ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 2, 2019
TIME: 3:15 p.m.
LOCATION: Santa Rosa Campus
Bertolini 4638
ZOOM LOCATION: Petaluma Campus
Call 609
ZOOM ID: 739 337 730
https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/739337730

PRESENT:

M. Aparicio, P. Bell, J. Carlin-Goldberg, C. Crawford, A. Donegan, T. Ehret (Petaluma), J. Fassler, N. Frantz, T. Graziani, M. Ichikawa, A. Insull, T. Jacobson, J. Kosten, D. Lemmer, S. Martin, L. Nahas (Petaluma), G. Navarro, M. Ohkubo (For D. Wellman), A. Oliver, S. Rosen (Petaluma), J. Stover, A. Thomas (Petaluma), E. Thompson, J. Thompson, N. Wheeler, S. Whylly

ABSENT:

M. Starkey

GUESTS:

C. Wolfe, J. Kremer, P. Usina

CALL TO ORDER:

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

OPEN FORUM:

1. **M. Aparicio** expressed his concern regarding the use of clichés and euphemisms to evade difficult issues, which he believes corrupts shared governance. He specifically mentioned the use of the term equal treatment as justification for administrator raises.

2. **A. Donegan** spoke of retired SRJC Economics faculty, R. Schulke, who recently passed away, and the events that spurred the creation of the SRJC Magna Carta. She reminded the Senate that SRJC has gotten through tough times in the past and urged them to know their purview, insert their rights where needed, and to ensure that public funds are not misused.

3. **C. Wolfe**, retired SRJC classified member and co-author of the SRJC Magna Carta, spoke of the ongoing usefulness of the SRJC Magna Carta during the current reorganization. Particular attention was drawn to the section regarding establishing an effective structure of governance. She noted that any member of the college community can have a good idea, not just administrators that are paid to have them.

4. **L. Aspinall** requested that, in their discussions regarding the District reorganization, the Academic Senate consider the "shadow systems" and groups that function outside of the shared governance system.

MINUTES:

The September 18, 2019 minutes were adopted without objection.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – E. Thompson

    -   **Ongoing conversations, meetings, and events**: The Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) met with

the President's Cabinet. A forum was held regarding the Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) program budget. The Academic Senate and All Faculty Association (AFA) held a joint summit for faculty. It was stated that, while it is important and positive to have inclusive conversations with multiple constituent groups, the District has a legal obligation to faculty through the Academic Senate regarding academic and professional matters and so the Academic Senate should be given priority and a more substantial role in those matters than anybody else. The same was stated for AFA and their role in faculty working conditions. It was noted that, as a point of legal fact, the Academic Senate is the elected body that represents the faculty and that faculty who disagree with a particular decision or opinion can express their dissent in open forum or by voting or running for office.

2. **District Online Committee (DOC) Report** – J. Kremer, faculty chair of the DOC, provided the Senate with a letter expressing the DOC's reasoning for recommending that SRJC join the online course exchange. It was noted that since the letter was written, additional colleges either have joined or are in the process of joining. The decision to recommend joining was not easy but ultimately the committee decided it was in the best interest of students and that by joining we would have greater influence over the process. The committee plans to have ongoing discussions regarding the issues of privacy, data mining, and quality education. Grant funding, which has been negotiated with AFA, is available for faculty for the creation of online Career Education (CE) classes.

CONSENT:

1. **2019-2020 Academic Senate Goals**

   Motion: J. Carlin-Goldberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

ACTION:

1. **Resolution on the Academic Senate's Purview** – It was noted that there will be a second resolution, in addition to this resolution, that will include the Senate's recommendations and priorities for the reorganization.

   Motion: J. Carlin-Goldberg made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

2. **Ballot to Put to the Electorate Regarding Constitutional Changes** – N. Wheeler presented the ballot for Senate approval.

   Suggestions and concerns voiced by the Senate: adding an explanation of option 3, no change, to the ballot and email; changing the wording from revisions to options; having discussion forums; encouraging faculty with questions to contact their senators; providing a voter guide; the difficulty for adjunct representatives to educate their constituents because of the sheer number of adjunct faculty they represent.

   A straw poll was taken and it was unanimously agreed to have a voter guide with the understanding that senators would also be available to answer questions. A draft of the voter guide will be brought back at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Reorganizing Academic Affairs** – It was noted that, regarding the reorganization, the Senate needs to be careful to stay within its purview and to represent what the disciplines want.

   Suggestions and concerns voiced by the Senate: broadening the focus from deans to other management positions; having faculty chairs instead of directors when possible; broadening the focus from Academic Affairs to include Student Services and Business Services; being involved in defining the workload of management; having a more principled focus on what our purview is and

which areas we expect administration will properly respect our purview in the development of the reorganization; bringing in an objective person or group to look at the big picture; being mindful of naming specific people or positions and of the fact that adjuncts have already lost work; establish how much needs to come out of the administrative budget to get rid of the structural deficit, establish a time frame to get there, develop structural goals, and then develop strategies and reasonable timelines; and taking an approach led by principles and values.

A straw poll was taken and it was generally agreed that the conversation going forward would move away from organization charts and focus more on articulating the Senate's values and principles for the reorganization. It was noted that the Academic Senate Executive Committee is looking at shared governance committees and how they should be populated. There was also a request to clarify the authorship of the posted draft Academic Affairs organization chart. This will be brought back for further discussion at the next meeting.

2. **Should SRJC Join the California Virtual Campus (CVC) – Online Education Initiative (OEI)? –** The application to join the CVC-OEI will be opened this academic year and requires the signature of the Academic Senate President. The president will only sign if the majority of the Academic Senate votes in favor of joining. The online exchange is not fully operational at this time. Once fully implemented it will make it easier for students to take online classes at other colleges that they need to fulfill requirements for their degrees or certificates and cannot as easily get at their home campus. The home campus will get credit for completion and the exchange college will get FTES apportionment, allowing both colleges to benefit under the new funding formula, once it goes into effect. It was noted that about half of the colleges have signed some form of MOU and that the application process will include a self-study, similar to Guided Pathways. P. Usina, Interim Dean of Learning Resources and Educational Technology, stated that 12 SRJC students have taken classes from other schools on the exchange and she agreed to look up the number of current students taking online classes from other schools not on the exchange. G. Navarro, counseling faculty, indicated that it is a common occurrence. It was also noted that there is only an 80% chance that our current Student Information System (SIS) will work with the exchange.

Concerns and suggestions voiced by the Senate: a student asked if the implementation of the exchange would take away funding for face to face classes; the desire for concrete, written information of what exactly is being voted on; this will institutionalize parts of the performance-based funding structure which has not yet been instituted and many constituent groups are still fighting against; objection to the name "Finish Faster Online" and the time to completion argument as a version of success; using market arguments, like people are already doing it, instead of educational arguments to justify joining the exchange; increases in online offerings have already led to radical reductions in face to face offerings; online is not the end all be all and it will not work for all students or departments but it will work for many and is what students want; and how does joining the exchange relate to our educational mission and how will it impact learning.

This topic will be brought back for further discussion.

INFORMATION:

None

ADJOURNMENT: 5:00