ACADEMIC SENATE

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

PRESENT

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

M. Aparicio

GUESTS

A. Foster, J. Russell, E. Simas

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPEN FORUM

1. L. Servais stated that at the heart of Guided Pathways is equity, as well as a call to build knowledge and to engage in reflection about our district; that students come to SRJC with aspirations and that the faculty's task is to partner with them to launch them into the next phases of their educational and career journeys; and that partnership with students is predicated upon the system we have inherited, which has remained largely the same despite occasional policy adjustments. L. Servais also stated that Guided Pathways make transformation possible by changing the institution's "ecosystem," so that changes can ripple through the system and change the status quo; argued for "full partnership with our students and each other"; and challenged the College to put learning at the center of the its decision-making. Read L. Servais's full statement here.

2. T. Frongia offered a statement of gratitude for the SRJC community and particularly the Academic Senate and the Guided Pathways (GP) work; presented an overview of the GP website redesign work; noted that collaborative effort and cross-communication is necessary to bring equity to our students and to transform SRJC's ecosystem. T. Frongia noted that the College's website is increasingly relied on for everything at the College; that Incorporating GP concepts into the College's website design can provide equity, clarity, and choice to students; that the GP Website Redesign's main recommendation is to build a website that integrates information from the academic side of the house with the student services side of the house to better support students' journeys and to support students in feeling invited and welcomed, address students' immediate needs, support students' goals, and convey respect for and valuing of students' goals and needs. See Guided Pathways handout.

3. A. Donegan thanked L. Servais for helping Senators look at resources in a collaborative way and thanked President Thompson, fellow Senators, guests, and especially the GP workgroups for their hard work. A. Donegan then stated a need to correct the record regarding a previous statement that the Senate has created barriers to GP work; that every time GP was brought to a vote, the Senate supported it and that if the Senate had rejected GP in earlier votes, the current workgroups could not have proceeded. A. Donegan noted that assertions that claim that the Academic Senate forced the delay of the most recent GP vote scheduled in May 2020 are not true. It is true that on May 6, 2020, the Senate was unprepared for the GP discussion and therefore moved it to May 20; and stated that the Senate moved the decision to October at the request of a GP workgroup member who argued for more time. A. Donegan stated that as a historian, she is conscious that how facts and the past are presented matters and wanted to correct the record, especially for new Senators. She thanked colleagues in the GP workgroups for their work and said that she looks forward to reading their recommendations. [Read A. Donegan's full statement here](#).

4. J. Stover encouraged all to vote in the upcoming elections; shared his condolences with colleagues who have lost their homes in the recent Glass Fire; encouraged Senators to work with their area reps to attend each other's meetings in order to build community and strengthen collaboration across disciplines; reminded Senators to report to their areas, preferably electronically, per the Bylaws; stated that he was the GP faculty member who had asked for more time for the GP workgroups last spring due to their process being truncated due to circumstances beyond their control, insufficient time due to fires etc., and misunderstanding the GP MOU. [Read J. Stover's full statement here.](#)

MINUTES

September 16, 2020, minutes were adopted as written by roll call vote.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

REPORTS

1. President's Report – J. Thompson noted that nerves are frayed by fires, power outages, loss and disruption; announced the Area B Meeting for Academic Senate California Community Colleges, scheduled for Friday, October 16; stated that several senators have expressed interest in attending Plenary and that there is one more available spot; announced that there is funding available to address AB705-related faculty professional development, and the funding will support communities of practice facilitated by English, ESL, and Math Department faculty members, who have already made AB705 transitions and attended by faculty colleagues from other departments to address students' changing levels of preparedness due to AB705 implementation. Further announcements included that she has had an initial meeting with K. Jolley and J. Saldana-Talley to reimagine what an integrated approach to planning and budget might look like; the Black Studies and Ethnic Studies Task Force would hold its first meeting on October 13; Dr. Chong has shared that the District intends to reclassify the Equity Director position as a faculty position; and that Guided Pathways will be on the October 21 agenda and will require Senators to do a significant amount of reading in preparation. [Read full President's Report.](#)

