



ACADEMIC SENATE

The primary voice of the faculty in academic and professional matters at Santa Rosa Junior College.

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 1, 2017

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Senate Chambers
Bertolini 4638

VIDEO CONF: Petaluma Campus
Mahoney 726

PRESENT: L. Aspinall, S. Avasthi, P. Bell, A. Bogomolny, J. Carlin-Goldberg, T. Ehret, R. Fautley, A. Forrester, A. Graziani, A. Hsieh, T. Jacobson, T. Johnson, D. Kirklin, M. Ludder, C. McClure, N. Mulkovich, L. Nahas, G. Navarro, C. Norton, N. Persons, F. Pugh, R. Romagnoli, M. Starkey, E. Thompson

ABSENT: S. Diaz, S. Rosen, N. Wheeler, L. Williams

GUESTS: W. Burzycki, A. Farkas, R. Gattinella, P. Usina, L. Beach, K. Frindell Teuscher, J. Thompson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. by President E. Thompson.

OPEN FORUM:

1. V. Bertsch urged the Senate to keep the Disciplines List as part of the Course Outline of Record (COR) as it is used by some department chairs to determine which classes can be taught by which faculty. He believes the Academic Senate, through the Curriculum Committee, should have a role in determining which disciplines are linked to which classes.

MINUTES: February 15, 2017 – T. Ehret noted a punctuation error.

Motion: N. Persons moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed. T. Jacobson abstained.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

REPORTS:

1. President's Report – E. Thompson

- **Spring Retreat** – E. Thompson received positive feedback on the retreat and came away with new ideas. Senators appreciated the relaxed atmosphere and the time to discuss important topics. Senators are encouraged to make the effort to attend in the future.
- **Faculty Forum** – the forum will be held on Friday, March 10 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Newman Auditorium with teleconferencing to Petaluma located in Call 602. Flex has been approved for the event. The agenda has been vetted by AFA. Classified and administrative staff are requested not to attend the forum with the understanding that topics discussed at the forum will be brought to them for discussion in the future.
- **Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Regional Workshop** – SRJC is hosting the ASCCC Spring Faculty Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies Workshop North on Thursday, March 9 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Bertolini Student Activities Center. The focus of this workshop is complex cases faced by the Equivalency Committee, especially related to CTE.
- **Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Area B Meeting** – This regional meeting, to prepare for the ASCCC Spring Plenary, will be held at Chabot College on Friday, March 24 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. E. Thompson plans on driving and is looking for additional faculty to attend. R. Fautley and J. Carlin-Goldberg volunteered. Faculty who wish to attend can contact E. Thompson.
- **Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Spring Plenary** – The SRJC Academic Senate sends several faculty members to this meeting every year using money



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from various sources including: Academic Senate, Petaluma, SSSP, and CTE. Faculty should be cognizant of the resolutions that are voted on at this meeting. Prior to Plenary faculty will have the opportunity to read, comment on, and submit new resolutions. T. Johnson requested that the tabled resolutions from the last Plenary be sent out in advance of the Area B Meeting.

ACTION: None

CONSENT: None

DISCUSSION:

1. Information: Academic Disciplines and the Course Outline of Record (COR) – W. Burzycki and A.

Farkas, on behalf of the Curriculum Review Committee, propose that the Senate create a subcommittee to determine the best way to manage the Disciplines List in relation to the Course Outline of Record (COR). During the conversion from Reflections to SIS the distinction between faculty service areas and disciplines was unclear and as a result faculty service areas, which are unrelated to minimum qualifications, were mistakenly listed as disciplines in SIS. Options include housing the Disciplines List in the COR, though it was noted that this would require significant time and resources to maintain, or linking directly to the Disciplines List housed on the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) website. It was noted that faculty service areas are only utilized during layoffs of full-time faculty or when a dean chooses to retreat to faculty. It was also noted that the old community college credentials that listed the areas a faculty member was qualified to teach in and were previously granted by the Chancellor's Office have been discontinued but have been grandfathered in for those who currently hold them. Concerns voiced by the Senate included: inclusion of special expertise; minimum qualifications that are housed in Title V and locations other than the Disciplines List; and differentiating between minimum qualifications for hiring versus teaching a specific course.

2. Academic Freedom – R. Gattinella presented his concerns regarding academic freedom and how the new presidential administration is affecting curriculum and instruction in his department. It is the goal of the Business Department to imbue the themes of ethics and corporate social and environmental responsibility in all of their classes using real life examples as learning moments. He noted that many of the actions of the current presidential administration are in direct conflict with what the Business Department is teaching and that students have questioned the relevance of learning ethics and corporate social and environmental responsibility when the current President disregards them. Concerns and suggestions voiced by the Senate included: presenting curriculum in a way that is non-partisan; focusing more on the process of learning and less on the content; implicit bias and the affect that has on critical thinking; and focusing SRJC's mission on knowledge and learning rather than on education as a means to an end.

3. Information: District Online Committee (DOC) – P. Usina, L. Beach. The 2016-2017 DOC goal areas include: the Distance Education Strategic Plan; meeting accreditation and state/Federal requirements; increasing online course retention and completion; professional development: faculty support and workload; Distance Education staffing; and assessment. There is pressure from Trustee Burns and his constituents to increase online offerings. Currently online generates 7.85% of the District's FTES and composes 11% of the sections. While there are some online degrees and certificates offered at SRJC, there are some areas that prevent 100% online degrees. Lack of specific



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online courses and consistent availability of online sections is hampering SRJC's ability to offer 100% online degrees and certificates.

One of the biggest challenges for the DOC is changing state and Federal accreditation requirements. Accreditation areas the committee are focusing on include: regular and effective contact; authentication; and documentation. They also plan to review Distance Education Board Policy 3.28. Data from the Office of Institutional Research, broken down by department, shows that some departments are having less success with their online classes than others. One of the DOC's goals is to address the questions and concerns of the departments and to help them make their online classes successful. Questions and concerns voiced by the Senate included: the data not giving a complete picture of success or failure; and concerns regarding datamining individual online teachers/classes and the potential for that data to be used in an evaluative manner. L. Beach noted that Distance Education has no interest in using the collected data for evaluative purposes; their intent is only to offer support to faculty teaching online classes or those who wish to create online classes. There will be an Online Summit in May and all faculty are encouraged to attend.

- 4. Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws** – Senate Executive Committee. This is a recurring agenda item. The current discussion focused on defining the electorate. Electorate information was gathered from other community colleges and presented to the Senators. E. Thompson proposed a definition of the electorate that would remove the minimum load stipulation and solicited feedback from AFA. Based on a straw vote, the general consensus reached by the Senate is to make the electorate as inclusive as possible.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.