



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 3, 2021

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom only

ZOOM ID: 739 337 730

<https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/739337730>

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

A. Donegan (proxy K. Valenzuela)

GUESTS

E. Simas

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President J. Thompson, who passed the gavel to Vice President M. Ohkubo. The Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by L. Aspinall.

OPEN FORUM

1. A. Morrison shared information about the *We the Future Social Justice Conference* event, returning virtually on Friday, April 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; encouraged Senators' attendance and promotion amongst students; highlighted the collaborative, interdisciplinary, and cross-department organizing of the conference; introduced co-host North Bay Organizing Project and keynote speaker Boots Riley, front-man of the political hip-hop group *The Coup* and award-winning filmmaker of the dark comedy *Sorry to Bother You* (2018); welcomed faculty members' conference workshop proposals as related to the theme "Power in Numbers" and the intersections of data, community, and organizing; and mentioned the conference website wethefuture.santarosa.edu.
[Read A. Morrison's full statement here.](#)
2. A. Donegan expressed concerns re: an Office of Student Life, Equity & Engagement email promoting a February 15 lecture by Tyler Breen entitled "Debunking the Myth of Racism in the Criminal Justice System" and noted sponsorship by the SRJC Chapter of the Young Americans for Liberty Group in conjunction with Turning Point USA (TPUSA) [event was cancelled at the last minute]. A. Donegan stated: "I emailed Student Services asking what Mr. Breen's credentials were, specifically asking why is he an expert on this topic? After three rounds of emails, Student Services was never able to tell me why Mr. Breen is an expert on this topic." A. Donegan further noted that the presentation was occurring during Black History Month; that the presenter was wearing a "Three Percenter" hat, a known anti-government, partially militia-based extremist movement ([see also Anti-Defamation League Backgrounder](#)); that three percenters were involved in the January 6th Capitol Insurrection; that the lecture Zoom link was controlled by TPUSA, required an email address, and was a seeming attempt to add emails to their listserv and donor list; that free speech should not be muted; that college sponsored lectures be vetted more thoroughly; that speakers lacking adequate credentials not be promoted by the college; and that the Senate dialogue with Student Services in follow up; and encouraged improved standards for students' continued education as staff and faculty receive for PDA activities. [Read A. Donegan's full statement here.](#)

3. S. Jones spoke on behalf of the Sustainability Committee; asked the Senate to include sustainability, climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions when rewriting faculty job announcements, descriptions, and college policies; noted the relevance of SRJC's Strategic Plan Goal E; stated that incorporating sustainability into all college policy decisions on purchasing, hiring, construction, events, and courses ensures an equitable future for students and the community; and concluded by stating that "collaboration between disciplines can help support faculty in this endeavor." [Read S. Jones's full statement here.](#)
4. S. Martin reassured the faculty on the matter of free speech and academic freedom; noted that in recent Senate meetings and at other campus events, faculty expressed concern, and sometimes fear, that speaking out on controversial topics and important issues facing the District would result in reprisal or other consequences to their employment; acknowledged the courage it takes to speak out, knowing that an opinion may not be shared by everyone; assured that the right to speak freely is protected by Article 9 on the AFA-District Contract; and reminded faculty to reach out to AFA if anyone feels they are met with reprisal, a negative evaluation, or any other matter important to employment.

MINUTES

K. Valenzuela moved to approve the February 3 minutes; J. Carlin-Goldberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, and the February 3 minutes were adopted with 25 Yes votes.

L. Nahas moved to approve the February 17 minutes; L. Aspinall seconded the motion. A roll call-vote was taken, and the February 17 minutes were adopted with 25 Yes votes.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

