

Reporte de Presidente

Senado Académico, cinco de diciembre, 2018

The State of the Senate

Looking forward to Spring Semester, 2019, we now have an executive committee and by the end of the week will finalize appointments to vacant senate seats bringing us to a full complement of senators. We have subcommittees in place to revise our bylaws and our areas of representation.

Shared Governance at SRJC

- Relations with the Board of Trustees: Yesterday Jane Saldaña-Talley and I met with Board President Maggie Fishman and the heir apparent to the Board Presidency, Jordan Burns. Trustee Burns has been nominated to be the next president of the Board. The election is next Board meeting, Tuesday December 11, and he will take over in January. Jane and I informed them of the details of big issues coming to us this spring, to wit, the AB 1809 requirement to define completion goals that align with the Vision for Success, the decision about continuing with Guided Pathways, and the decision of whether to join the Course Exchange. We emphasized faculty purview, via the Academic Senate and 10 + 1, in these decisions and the importance of collegiality and of the Board's responsibility to listen to faculty in academic and professional matters. We alluded to the potential relationship breach last year, and stressed the need to work collegially, respectfully, and attentively to each other as we face the issues together. I invited Trustee Burns to further conversations which he was eager to pursue.
- Budgetary Matters: The BAC met twice since Thanksgiving. We are building a presentation we're calling "Budget 101" which we will be given for all interested during the spring semester. The presentation will explain California Community College funding--past, present and future--and how our own budget works, including how FTES is calculated, how the new funding formula will work, what are the types, restrictions on and uses of categorical funding, and more. We plan to have the presentation ready to go by late February and Flex and possibly PGI credit will be available. This is an effort by the BAC as a whole, and all members will participate; the membership of BAC, which is co-chaired by Kate Jolley and myself, includes faculty, students, classified professionals and administrators.

In the second BAC meeting (this week), Kate Jolley shared the results of the Budget "Listening Sessions" and some of the data we are working with. The District is appropriately using democratic processes to identify how our budget will be balanced by "right-sizing" the college. I'll just share one piece of it. One measure we looked at is the ratio of our personnel to FTES (full time equivalent students). Our faculty to student ratio, administrator to student ratio, and classified staff to student ratio, are all lower than the

state average, but the faculty to student ratio is not very much lower. The numbers are below.

| | SRJC | Statewide Ave | Single College District Ave |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| FTES : Managers | 211 : 1 | 288 : 1 | 259 : 1 |
| FTES : Classified | 43 : 1 | 49 : 1 | 47 : 1 |
| FTES : Faculty | 29 : 1 | 32 : 1 | 31 : 1 |
| Faculty : Managers | 7 : 1 | 9 : 1 | 9 : 1 |
| Classified : Managers | 5 : 1 | 6 : 1 | 6 : 1 |

Note that we have more managers, classified staff, and faculty per student than either the statewide average of 72 districts or the average of single college districts. Theoretically, the mandated 9 % reduction in sections should bring the number in row 3 into alignment with column 3. This is an increase in “productivity.” The assumption is that when sections are cut, those students or would-be students go to other sections rather than go away, thus increasing the overall student to faculty ratio (if you had 29 students before, not you have 31 and productivity goes up). The disproportion of managers and classified staff to FTES is greater, and the District has been pursuing a plan of reduction in these personnel categories by not replacing vacated positions and reorganizing (as opposed to laying people off). There are other potential areas of budget cuts and revenue increases, which we will be talking about as a community for a while yet.

- Strategic Plan: A subcommittee of IPC has been meeting to look at and discuss the related issues of re-setting our Strategic Plan, evaluating our Mission and Values, and figuring out how we should go about setting goals that “align” with the Vision for Success. We agreed on the need to take the conversation broadly to the college community, hence we will be discussing these things within this body. Also, I will ask our SGA liaison, Sarah Whyllly, to bring this to the SGA to solicit student input. It is vital that we speak from our professional knowledge and faculty perspectives to these issues, and that we do so collectively.