



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 16, 2020

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom only

ZOOM ID: 739 337 730

<https://santarosa->

[edu.zoom.us/j/739337730](https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/739337730)

PRESENT

M. Aparicio, L. Aspinall, P. Bell, M. Bojanowski, J. Bush, J. Carlin-Goldberg, C. Crawford, A. Donegan, J. Fassler, N. Frantz, T. Jacobson, J. Kosten, D. Lemmer, S. Martin, L. Nahas, M. Ohkubo, A. Oliver, R. Romagnoli, S. Rosen, G. Sellu, J. Stover, J. Thompson, K. Valenzuela, K. Wegman, S. Whylly, S. Winston

ABSENT

None

GUESTS

J. Saldaña-Talley

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPEN FORUM

1. S. Winston spoke about Guided Pathways and the difference that GP can make; stated that they believe there road blocks, delays, stalls, and interruptions to the GP work; that they and their GP teammates just realized that the new MOU expires on October 30th but thought that the would allow the GP work to continue for two years, without hold-ups. S. Winston further noted their previous work before coming to SRJC and that they believe SRJC to be years behind other institutions' GP accomplishments. They called for the GP budget be made available and that GP participants be allowed a presence in the negotiation conversations. [Read S. Winston's full statement here.](#)
2. S. Whylly stated that she and other colleagues are dismayed to find that many are feeling fearful and anxious about participating in public support for our BIPOC colleagues and students; that this anxiety stems from faculty members'—including BIPOC faculty members'—fear that other colleagues will ridicule, dismiss, or malign their views or, worse, call them racist over disagreements about how social justice is best accomplished. S. Whylly stated that this is unacceptable in an institution that is struggling to reckon with racism in our country and noted the divisive rhetoric. [Read S. Whylly's full statement here.](#)
3. J. Stover stated that he stands in support of his Senate colleague and his GP Mapping and Scheduling co-lead summer Winston in their public forum statement; and voiced support for the Senate Executive Leadership and their efforts to transform, reform, and make better both the Senate and the Senate leadership.
4. D. Carmona Benson introduced herself as the new President of SRJC's student body; stated that she believes good dialogue is the foundation of collegial work toward cultural competency; invited everyone to the Social Justice rally on September 26, 2 p.m., in

downtown Santa Rosa, to show support to all the students; and thanked the Senate for making the effort to support BSU.

MINUTES

September 2, 2020, minutes were adopted without objection.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

President J. Thompson asked that the Senate add a Parliamentarian's Report to the reports section, as the first report. There being no objection, the agenda was adjusted.

REPORTS

1. **Parliamentarian's Report – G. Sellu.** The Senate's Parliamentarian stated that the purpose of using Robert's Rules is to ensure equity in discussions and to increase the efficiency of Senate meetings; encouraged all Senators to focus debates on the *issues, processes, policies and structures* and to be passionate about debate, be fierce, and be good listeners, and for all Senators be professional in their discourse. G. Sellu further stated that, to help improve the flow of Senate meetings, each Senator may speak up to two times per agenda item; every Senator is encouraged to send discussion items to the President no later than one week before the meeting, and the president will determine the appropriate time to add such items to meeting agendas; and a request that all Senators review meeting agendas before each meeting to improve participation in the meetings.

Further, Consent agenda items are voted on *en masse* except if there is an objection; action items are typically items that were discussed in a previous meeting and are voted on during the meeting, and that if a discussion item is marked "urgent" on the agenda it may be moved to the action agenda.

Discussion agenda items are only discussed in a meeting and they are typically not voted upon except they are to the action agenda.

2. **President's Report - J. Thompson** thanked faculty members and administrators who have provided her with support in her role as president; noted the current climate in which people feel that they have license to make racist and sexist remarks and personal attacks; stated that both email and the Senate have been forums for such attacks; that comments directed at or about individuals are not permitted by our parliamentary rules; that the Senate is a forum for all our voices and not for personal attacks or shaming; that colleagues are reporting a distrust of the Senate. She noted a tendency in the Senate to frame complex issues as two antithetical choices; that the Senate is responsible for discussing and advising on all facets of these complex issues; that maintaining accreditation depends on upholding educational quality as well as integrating equity and diversity goals into our work; and that the Senate also has responsibilities regarding College structures, budget, educational programs and curriculum, student success. Additionally, it is the 10 + 1 and the law supporting it that give the Senate its professional right to do this work, and that the College's structures and culture determine whether the Senate and faculty will in fact be able to do this work.