2. Parliamentatians report – G. Sellu stated his support for colleagues affected by the fires;

expressed his gratitude for the attendees of Senate meetings and particularly for the flow at the last Senate meeting; and provided reminders and guidance for Senators regarding the day's order of business, noting that a discussion item marked urgent may be moved to action at the current meeting but that, if not marked urgent, a discussion item may be moved to action at a subsequent meeting. G. Sellu encouraged Senators to send agenda items to the Senate President and noted that public comments are a good means for Senators to learn about future agenda items they should be working on.

3. Faculty Chair of the Petaluma Faculty Forum (PFF) – E. Simas thanked President Thompson for inviting PFF to participate at Senate meetings more regularly than the previous practice of once a semester; stated that PFF has had only one meeting, with discussion focused on faculty and student support during remote instruction; noted that at its upcoming retreat PFF would discuss how to better support faculty and students during remote instruction; and invited Senators to let her know if there are particular avenues of support that they think PFF should take forward to larger bodies at the College.

4. Faculty Accreditation Process – J. Russell, Faculty Co-Chair for Accredidation for the next two years, noted that the culimnating product of the accreditation process is the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER); that the College will spend the next two years gathering information and addressing the strengths and areas that need improvement in preparation for writing the ISER; that an email solicitation has been sent, to request participation; that she is in the process of getting faculty co-chairs and committee members in place; and that there will be many ways to participate both large and small, and she hopes many will volunteer. See Accredadation Presentation here.

5. Guided Pathways Update – A. Foster stated that Senators would soon see the GP Workgroup recommendations; that the GP workgroups are using "ecosystem" as a foundational concept for their independent and collaborative work; that the GP workgroups invite change to the system which will help students thrive and realize their educational goals; that workgroups efforts on website redesign, mapping and scheduling, academic support, and introduction to college focus on the archetypal student journey, recognizing that while journeys vary, students have common experiences; and that GP is equity-minded, anti-racist "ecosystem" work that is integrative, expansive, and collaborative.

CONSENT

1. None

ACTION

1. Academic Senate Goals for 2020-2021

   A. Donegan introduced the Action item by noting that the Senate Executive Committee had gone through the minutes of discussions of Senate goals, from both the last Senate meeting and the Retreat, and then organized goals in three categories: items that need to be agendized and that Senate is hoping to complete this year; goals that we are already working on; and goals that may or may not be directly related to the 10 + 1 but need to be worked on with the District or other constituency groups. A. Donegan called for any additions to the Senate Goals, and Senator comments included the goal of addressing the increase in the amount of online teaching this year and how best to note the inclusion of the BSU demands in the document.

   J. Carlin Goldberg moved to approve the 2020-2021 Academic Senate Goals for the

Academic Year; L. Aspinall seconded.

In further discussion, there was a request to add the parenthetical statement, "see also area C. below which would be included in B. 1 of the Academic Senate Goals." Further comments included the desire to better indicate where the BSU demands are located in the document via use of parenthetical comments and the suggestion to make the BSU demands a hyperlink.

J. Carlin withdrew her earlier motion and made a new motion to approve the goals that are in the document, with any word-smithing as needed for clarity, and include that we address issues related to a dramatic increase in online instruction during the current pandemic and beyond and address how this relates to the statewide course exchange.

A. Donegan seconded; the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Increase in the Number of Members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC)

J. Thompson introduced the Action item by noting that a two-year pilot would give the Senate enough time to see whether the increase in the number of people on the Senate Executive Committee is working and to make any changes that might need to be made. The current arrangement is that there are three constant members of ASEC; there are always a President, a Vice President, and an Executive Secretary. The question on the agenda includes the Parliamentarian as the fourth constant member. There is sometimes a President Elect and/or sometimes a Past President, and sometimes there is neither a President Elect nor a Past President.

