

President's Report

May 2, 2018

The Senate, the Brown Act, Law and Procedure

On April 19th, Jessica Melvin and I attended a three hour workshop on the Brown Act. We learned a few things and have made a few adjustments to the agenda accordingly.

Shared Governance

In numerous meetings, as a result of “summergate” and its aftermath, a movement is underway at SRJC to understand shared governance, promulgate that understanding, and make substantive institutional changes to ensure the practice of shared governance. This applies to decision making about the budget as well as other things. The ten in ten-plus-one is “processes for institutional planning and budget development.” We are working on coordinated decision-making, advising, and communication avenues for budget solutions. These conversations have gone on in BAC (Budget Advisory Committee), PCC (President's Consultation Council) and DCC (Department Chairs Council) as well as other places.

Culture Shift: One small piece of culture regarding shared governance that I will seek to change is this: In order to make more time for dialogue and discussion, we will minimize the time spent on Power Point presentations. When an item is on the agenda “for discussion and possible action” information and presentations will always be sent out well in advance and senate meeting time will be devoted to actual discussion rather than listening to presentations. This has always been the idea of how it is supposed to work, but the practice has slipped considerably.

Academic Senate Cross-Functional Relations

Classified Professionals:

- At the Classified Awards Dinner April 19th, The Academic Senate honored Guy Tillotson in Facilities Operations for outstanding contributions
- I will speak to the Classified Senate at their meeting this Friday on the 10 plus 1
- Next year we will establish an Academic Senate liaison to the Classified Senate

Student Government Association:

- Faculty have been regularly attending SGA meetings
- Next year we will establish an Academic Senate liaison to the SGA

Administration/Management:

- Three members of the Senate Exec, myself, Laura and Nancy, will give instruction to the management team on the 10 + 1 on May 18th.

Board of Trustees:

- We are still in the process of finding dates for discussion/teaching sessions with Senate Exec members and BoT members. This has proved difficult but we will continue to try.

Elections Next Meeting

We have an opening for an Officer to serve on the Executive Committee. Nancy Persons will continue in her Senate seat but not continue on Exec. Laura Aspinall is a candidate for Vice President. As of now we have no nominations for Secretary.

Some things to consider:

- Serving on the Executive Committee involves one in decisions and exposes one to the inner workings of this institution well beyond serving as a senator (it is interesting and intellectually engaging)
- It is approximately double the time commitment of only holding a senate seat. We have one additional two hour meeting for every Senate meeting
- It usually comes with additional committee responsibilities
- It also comes with RAT (reassigned time); we have asked AFA and the district to negotiate a fixed amount of reassigned time to be established in contract, which hasn't happened yet. Over the last few years we have usually had 10 %- 20% reassigned time for Exec Officers. We are asking for more.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else, and notify Jessica Melvin. Be sure any person you nominate knows and is willing to serve.

Officers are elected by sitting senators. Elections will be held at the last Senate meeting of the year, May 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Thompson