



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 21, 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, A. Donegan, J. Fassler, B. Flyswithhawks, N. Frantz, C. Hillman, T. Jacobson, J. Kosten, D. Lemmer, L. Nahas, M. Ohkubo, A. Oliver, R. Romagnoli, S. Rosen, G. Sellu, L. Servais, J. Stover, J. Thompson, K. Valenzuela, K. Wegman, S. Whyly (until 4:30pm; C. Hillman as proxy), S. Winston

ABSENT H. Skoonberg

GUESTS L. Larsen, J. Russell, D. Mezzera

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President J. Thompson. The Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by C. Hillman.

OPEN FORUM

1. J. Carlin-Goldberg yielded her time to George Sellu.
2. G. Sellu commented on the number of anti-racism solidarity statements made on campus and the treatment of two Black faculty members currently sitting on the Senate, which has been met with ineffective solutions, inaction, and/or resistance; addressed concerns over the curriculum of the SRJC Police Academy; and called upon Santa Rosa Junior College and the Academic Senate to focus on making changes to both campus policy and culture. [Read G. Sellu's full statement here.](#)
3. L. Larqué responded to continued anti-blackness in the country, cited the recent murder of Daunte Wright and acts of violence against students, staff, and faculty members of color at SRJC, and requested immediate action be taken to align the College's shared values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism. [Read L. Larqué's full statement here.](#)
4. L. Aspinall expressed concern about the resignation of George Sellu as Senate Parliamentarian, called out the Senate's lack of recognition and response to this action, and provided a personal apology. [Read L. Aspinall's full statement here.](#)
5. M. Ohkubo acknowledged the killing of 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant by police in Ohio, asked that Senators and guests acknowledge the pain experienced within the Black community, and requested that Senators maintain efficiency and urgency when addressing crucial policy, knowing that Black colleagues are hurting. [Read M. Ohkubo's full statement here.](#)
6. S. Kessler, in his own capacity, advocated on behalf of faculty and student needs to return to campus in the Fall, and stated that a recent All Faculty Association survey indicated that a minimum of 47% of the faculty wanted to return to in person instruction. [Read S. Kessler's full statement here.](#)
7. A. Donegan thanked the Senate for the opportunity to attend Spring Plenary; shared her frustration that California Community Colleges (CCC) continually request more funding, a concern expressed at multiple Plenary sessions on issues such as Guided Pathways,

student access to textbooks, and professional development for Senators and the faculty; asserted that quality education is a human right that everyone deserves; lauded the California Master Plan's providing high-quality education to poor Californians through the 1980s and expressed dismay that now that our student body is incredibly diverse, the State claims there are minimal funds for public education; and called upon the Senate to work with other Senates and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and push back on the Governor's and Chancellor's claims that there is no more funding available. [Read A. Donegan's full statement here.](#)

8. T. Jacobson read a joint statement with Senator J. Stover and brought attention to a disparity between the Senate's handling of fellow senators' statements. T. Jacobson and J. Stover yielded the remainder of their time to Senator Summer Winston. [Read T. Jacobson's full statement here](#) and [read J. Stover's statement here.](#)
9. S. Winston addressed their mistreatment under a Professional Ethics Committee complaint issued against them in December for naming a fellow senator during an Open Forum statement, compared it to the lack of treatment of a fellow senator's use of the Adjunct distribution list to defame a President-elect candidate, and demanded the elimination of the Professional Ethics Complaint process. [Read S. Winston's full statement here.](#)
10. B. Flyswithawks announced the formation of the Native American Faculty and Staff Association (NFA) at SRJC, whose purpose is to support and advocate on behalf of, and improve the educational experiences and success of, Native American faculty, staff and students. [Read B. Flyswithawks' full statement here.](#)
11. R. Mahiri read a shared Solidarity Statement from the SR Intercultural Center, Our House Intercultural Center (Petaluma), Umoja Learning Community, Queer Resource Center, Native American Summer Bridge, and Asian and Pacific American Student Success (APASS); addressed the concern that a former SRJC police academy instructor, Barry Brodd, provided testimony in the Derek Chauvin trial and justified the excessive force used to murder George Floyd; stated that we cannot pretend the practices, systems, and beliefs that justify the murders of Black and Brown Americans are not homegrown; stated that "one year's worth of passive or performative changes does not correct 103 years of active systemic racism"; shared a list of collective ideas for how SRJC can better foster anti-racism, justice, and compassion including, but not limited to, finalizing and implementing all of the BSU and BLAC demands this fiscal year and specifically addressing BSU demands #6 and #10 to immediately disarm and defund Campus Police; demanding the SRJC Police Chief and the SRJC Training Center administration denounce Barry Brodd's witness statement, apologize to the Community, and list concrete steps they will take to undo the harm his training on use of force has caused; called for the immediate hiring of the promised Black leadership positions, a cohort of Black faculty members, and a cohort of Ethnic Studies scholars; and closed by noting that though not exhaustive, the suggestions made are believed to be "a good start to permanently tearing down the structures of systemic racism and shifting the campus culture into an anti-racist practice." [Read R. Mahiri's Shared Solidarity Statement Here.](#)
12. S. Whyly identified herself as the individual who sent an email that is being referred to as slanderous, stands by her statement, and is accountable for the email that explained her feelings about her emotionally damaging experience with a full-time colleague; clarified that the colleague is not currently a member of the Senate; stated that her intention in her elected position is to be honest with her constituency and inform them about her Senate experiences; stated that she had received many responses from other adjunct faculty members who reported similar experiences with full-time faculty members; likened the adjunct faculty member experience at SRJC to a ten- to twenty-year-long job interview, contextualized the detrimental nature of the role that full-time colleagues can have in