If ASEC were to include eight positions, in addition to the constant four and depending on whether there is or is not a President Elect and/or a Past President, the number of additional seats in any given year would be two, three, or four.

Senators comments and questions included whether the Past President and the President Elect would have priority over the other seats; clarification that the positions of Past President and President Elect are in the Constitution and Bylaws, prioritizing those seats; the importance of those positions to continuity and institutional knowledge; whether any past presidents could fill the position of Past President; whether the faculty Equity Director position could also be a permanent position; that this could be an opportunity to rethink how the Senate relates to the Executive Committee; Senators' support for the idea of allowing any past president to serve as Past President; whether the additional executive members could serve for two years rather than one; whether it would be a problem if a Senator's senate term expired in the middle of a two-year term on ASEC; whether these additional positions could be filled by adjuncts, the response to this question being yes; and the point that, as this would be a pilot, it may not require a change in the Bylaws.

J. Carlin Goldberg moved this to action, with the amendment that the additional ASEC positions serve for two years; J. Stover seconded.

Further comments noted it appeared that people would be voted in to ASEC seats and then assigned specific areas of responsibility; that there were ripple effects that would need to be addressed; that this change will require an MOU; people will need to be paid; and there is a lot of work required to get this effort off the ground; the need for more money to pay these people for their work, requiring negotiations; possible adjustments to the number of seats on ASEC; ranging from six to ten, or seven to nine, and the suggestion of deferring on this question to the people who had worked on the language; .

J. Thompson returned to the motion on the floor, which was unanimously passed via a roll call vote.

3. Constitutional Amendment, Ballot Language

In reviewing this Action item, it was noted that the Senate's wish is to strike the reference to the Bylaws in the Constitutional amendment language, so that the Constitution is not subordinate to the Bylaws; to fill Senator vacancies by including an equity, diversity and inclusiveness lens; and to use the Bylaws language that the Senate approved at the September 16 meeting. The language in the meeting packet is a marked-up version from language considered at a previous meeting, and the ballot sent to the electorate should provide a marked-up version of the current Constitutional language.

J. Stover made a motion to send to the electorate the amended Constitutional language from Article V, Section 1; G. Sellu seconded; the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

DISCUSSION

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

Introductory remarks noted the Constitution and Bylaws language regarding the number of Senators (26) and Areas of Representation (13), with two Senators per area; that some areas include several departments while others include fewer or even a single department; that the Senate must reevaluate its Area compositions every five years and is due for this reevaluation; and this provides an opportunity to look at these Area groupings with an equity and diversity lens, to support maximum diversity in all Areas.

Questions and comments included how regrouping departments would increase equity and diversity; the point that most of the Areas are built by adding two to four departments together and that it is possible to group departments in such a way that departments with less diversity are paired with departments that are more diverse; the question of whether departments in an Area interact with one another; the point that faculty members relate to other faculty members in their clusters and whether Senators could represent clusters; the point that clusters are fluid and subject to District reorganization; Senators' desire to ensure that the Senate retains its authority over how the departments are organized into Areas; and that diversity in departments is fluid.

Further comments and questions included the point that this Area review could be an opportunity to develop a kind of equity and diversity standard; the question of whether more departmental representation on the Senate results in more power and therefore more full time faculty; whether smaller departments would be marginalized in this process; representation for allied and adjunct faculty members; the point that some related departments in the same cluster, such as Disability Resources and Counseling, are too large to be included in the same Area of Representation; the contract faculty's greater representation as compared to the adjunct faculty, which has only two Areas; the idea that the adjunct faculty could have six seats instead of four seats; and a question about site representation.

J. Carlin Goldberg moved that this Discussion item be moved to Action at a future meeting so that the Senate could begin working on it; J. Stover seconded; and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

2. *Professional Development: Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, & Cultural Competency (8)*

   A Donegan motioned to move this item to the next meeting as the meeting was scheduled to end at 5:00 and it was 5:03.

INFORMATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

5:04 p.m.