Additionally, J. Thompson announced that E. Thompson has decided to step away from the Senate. J. Thompson thanked him for his years of service to the Senate and the College. She also stated that the Senate has two open seats on the Elections Committee; and that she will be meeting with VPs Saldana-Talley and Jolley to brainstorm ideas for better

integrating the College's budget and planning processes.

3. **Black Studies & Ethnic Studies Task Force.** Dr. J. Saldaña-Talley thanked BSU for their demands and for prioritizing the creation of Black Studies and Ethnic Studies programs at SRJC, which has led to the opportunity to create a task force to bring recommendations for these programs to the Academic Senate. Dr. Saldana-Talley introduced the members of the Black Studies and Ethnic Studies Task Force, which includes faculty, classified, administrators, and students. [Read Dr. Saldaña-Talley's full Report.](#) J. Thompson noted that the Task Force is an amazing group of people that represents a breadth of talent, knowledge, and experience. She thanked the BSU for bringing forward demand its demand for Black Studies and Ethnic Studies programs and for giving the Senate the opportunity to help set this in motion.

ACTION

1. A. Change to the Bylaws Regarding Senate Vacancy

J. Thompson explained that there are two conflicting descriptions of how the Senate fills vacancies, one in the Constitution and the other in the Bylaws, not both in the Bylaws as previously thought. The process that the Senate has determined it wishes to strike is in the Constitution, requiring putting a Constitutional amendment before the electorate, which is listed as a discussion item, marked "urgent," on the current agenda, and by two thirds vote the Senators may move that to action today. Two-thirds of the votes cast by the electorate would be needed to amend the Constitution.

Action item 1.A pertains to making three changes to the existing Bylaws: 1) changing the subtitle of this section from "absences" to "absences and vacancies"; 2) including language saying that the Executive Committee will consider equity, diversity and inclusiveness when making appointments, which reflects the will of the Senate in the action item from the September 2 meeting; and 3) a paragraph break to divide the sentences pertaining to absences from those pertaining to vacancies.

A. Donegan proposed extending the discussion time by 10 minutes; there being no objections, the time was extended. A Senator commented that it would be beneficial for the other sitting Senator of an area to be included in consultation when appointments are being made. K. Valenzuela made a motion to amend the motion, stating that "appointments will be made by the Senate President in consultation with the Executive Committee, and the other Area sitting Senator for a vacated area seat." Further discussion included the points that the other area Senator already has a voice in determining representation in their areas; that every state in the Union has two senators and the one senator doesn't choose who's going to be the other senator. A roll call vote was conducted, and the amendment was lost.

Further discussion of the original motion included the following: the Senate is considering a Bylaws amendment that will disagree with the existing Constitution; the Senate should first conduct the vote to amend the Constitution and then amend the Bylaws to agree with the electorate's vote on the Constitutional amendment; the question of whether Senators want people to be elected or appointed to serve on the Senate; that, since the Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution, the Bylaws as they currently stand cannot be implemented, and even as amended can't be implemented as they're in conflict with the Constitution; Senators have waited long enough for the appointment in Area 10 and would like to move forward with changing the Bylaws and with putting the Constitutional amendment before the

electorate; the question of whether the Senate can in fact change these bylaws while they are in fact in conflict with the Constitution; and the information that, to prepare for the day's agenda items on vacancies, the Parliamentarian had consulted with a statewide Academic Senate parliamentarian and was assured that the language of the proposed amendments is minor and surgical enough that the actions do not violate the Constitution.

A. Donegan moved that the Senate accept the language in Action item 1.A of the day's agenda, to change the Bylaws regarding Senate vacancies; J. Carlin-Goldberg seconded. There being no objections, the motion was adopted.

B. Change to the Bylaws Regarding Senate Vacancy

S. Martin made a point of order pertaining to the motion made at the last meeting; he stated that he would like to move to withdraw his motion as he was operating under the false belief, as represented in the meeting materials, that this language was a part of the Bylaws and not the Constitution. His motion was for striking that language, and as this body has no authority to strike language in the Constitution, he withdrew his motion.

CONSENT

1. Areas of Representation, Bylaws Article VIII: Election Code, Section 5

J. Thompson stated that the Senate is due for its regularly scheduled review of Areas of Representation, to ensure that faculty representation is fairly distributed among the Senate areas and that if the Senate so willed it, that work could be done through an EDI lens, to cluster departments in such a way that each area is as diverse as possible. The Senate stated its desire to discuss this idea, so it was pulled from the Consent and will appear as a discussion item on a future discussion.

