



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 5, 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, H. Skoonberg, J. Stover, J. Thompson, K. Valenzuela, K. Wegman, S. Whyly, S. Winston

ABSENT

None

GUESTS

D. Carmona Benson, D. Mezzera, E. Simas

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 J. Carlin-Goldberg.

OPEN FORUM

1. S. Winston shared their experiences on campus that reinforced messaging that BIPOC faculty and students don't belong. These experiences included: an SRJC Campus Police officer who aggressively intimidated and embarrassed them with a series of questions that implied they did not work for or belong at SRJC; seven SRJC Campus Police officers who made them feel powerless when the officers refused to assist them, for nearly two-hours, with a wheelchair-bound student from the floor into an available seat-height wheelchair; and they were the only person to confront a colleague who later justified their use of a derogatory term to refer to people of Asian descent in a department meeting. S. Winston stated the needs and concerns of BIPOC faculty and students are often disregarded, and, while fighting for change, they are met with gaslighting; asserted that the walkout and BlackOut was not an opportunity to fake solidarity and return to "business as usual"—it demonstrated that the last straw had been broken, and Black colleagues are done being tired, unheard, and not taken seriously, and done with SRJC's culture of low-accountability and minimal action; and called for a shift in SRJC's culture, which requires consistent community action, true buy-in from those who stand in power, and risk-taking that fights for change. [Read S. Winston's full statement here.](#)
2. G. Sellu spoke as a faculty member, a Senator, and co-chair of the Black Leadership Association Collective (BLAC), stating that his experiences and challenges with institutional racism at SRJC are very different than his colleagues'; emphasized that it is extremely offensive and problematic that Black people are being excluded from the development of programs for Black people, maintaining it is a waste of time and resources, is insulting to their intelligence, and illustrates that white people know what is best for Black people; declared the Senate leadership's support of the walkout and BlackOut does not excuse their disregard of the Ethnic Studies Taskforce's recommendations to include BIPOC faculty and staff members when moving forward with the development of the Ethnic Studies Department, an omission they were informed of at the April 21 meeting by the Latinx Faculty and Staff Association (LSFA), Asian and Pacific Islander Staff Association (APISA), and

BLAC; determined that the formation of the Ethnic Studies Taskforce was performative and was used to silence BLAC, the Black Student Union (BSU), BIPOC colleagues, and Senate allies who voted for the resolution; acknowledged that as the co-chair of BLAC he has not been informed of who is involved in the process of developing the Black Studies program, restating that a Black Studies program is being created without the input of Black people; stated that the walkouts and BlackOuts will continue until there is a shift from performative action to transformative action; and concluded by declaring his willingness to die for this cause, and willingness to put his entire teaching career on the line for this cause. [Read G. Sellu's full statement here.](#)

The remainder of the meeting was used to play the livestream of the BlackOut held at SRJC. [Watch the Oak Leaf's full recording here.](#)

ADJOURNMENT

4:36 p.m.