



# ACADEMIC SENATE

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

## MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 16, 2019

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Senate Chambers  
Bertolini 4638

ZOOM LOCATION: Petaluma Campus  
Call 609

ZOOM ID: 981 881 211

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/981881211>

### PRESENT:

J. Arild, L. Aspinall, J. Carlin-Goldberg, A. Donegan, T. Ehret, S. Fichera, B. Flyswithhawks, M. Hughes Markovics, A. Insull, J. Kosten, G. Navarro, M. Ohkubo, N. Persons, S. Rosen, A. Spall, L. Sparks, M. Starkey, K. Swinstrom, A. Thomas, E. Thompson, J. Thompson, S. Whyllly

### ABSENT:

P. Bell, S. Martin, L. Nahas, C. Norton, N. Wheeler

### GUESTS:

A. Forrester, K. Frindell Teuscher

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President E. Thompson.

### OPEN FORUM:

1. **E. Thompson** announced that he will be performing in a production of Hamlet at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center. The show opens 2/1/19 and runs for 3 weeks. He encouraged those interested to attend.

### MINUTES:

December 5, 2018

The minutes were adopted without objection.

### ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

### REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – E. Thompson sent out the full president's report prior to the meeting.
  - **New Senators** – The new and returning senators were announced and welcomed.
  - **President's Consultation Council (PCC)**
    - **Early Retirement Option** – The District is putting together an early retirement option as a budget saving measure. They are still working out the details and hope to take it to the Board in February. One thing to be aware of is if many people take this option there may be considerable extra work in the form of faculty recruitment and hiring committees.
    - **Campus Climate Survey** – 78% of classified, 69% of management, 22% of faculty, and 8% of students completed the survey. This brought up the question, with so many opportunities to complete the survey, why did 78% of faculty and 92% of students choose not to complete it? E. Thompson noted that he was contacted by several faculty members who objected to aspects of the survey.
  - **Guided Pathways** – This topic will be coming back to the Senate for further discussion and

voting. The Guided Pathways Steering Committee plans to send an email to the Senators encouraging them to study the issue and come to the Guided Pathways meetings. E. Thompson read in the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) Newsletter that the new governor seems to be putting some breaks on the former governor's agenda. For example, in the new budget, he put an essential freeze on the student success portion of the new funding formula keeping it at 10% instead of increasing it as was planned.

**ACTION:**

None

**CONSENT:**

**1. The Senate's Goals for 2018-19, as amended**

**Motion:** J. Carlin-Goldberg made a motion to adopt the 2018-19 Senate Goals. The motion was seconded and passed. B. Flyswithhawks, M. Ohkubo, A. Spall, and J. Thompson abstained.

**DISCUSSION:**

- 1. Discipline Purview and the Course Outline of Record (COR)** – E. Thompson brought this topic to the Senate to determine how the Senate would like to proceed and if they want to express an official opinion or give direction to the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC). The issue came up at a recent CRC meeting regarding the current informal practice of requiring minimum and maximum numerical limits in the methods of instruction field of the COR. The Philosophy Department did not want to give a specific upper number and challenged the requirement. It was noted that neither the State Curriculum Handbook nor our local handbook includes a requirement to specify the number of assignments. Potential options include letting the department or discipline decide whether to put the numbers or require all departments and disciplines to follow the same procedure. A. Forrester, current Chair of the Philosophy Department, was on hand to answer questions.

Concerns and suggestions voiced by the Senate included: the potential for committee decisions to restrict or constrain departments/disciplines; inviting the CRC co-chairs to weigh in on the issue; lack of consistency in the CRC process; the potential for prescription to stifle academic freedom and personal pedagogical procedures; is the COR the proper tool to communicate the class workload to students or would something else be more effective; some departments use the limits as a standard, especially for new faculty; utilizing the CORs and the ranges for students who need accommodations; students are more likely to choose their classes based on their friend's opinion of the instructor and not the COR; using an "at least" or percentages instead of a minimum and maximum; differentiating between assignments and assessment.

The majority of the Senators were in favor of letting the department or discipline decide and wanted the topic to be brought back for further discussion.

- 2. Syllabus Policy, 3.9.1P** – All Faculty Association (AFA) President K. Frindell Teuscher was invited as a guest to discuss this topic. This has been an ongoing discussion with the main issue being should there be a district policy that covers the same ground as the contract. The current policy goes beyond the contract language and includes requirements and advice, including stating that the syllabus is a contract that cannot be changed. Karen noted that, because it is a negotiated item, it is not appropriate for the District to have a syllabus policy and the vast majority of districts do not have one. She also noted that a faculty handbook would be a better place to house syllabus advice and that AFA would be willing to negotiate on the Senate's behalf if they wished to include more regarding the syllabus in the contract.

Concerns and suggestions voiced by the Senate included: also addressing the Board attendance policy; clarifying what the policy means by a list of assignments; the need to be able to change the syllabus in case of emergency situations, like the recent fires; keeping the student perspective in mind; addressing mid-semester instructor changes; creating a subcommittee to work on a faculty

handbook; clarifying what is required versus what is recommended; using the syllabus for course-specific information only and housing information that pertains to all courses separately; faculty feeling the need for the syllabus to address every potential issue a student might bring up; and defining the purpose of the syllabus rather than being prescriptive.

- 3. Aligning Goals with Vision for Success** – AB 1809, the trailer bill for the funding formula, requires colleges to align their goals with those of the Vision for Success. E. Thompson would like the Senate to discuss from the faculty perspective what it means to set these kinds of goals, what the faculty role would be in achieving those goals, what principles are involved, and how we would make them different.

Concerns and suggestions voiced by the Senate included: issues with saying that taking too many classes is a bad thing; automatically granting degrees and certificates; the potential for faculty to be evaluated based on these goals; the conflicting nature of some of the goals; and the goals being tied to funding.

This topic will be brought back for further discussion.

**INFORMATION:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.