adjuncts' careers, and stated that this relationship causes many adjunct faculty members fear when speaking their mind; and asked the Senate to take on issues related to adjunct faculty in the next year and provide for further conversation to determine what those issues are and how best to resolve them. [Read S. Whyllly's full statement here.](#)

13. D. Carmona Benson reminded everyone of the importance of the BSU demands for a diverse, culturally competent faculty and staff; the need to add a student voice and vote in hiring committees; no retaliation for those who support the BSU; establishing a robust Ethnic Studies Department with classes like Introduction to Ethnic Studies; placing the BSU on next month's agenda to introduce a newly improved list of demands; and recognizing that "the College is 104 years late" in solidarity with marginalized students and acknowledged that these conversations would not be taking place without the students. D. Carmona Benson further demanded aid, advocacy, inclusion, diversity, equity, and a safe space for all at SRJC; asked everyone to consider what they have contributed to the conversations about what needs to change at SRJC; implored action-oriented solutions and encouraged everyone to "show up" and support SRJC students by attending [a unity walk from campus to downtown Santa Rosa on at 2pm on Saturday, May 15.](#)
14. R. Romagnoli presented specific agenda requests to the Senate and the Senate Executive Committee regarding campus hiring and safety, including but not limited to, action towards the specific demands of the BSU, redistribution of parking fees and fines towards DEI-centered student programs, initiation of an external audit of the calls received by District Police, and allowing for a task force to initiate harm reduction and restorative and transformative practices at SRJC. [Read R. Romagnoli's full statement here.](#)
15. K. Valenzuela addressed a previous statement from S. Winston, identifying herself as the Senator who lodged a Professional Ethics Committee complaint; clarified that the comments from that statement were directed towards a BIPOC faculty member (herself); and shared that she had previously requested the complaint be made available and never intended for it to be withheld.

MINUTES

J. Thompson noted that the April 7 minutes were not ready for review due to Spring Plenary, We the Future Social Justice Conference, and other events of the previous week, and would be prepared for the next meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

REPORTS

1. President's Report – In the interest of time, J. Thompson offered to send her report via email.
2. Officer of Equity Report – L. Servais also offered to provide her report via email, commenting that many of the demands and suggestions made in open forum were a call to action for the Senate to apply the established values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism to the work being addressed at this meeting, and to center these values when revising policy.

J. Thompson also commented that she is committed to continuing this work and moving words into actions, asking the Senate for faith and hard work and to be bold as they work together.

3. Accreditation – J. Russell updated the Senate on the progress of the SRJC Accreditation Self Evaluation, which is about halfway completed; reported that the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and Quality Focused Essay (QFE) are being drafted and will be

provided to the College community and Board of Trustees in early fall; noted that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Peer Review Team Site Visit is scheduled for late February 2022. J. Russell recognized the work of over 100 volunteers from the College community who collected evidence and wrote narratives on four main standards: (1) Institutional Mission and Effectiveness, (2) Student Learning Programs and Services, (3) Resources, and (4) Leadership and Governance; explained that the QFE is a new aspect of the accreditation cycle and that two focus areas have been identified for multi-year projects and programs: (1) Evidence-Based Institutional Effectiveness: Fostering a Culture of Inquiry and Innovation led by Dr. Jeremy Smotherman; and (2) Equity at SRJC: Actions to Increase Student Success led by Lauren Servais. [See J. Russell's full report here.](#)

