectures, Awards Ceremonies 1989-1990

Box 160

Committees, Fullerton Membership 1989-1991

Box 161

Alphabetical Files, G-N 1989-1991

Box 162

University Affairs and Relations 1990

Boxes 163-164

Academic Affairs 1990-1991

Box 165

Budget Files 1990-1991

Box 166

Academic Senate 1990-1991

Box 167

Academic Departments and Offices of SJSU 1990-1991

Box 182

Fullerton Inauguration 1979-1991

Box 183

Speeches 1982-1993**Series II: Athletics Department 1985-1992****Physical Description:** 7 Boxes**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains administrative records concerning the Athletics Department, as well as legal records and newspaper clippings. President Fullerton (1978-1991) was a strong advocate of team athletic sports. She believed that team sports promoted traits favorable to academia and wanted to increase the graduation rate of athletes at San José State University. Fullerton clashed with the Academic Senate on several occasions in the 1980s when she allocated university funds during a budget crisis in order to help support a growing athletics program.

One particular problem concerned the head of the football program, Coach Claude Gilbert, who refused to follow Fullerton's instructions to recruit freshmen athletes, rather than older and more seasoned community college transfers. President Fullerton subsequently terminated Gilbert after the 1989 football season, and the university was sued for wrongful termination.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Access Restrictions

Specific folders within Boxes 173 and 174 are restricted.

Boxes 168-172

Athletics Department 1985-1991

Boxes 173-174

Claude Gilbert Termination Lawsuit 1987-1992

Series III: Legal Records 1963-1992**Physical Description:** 4 Boxes**Series Scope and Content Summary**

President Fullerton (1978-1991) was often referred to as the "perpetual defendant" by her husband and members of her staff. This series contains two discrimination lawsuits filed against the university, both of which name Fullerton as one of the principal defendants. The cases involved Lenore Seltzer and Jose Hernandez, both of whom claimed discrimination when they were passed over for promotion by President Fullerton and university officials.

This series also contains records documenting the closure of the Spartan City, a university-owned housing complex designated for married students or single parents with children. Used as "emergency" housing since the post-WWII era, the Spartan City wooden barracks were dilapidated, asbestos-ridden and generally unsafe for habitation by the 1980s. As a result, President Fullerton (1978-1991), the State Fire Marshal and various building and structural consultants suggested the complex be demolished due to health and safety concerns. The controversy regarding Spartan City was such that the complex was slated for demolition six months ahead of schedule, and a subsequent lawsuit was filed by Spartan City residents against the university to protest the early closure. In 1988, a Superior Court judge ruled that the university had the right to force the eviction of Spartan City residents, and the complex closed that same year. The court case was formally dismissed in 1992.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Access Restrictions

Specific folders within Boxes 176 and 177 are restricted.

Box 175	Spartan City Closure and Lawsuit 1963-1988
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Box 176	Lenore Seltzer Discrimination Lawsuit 1970-1978
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Box 177	Jose Hernandez Discrimination Lawsuit 1983-1984
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Box 178	Spartan City Demolition 1986-1992
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Series IV: San Carlos Street Closure 1982-1986**Physical Description:** 1 Box**Series Scope and Content Summary**

During President Fullerton's (1978-1991) tenure at San José State University, San Carlos Street ran through the university, bisecting the campus in half. The San José City Council originally wanted to downgrade San Carlos Street to a smaller road, but President Fullerton and Executive Vice President J. Handel Evans eventually persuaded the Council to agree to close the portion of the road running through campus. The project began in 1994 and was completed in 1996. Today, San Carlos Street is a decorated walkway through the campus, with the street existing in two segments on either side of San José State University.

Box 179	Project Files: San Carlos Street Closure 1982-1986
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Series V: Restricted Materials 1967-1986**Physical Description:** 2 Boxes**Access Restrictions**

Boxes 180 and 181 are restricted.

Boxes 180-181

Restricted Materials 1967-1986