DISCUSSION

1. Academic Senate Constitutional Amendment regarding Senator Vacancy

Discussion included the following: as the language cites the Bylaws, it would have the effect of making the Constitution subordinate to the Bylaws, which would give the power of this body to, effectively, change the Constitution by two-thirds vote of the Senate and without going to the electorate; the offending language is that part which makes the Constitution subordinate to the Bylaws.

A. Donegan moved that the Senate use the paragraph in Article V, Section 1 of the amended Bylaws, and put it before the electorate as an amendment to the Constitution. D. Lemmer seconded.

Further discussion noted: that the language in the Bylaws refers to email as the means of solicitation of candidates and that it is conceivable that, as technology changes, at some point email won't be the best or most common way of working; that the language should be modified slightly to make sure that the process does not hinge on a particular method of communication; the concern that in the future, a Senator who wanted to hand off their seat to someone else could step down and then the Executive Committee could appoint whomever it wants; that perhaps consulting with the entire Senate—something like “subject to the approval of the Senate”—would create a “checks and balances” process. In an effort to remain action-oriented and address other agenda items, Senators were asked to vote on adopting for the Constitution the language that was adopted for the Bylaws, and then

engage in the process of nuance at a subsequent meeting.

The vote was called, and there being no objection to adopting the language as is, it was approved that, after a little word-smithing, the Senate will put the Constitutional amendment before the electorate.

It was then determined that as this was a discussion item, marked urgent, it was necessary that two-thirds of the Senate first vote to move the discussion item to action. There being no objection, the Senate unanimously agreed to move this discussion item to action, and the Senate then voted unanimously to put the Constitutional amendment before the electorate.

2. Increase the Number of Members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee

It was noted that reasons for expanding the size of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) include a bigger group that creates more opportunity for diversity of perspective, background, and discipline; having individuals on SEC who are responsible for various aspects of the 10 + 1; opportunities to better connect the work and decision-making of committees and task-forces across the College; deepening the “bench,” to better prepare smooth transitions from one SEC to the next; making sure that additional SEC members are fairly compensated; . The supporting document in the meeting materials lists the 10 + 1 and other items within the Senate’s areas of responsibility.

It was also expressed that adding the Parliamentarian to the SEC was encouraged. Some were concerned that expanding the roles of the SEC might require certain faculty members in certain positions to wear too many hats; support for expanding the SEC and increasing the communication and the coordination between the SEC and the Senate; broadening the voice of the SEC; more connection with Senate Committees; faculty members are already overextended; asserting the purview of the Senate; allowing adjuncts to participate; AFA’s responsibility and commitment to advocating for its members, its duty to consult with the Senate on certain matters, and that negotiations are influenced by both AFA’s and the District’s interests; the Senate’s efforts to address the expansive shared governance system may dramatically reduce costs to the District, in part by reducing the costs associated with the number of administrators serving on committees.

It was also stated that allowing both current and past Senators to run for these seats would expand the diversity of not just the SEC but also the Senate itself; the Senate should consider filling the “past president” seat as soon as possible; as the current president is relatively new, a past president’s depth of knowledge and expertise is needed; expanding the SEC provides an opportunity to consider working in tandem with new positions on SEC and faculty co-chair positions on Senate consultation committee, many of which do not come with reassigned time and do a lot of heavy lifting.

J. Carlin-Goldberg moved that this discussion item appear as an action item at the next meeting. A. Donegan seconded.

A Senator stated that since Senators are using Zoom there should be a roll call vote for each motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to move this to action for the next meeting passed.

3. Academic Senate Goals for 2020-2021

The document in the meeting materials for this discussion item integrate ideas from

discussions from the summer through the retreat, in addition to goals carried over from last year. A. Donegan invited Senators to add or subtract goals and then at a certain point vote on what the goals should be; she stated that the Senate will continue to make progress on these items even if more time is needed to discuss these goals further before voting. Suggested additions included partnering with the District on a policy regarding a safe and welcoming work environment for BIPOC faculty members; addressing racism across the College; promoting anti-racism training across the District; restorative justice regarding equity work; addressing Guided Pathways as an equity issue.

A. Donegan moved that this discussion item be moved to action for the next meeting. J. Carlin-Goldberg seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

5:00 p.m.