4. Professional Development – L. Larsen reported that Professional Development (PD) has offered 79 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (EDI) trainings and workshops, including off-campus offerings, at the College through February 2021; and reported that the California Community College Council on Staff Development awarded the Innovative Activity Award to SRJC for the Fall 2020 PDA Day. L. Larsen further reported on First Friday Gatherings, which introduce essential services, policies, and staff to new faculty members; stated that the Spring New Faculty Learning Experience provided three Communities of Practice; noted that 17 faculty members have offered classroom observations as part of Appreciative Observations this month; stated that 35 faculty members are serving as mentors for new faculty; and reported that a three-year faculty survey on PD indicated high faculty satisfaction and also some reported scheduling conflicts which made it difficult for some faculty to attend PD events. [See L. Larsen's full report here.](#)

It was also noted that L. Larsen and T. Jacobson will not be continuing as PD Coordinators, and an announcement for these positions will be coming soon.

CONSENT

None

ACTION

None

DISCUSSION

1. *Resolution in Support of Low-Cost Materials Designation

J. Carlin-Goldberg provided background that an ASCCC resolution addressed data collection for colleges using the no-cost and low-cost materials courses designations, as defined by local Senates; discussed the resolution under consideration today was in support of a low-cost materials designation and was to define what the SRJC Senate considers low-cost to our students. J. Carlin-Goldberg reported that the \$50 maximum under consideration is based on research by members of the Textbook and Instruction Resources Committee and represents a per-class amount that Financial Aid would likely cover. J. Carlin-Goldberg clarified that students who receive EOPS vouchers must purchase textbooks and instructional materials from the SRJC bookstore and that, otherwise, students, including those with financial aid, may purchase course materials elsewhere.

Senators discussed their concerns over the cost of books sold at the campus bookstore, suggested the addition of language to control the cost of used books, and suggested a revision of the EOPS mandate that books must be purchased from the campus bookstore.

J. Carlin-Goldberg confirmed the scope of the resolution is to determine what low-cost means at SRJC, does not address the requirement to purchase from the bookstore, and is concerned with providing accurate cost information to students to support their decisions when registering for classes.

Senators suggested moving away from models that rely on a campus bookstore and utilizing instead services that allow instructors to curate their course materials at a lower cost to students, and, if a bookstore is provided, making sure that bookstore is run by the campus and not a private company. J. Thompson redirected the discussion to focus on the scope of the resolution, which, if supported, would communicate that the Senate recommends courses be listed with a low-cost designation symbol signifying the maximum dollar amount of the textbooks for a particular course listing. C. Crawford offered to make an Open Forum statement regarding the “Request For Proposals” process.

L. Aspinall moved the Resolution entitled “Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options in the SRJC Online Schedule of Classes” be moved to an Action item. J. Stover seconded the motion.

Additional discussion addressed clarification that the resolution applies to sections, not courses, and noted the inherent difficulty of providing low-cost and quality course materials for certain disciplines.

A roll-call vote was called. The motion to move the Discussion Item to an Action Item was passed by more than two-thirds with 25 Yes votes.

Further comments suggested purchasing textbooks that will be reused at no cost to the students, so that the quality of the textbooks is not compromised.

L. Nahas moved to approve the resolution. L. Aspinall seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was called. The Action item was unanimously approved with 25 Yes votes.

2. Board Policy 4.3.2/P, Faculty Hiring: Regular and Adjunct (Ed. Code §87360)

J. Thompson explained how the Senate Executive Committee will approach this process by dividing it into sections, using the notes from the April 7 meeting and providing a support document at this meeting. Three topics were identified for this meeting in effort to start the process but will be moved to the next meeting. Senators will be asked to weigh in on a series of straw polls, and Senators Stover and Aspinall will screen-capture the straw polls using the gallery view on Zoom to identify items with strong consensus so that language can be crafted and time reserved for more substantive discussions.

Secretary J. Stover clarified that the screen-capture will be used only to make sure that there is a fair and accurate account, and that any images will be deleted immediately after straw poll count verification occurs.

Senators requested that a list of straw-poll items be sent ahead of time so that they can be reviewed prior to next meeting.

INFORMATION

1. Officer Elections, Spring 2021

J. Thompson confirmed that the Senate is out of sync with officer elections as outlined in the Bylaws, and the Executive Committee has agreed to open nominations for the Vice President and Executive Secretary positions with officer election to be held on May 19 (last meeting of the semester). This issue of officer vacancy is not appropriately addressed within the Bylaws, and the topic to resolve this will be introduced in early fall.

Senators suggested that these positions be offset so that both elections are not conducted in the same year to provide continuity on the Executive Committee.

J. Thompson reminded the Senate that this item is informational only and cannot be moved to Action and stated that the Executive Committee would discuss it further. Senators were encouraged to send their thoughts on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT 5:02 p.m.