

Resolution Regarding Principles, Values and Goals for College Reorganization

The Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College

November 20, 2019

Whereas, Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) is dedicated to high-quality education;

Whereas, A healthy shared governance system is crucial to a healthy college climate that fosters educational excellence, and the health of shared governance depends on the recognition of faculty discipline expertise, faculty independence, and academic freedom;

Whereas, It is crucial in shared governance that relevant expertise exercise its rightful purview, yet over time, job functions of administrators have become blurred with the purview of faculty, and some educational work of the institution has been privatized or allocated to committees where the work is shared with administrators, rather than driven primarily by faculty;¹ and

Whereas, That the Senate's lawful purview includes "institutional planning and budget development" (#10 of the 10 + 1), which should include categorical funds according to an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Partnership Resource Team (PRT) that studied SRJC in 2017,² the failure of which has in part led to the current budget crisis of the Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP), and to administrative bloat in which even after the Early Retirement Incentive (REI) program results in the departure of some administrators, SRJC will remain above the state average ratio of administrators to Full-Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF) and Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES);

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for Santa Rosa Junior College recommend to the Board and its designees that the reorganization shall include a revision of shared governance structures and bodies that give appropriate weight to the constituents whose purview the task is primarily in;³

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for Santa Rosa Junior College recommend to the Board and its designees that decision-making for the allocation of categorical funding streams designated for student success and equity (#5 in the 10+1) be integrated into the work of the Budget Advisory Committee, which the Academic Senate President co-chairs with the Board's appointee in support of the Education Code's requirement that the Academic Senate and Board "reach mutual agreement" on "processes for institutional planning and budget development";

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the Santa Rosa Junior College recommend to the Board and its designees that the reorganization of the college include the reduction of the number and cost of administrators; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the Santa Rosa Junior College recommend to the District and its designees that the job descriptions of deans and vice presidents be clarified reflecting their role in supporting rather than supervising faculty, and in service to the mission of the college.

¹ For example, Community Education, and the practice of renting SRJC facilities for for-profit entities like ELS which operate under SRJC's aegis, but with no involvement of SRJC's faculty in curriculum and faculty evaluations.

² Budget recommendations: "Needs to make budget recommendations and should include integration with planning, alignment of resources and planning, and should include a resource allocation role of all funding including categorical funds." –PRT Notes

³ For example, since the Curriculum Review Committee is Academic Senate Purview, although administrative and classified support is essential, there need be no voting positions for deans on the CRC; Since Online Instruction is curriculum and pedagogy, Distance Ed it should be under the Academic Senate with administrative tech support; since the academic calendar is in the Contract and a negotiated item, AFA should have a greater voice than is currently the case.