REPORTS

1. Vice President M. Ohkubo read President J. Thompson's Report, which expressed thanks to the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) for facilitating the meeting; welcomed Amy Quinn, the Senate's temporary administrative assistant; noted that current Senate projects include the spring elections cycle, workgroups on the Constitution, faculty job announcement, and DEI professional development; stated a need for one to three Senators to temporarily serve on the Elections Committee and also that ASEC has made a change to past practice for adjunct elections, to align practice with the Bylaws. Further information included the Vice President of Academic Affairs' approval of funding to provide support from a professional parliamentarian, David Mezzera, who was referred to us by ASCCC and who will attend our remaining Spring meetings; that the annual Guided Pathways Scale of Adoption report has been submitted to the Chancellor's Office; that she and Vice President Ohkubo will be meeting with other faculty leaders and Dr. Jeremy Smotherman, the College's new Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning; and that ASEC had facilitated a productive conversation with the faculty appointees to the screening and interviewing committee for the Vice President of Human Resources. [Read J. Thompson's full report here.](#)
2. Officer of Equity L. Servais shared her recent experiences with community and culture and how certain rules, values, and practices change, or remain the same, over time; explained how cultural rules govern all relationships, are learned through social interaction, and are always evolving; highlighted how SRJC's culture and acquired practices adapt and transform over time; compared unwritten cultural rules with SRJC's written policies and procedures; reminded the Senate of the opportunity to revisit District culture and values while making recommendations and revising policies; related these activities to the important themes of equity, diversity, inclusion and antiracism as concerning faculty professional development and Board policy and procedure for faculty hiring; and expressed hope for robust conversations and collective determination in transforming SRJC's practices and culture. [Read L. Servais full report here.](#)

3. Petaluma Faculty Forum (PFF) Chair E. Simas updated the Senate on recent PFF activities including a spring retreat and the first meeting of the semester; discussed the two main subjects of the spring retreat, (a) how to increase student retention and engagement while classes remain distanced, and (b) what would be needed to feel safe in returning to face-to-face instruction on a larger scale; and highlighted discussion themes of the first meeting of the semester, including what will campus look like when faculty return to campus, implications of continued remote, distance learning, and impacts on campus culture for all. [See E. Simas' talking points here.](#)

CONSENT

None

ACTION

1. Task Force, DEI & Anti-Racism Faculty Professional Development – L. Servais opened the item with a review of previously reached decisions and opened the topic for any clarifying questions.

Senators requested clarification on the Action item and the current focus. Past President B. Flyswithhawks clarified that the task force had been approved, but previous discussion comments had prompted a synthesized list of senator comments relating to the workgroup's purpose and specific qualities, which was the center of this Action item.

Senators' concerns included that the size of the task force be large enough to encompass the diversity of faculty but not so large that it becomes unwieldy (8-12); the emphasis on Professional Development Activities (PDA) Day as a training avenue excludes adjunct instructors whose participation is voluntary/not required; and consideration that folks with DEI and professional development expertise, classified and non-instructional professionals, also be included.

T. Jacobson moved to charge the ASEC to assign a wide range of 8-10 faculty members who also have DEI lived experience, professional development, and expertise to the Taskforce. L. Aspinall seconded the motion.

Senators discussed various concerns and suggestions, such as the Senate partnering with classified colleagues who bring a variety of expertise; adding an amendment to the motion including collaboration with other employee groups at the College; incorporating a step system where faculty comprise the core group of the task force and then include non-faculty members later on; whether a faculty member could use a DEI workshop as professional development training not specifically identified by the task force; determining how the Senate will proceed with task force recommendations; tensions around compensation versus service obligations; and timing and logistical details. Past President B. Flyswithhawks suggested either voting on the motion that was on the floor or amending the motion to include an assignment for the task force.

Citing time concerns, Vice President M. Ohkubo called for either a motion to vote or an amendment to the motion. Further Senator comments addressed unresolved issues re: the composition and charge of a task force and the desire to avoid past mistakes related to workgroup charge. A point of order from Past President B. Flyswithhawks reminded senators that a two-thirds vote could be conducted to extend the discussion time for the motion on the floor.

Vice President M. Ohkubo called for a motion to extend the discussion time. L. Aspinall move to extend the time to further discuss the motion on the floor by 5 minutes. G. Sellu seconded. A roll-call vote was taken, and with 25 Yes Votes an additional 5 minutes were granted. Discussion on the Action Item was reopened.

Senators asked for an amendment to the motion on the floor to better define what the task force will be assigned to do, including a reference to the document "[Synthesis of Senator's Discussion 2/17/2021 DEI/Anti-Racism Professional Development.](#)"

L. Aspinall moved to amend the motion: "...and; to explore and develop recommendations based on 'Synthesis of Senator's Discussion 2/17/2021 DEI/Anti-Racism Professional Development.'" J. Carlin-Goldberg seconded.

Clarifying questions followed: had the Senate agreed to recommend DEI training or possible recommendations of training; what was the meaning of "DEI lived-experience, professional development, and expertise" and "wide range"; and would the ASEC come to an agreement on these terms? Past President B. Flyswithhawks clarified that the Senate had agreed to explore possible recommendations for training; recommended that the Senate avoid defining more specific terminology within the motion and trust our colleagues tasked with the work to define these terms; recognized that the task force will report back to the Senate, thereby informing continued discussion of said matters.

