

Academic Senate President's Report

May 18, 2022

Work continues on a lot of business, but I'll be using the lion's share of my time today for things other than business. Regarding the governance redesign project, College Council will be doing as much as possible before the end of the semester, and then I'll work with Vice President Saldana-Talley to synthesize and summarize that work so that it is in good shape for handing off. The Faculty Equivalency Committee will meet one more time, this Friday, to further our work on improving our processes. And the Educational Planning and Coordinating Council reviewed additional policies and procedures that are on today's Consent agenda for Senate consideration; additionally, EPCC has improved its process for review of policies, procedures, and new programs and is ensuring that their work comes to Senate in the form of recommendations for Senate consideration. Strategic Planning will continue in the Fall, and the Academic Senate President will continue to be involved.

The College is looking forward to revising its Educational Master Plan next year, and the Senate will have a strong role in that. Next year will also bring work on a Student Equity Plan, and I hope to see the Senate and the faculty have appropriate roles in that work.

Finally, regarding students' preferred pronouns, there is some urgency about this, and it will be on the August 17 agenda, either as a Consent item or a Discussion item marked urgent, so that, assuming Senate support, the question can be determined at a single meeting.

Now, for things other than business.

It's always special to be able to welcome new life. Congratulations to Senator Kat Valenzuela and former Senator Mark Ferguson on the birth of their son, who was born on May 6.

Welcome—

I'd like to welcome new Senator Gregory Morre, Mathematics Department, who has been appointed to replace Kat Valenzuela while she is on leave from now to the end of the semester. Senator Morre is also among the senators who will be seated in the fall. They include: Guillermo Garcia, Counseling; Purnur Ozbirinci, English; Nikki Slovak, Behavioral Sciences; Smita Avasthi, Library and Information Resources; and Lauralyn Larsen, Work Experience.

The following Senators will not be returning next year, and I thank them for their service: Filomena Avila, Michael Hale, Summer Winston, Jan Kmetko, Kat Valenzuela, and Jesse Kosten.

Thank you to Brenda Flyswithawks for serving as Past President for these two years. Her work behind the scenes provided a stability to the Senate that we would not otherwise have had. I am grateful for her guidance, her ear, her heart, wisdom, patience, and truth-telling. A deep thank you also to everyone on Exec—to Brenda, Monica, John, Byron, Jessica, Laura, and Nancy—for many hours of work, wisdom, some hard conversations, laughter, and friendship.

I have a lot more people to thank—and the list is longer than I have time for. This is a partial list of individuals who worked with me so that I could do work on behalf of the Senate and the faculty. Thanks to the trustees for support and conversations; to Dr. Chong for support, especially when things got rough; to Pedro Avila for steadfast work to build a bridge; to Gene Durand for listening and not running for the hills after he got to know us; to Robert and Victor

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and Jeremy for partnering on projects and ensuring and respecting the Senate's role in those projects; to Josh for being available as a resource and problem-solving; to the AFA leadership for supporting Senate work; to Sandy Sigala and Debbie Weatherly and Delashay Carmona Benson for collaboration at numerous meetings; to Anne Donegan for having my back throughout these two years and especially during the first seven months as I found my sea legs; to Jen for cheerful after-hours posting of documents and showing up to almost every office hour; to Natalia for jumping into a remote, complicated job with grace and willingness; and to all who served as Senators this year and last. Finally, one of the great blessings of this role has been working closely with Jane Saldana-Talley and Kate Jolley. I am so grateful to them both for their partnership, for what I learned from them about weaving together grace and hard work, and for the love. I will miss working with you on a daily basis.

My last day in this role is Commencement, May 28, and Nancy Persons begins her role as President on May 29. Nancy brings to her role many years of Senate experience, and, since being elected, she has been serious and deliberate in preparing to serve as our next President. I know that you will give her your support, which she will need because the job is a demanding one, but more importantly, the Senate President is in a stronger position to represent and defend the 10 + 1, the Senate as an institution, and the faculty if the President has the support of this body.

We are a noisy, raucous, sometimes contentious group. We are these things because we are passionate about what and whom we care for: the knowledge and skills we've dedicated our lives to learning and teaching; our students; our college; our communities; our planet. Because of this passion and because we understand that the stakes are high—for people, for our society, for the earth—difference of opinion can create challenges. I have been so impressed by the movement and growth I've witnessed over the past two years as the Senate has worked hard to listen, learn from each other, and draw on the best that we all have to offer in crafting solutions that move the college forward.

Thank you for the honor to serve the Senate.