

President's Report

November 1, 2017

Senate Goals

Please vote on this year's Academic Senate goals. Choose the most important 10, in your estimation, out of 15. Consider which goals need to be retained from last year, and which ones may be set aside, to make room for new ones, and get this to us by November 9. Thank you.

Faculty Leadership Council

The leadership of three faculty bodies, Department Chairs Council (DCC), Academic Senate (AS) and the All Faculty Association (AFA) have formed a group to discuss matters of common interest to faculty. The group is as yet informal, but has established regular meetings, twice per month, and consists of the DCC co-chairs, the AS president and vice president, and the AFA president and vice president. We collaborated with Mary Kay during the fire closure to create a FAQ for faculty, and will eventually produce a regular form of communication with the faculty such as a newsletter.

Continuing Education and Research Grant

A donation was received by the 100th Anniversary Campaign specified for "Faculty Continuing Education and Research." The total sum is \$37,000 which will be divided into 2 years, approximately \$18,000 for 2018, \$18,000 for 2019. This is an open-ended fund raising campaign, and more money may be coming in for this. Oversight for the distribution of the funds will be shared by the Academic Senate and Academic Affairs, with the primary oversight being the Senate's wing of the Professional Development Committee. The Screening and Selection subcommittee will consist of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Academic Senate President, and the Faculty Coordinators of the Professional Development Committee. Applications are now online. The deadline to apply is November 10.

Plenary—November 2-4

We leave for plenary tonight, which is in Irvine. Attendees will be myself, Donald Laird representing CTE, and our own Nora Wheeler, who will be funded by the generous contribution of Jane Saldana-Talley from Petaluma funds. Plenary is all day Thursday and Friday and most of the day Saturday. Many of you have already done so, but if you haven't, please alert your constituents to the resolutions to be debated at plenary and pass on any input to me, Nora or Donald about how to vote on them. The current resolution packet can be found at

<http://asccc.org/events/2017-11-02-150000-2017-11-04-230000/2017-fall-plenary-session>

Scroll and click on Resolutions, then Resolution Packet.

Note: each college has one voting delegate, myself, but Nora and Donald will advise me on how to vote on areas of their interest and expertise.

Also note that amendments to existing resolutions as well as new resolutions are accepted until 4:30 on Thursday, so the resolutions packet will be updated overnight and published anew Friday morning. Urgent resolutions are also accepted on Friday and may be added to the packet before the debate and voting on Saturday, but this rarely happens.

I plan to submit a new resolution on Thursday. The draft is on the senate website.

Phones in Classrooms

Phones have been installed in classrooms for emergency purposes in response to faculty requests. They are vital for emergency response purposes. Apparently, disrupted by the phones ringing, some faculty members have unplugged them. This is a problem that needs to be fixed immediately. They cannot be unplugged lest vital communication during an emergency not happen, and the phones are connected to the computer system as well, so unplugging them also disables the classroom computer. IT is working on alternatives to ringing. Please contact them for information. I will have an IT representative give more information about this at the next senate meeting.

Guided Pathways

- Seminar—On October 23 A team from SRJC attended a seminar on Guided Pathways sponsored by the Chancellor's Office. Because of fallout from the fire, some originally registered were not able to go. The team ended up being 8 souls: 3 faculty, 4 administrators, and 1 student. I will be speaking on this at the president's cabinet next Monday.
- Open Letter in Opposition to the "Vision for Success" Many of you read the open letter on Guided Pathways by Alexa Forrester and myself published both to the SRJC community and broadly around the state. Our intention is to influence the way this latest initiative is going to play out by stressing some strong objections to parts of the Chancellor's Vision that we think will be detrimental to our system. The resolution I am bringing to the plenary carries the same burden. In response to the essay, the leadership of FACCC (Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) has asked me to sit on a panel to discuss Guided Pathways and The Vision at a conference in San Diego in January. They have also invited a Vice Chancellor, a State Senate Executive Committee member, and a member of the Board of Governors to be on the panel.

Eric Thompson