A roll-call vote on the amendment was taken; Senators approved the amendment with 24 Yes votes.

The perfected motion on the floor: "To charge the Academic Senate Executive Committee to assign wide range of 8-10 faculty that also have DEI lived experience, professional development, and expertise to the Taskforce, and; to explore and develop recommendations based on 'Synthesis of Senator's Discussion 2/17/2021 DEI/Anti-Racism Professional Development.'"

After a point of order from Secretary Stover and P. President B.Flyswithhawks, a roll-call vote on the amended motion was taken; Senators approved the amended motion with 25 Yes votes.

DISCUSSION

Vice President Okhubo opened the discussion by noting that both items were marked as urgent, and that a two-thirds vote on either item could move that item to Action.

1. *Board Policy / Procedure 4.3.2/P, Faculty Hiring: Regular and Adjunct (Ed. Code 87360)

M. Ohkubo introduced the discussion; provided context that a 2018 draft was approved by Senate but never forwarded to the Board; reminded Senators that urgent Discussion items could be reopened through a motion to move it to an Action Item, and/or the 2018 version could be forwarded on as-is.

L. Aspinall made a motion to move the urgent Discussion Item [D1] to an Action item. J. Bush seconded. A roll-call vote was taken; Senators approved the move to Action by 24 Yes votes.

J. Stover moved to reopen and revisit the May 2018 draft of Board Policy/Procedure 4.3.2/P. L. Aspinall seconded. A roll-call vote was taken; Senators approved the motion by 24 Yes votes.

2. *Workgroup, Board Procedure 3.16, Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

M. Ohkubo introduced the Discussion Item, explaining that at the January 20 meeting, the Senate voted to approve the Board policy on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), endorsed revising Board procedure 3.16/P and create a CPL procedure modeled on that of Palomar Community College and ensuring the appropriate role of discipline faculty; this proposal is in support of doing the work approved at the January 20 meeting; if approved, the Senate would partner with the District to create a workgroup tasked with reworking Palomar's procedures to fit SRJC's needs, and then send a draft for review, discussion, recommendation, and possible approval by the Senate; in such a case, the draft would then be forwarded on to the District and Board; and at the March 3 ASEC meeting J. Bush volunteered to lead this workgroup once created.

L. Aspinall made a motion to move the urgent Discussion item [D2] to an Action item. J. Carlin-Goldberg seconded. A roll-call vote was taken; Senators approved the move to Action by 24 Yes votes.

J. Carlin-Goldberg moved to partner with the District and create a workgroup that will draft these procedures. G. Sellu seconded.

A Senator commented on the number of task forces and workgroups being created by the Senate; expressed concerns about the impact these have on individual senator's time; and noted that the Senate's leeway may not be very broad given Palomar has already created the model. Vice President Ohkubo acknowledged that the Executive Committee recognized the workgroups being created and decided that workgroups would be capped with this.

A roll-call vote was taken on the new Action item; Senators approved the motion by 25 Yes votes.

INFORMATION

1. Academic Calendar

Vice President M. Ohkubo introduced the topic, stating that, formerly, the Academic Calendar Committee produced the academic calendar (the calendar); the work calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining; AFA and the District have negotiated a process for creating the work calendar, including workdays, holidays, and deadlines; the calendar will no longer be done in committee; Admissions and Records will use law and local policy to insert academic dates, such as add, drop, withdraw, and census; the Senate will continue to have opportunities to express advice on academic dates established through Board policy; and any/all faculty members can contact AFA to express opinions on the calendar. For further context, Vice President M. Ohkubo called upon Senator S. Martin, who due to his role as AFA President was able to clarify that the work calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining and stated that faculty feedback and voices would be heard.

Senator comments included the hope of retaining some voice in the process, the length of semesters as they approach holidays and end-of-semester dates, questions re: the relationship between scheduling and registration dates, and what role AFA has in those determinations.

Senator S. Martin invited all faculty members to contact AFA with concerns; provided assurances that AFA will continue to consult with the Senate on matters with overlapping purview; specified that timelines will be developed in conjunction with Admissions and Records in determining what is best concerning student and District interests in areas such as grading and application timelines; and assured that the voice of the Senate would be heard through consultation with AFA, this Senate body, and the ASEC.

An additional notice was made that a Priority Registration workgroup had been established (current status of that workgroup unknown).

ADJOURNMENT

4:58 p.m.