

Academic Senate President's Report to Senate

August 17, 2022

N. Persons

Welcome Back!

- Before giving a rundown on all the things going on behind the scenes for the Academic Senate, I would first like to acknowledge to you all how grateful I am that you have chosen to serve as an Academic Senator. To me, the work of the Academic Senate is central to the work of this college's mission to serve our students well, and I am so glad you are all along for the ride. I would also like to acknowledge the challenge that our fall meeting schedule represents. There are so many important issues facing the college right now, and our Accreditation tops the list, with Enrollment coming in a very close second. The Academic Senate Executive Committee made the decision to set the schedule based on our need to address a wide variety of issues. It was my intention in setting the fall schedule and the first few agendas of the year that we could get some important discussions moving forward. We have attempted to allow a realistic amount of time for full discussion and consideration of the issues at hand. I know this will not be easy for us, and I want to reiterate my appreciation for you hanging in there with us as we tackle these issues together.

Welcome New Senators

- We welcome newcomers Purnur Ozbirinci, Guillermo García, Greg Morre, and welcome back for another round Phyllis Usina, Smita Avasthi, and Lauralyn Larsen, as well as our continuing senators. Thank you to all of you for serving on the Academic Senate this year!

Congratulations

- Our congratulations go to Jessy Paisley, who was recently appointed to the ASCCC Rising Scholars Advisory Committee

Academic Senate Retreat

- The AS Retreat will take place Friday, August 26th. It is currently scheduled for 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., but we hope to conclude by 12:30 p.m. All senators are encouraged to attend the full retreat. We will send out a tentative agenda shortly.

Professional Development Coordinators and New Faculty Orientation Program:

- This year's Professional Development Coordinators are Alexa Forrester and Anne Donegan. They were appointed at the end of the previous year by the VPAA, then AS President Julie Thompson, and Sean Martin. Alexa and Anne are leading the New Faculty Orientation Program.
- ASEC will be meeting with the new coordinators at an upcoming ASEC planning meeting, and then will ask the coordinators to come to the Academic Senate to tell us about the New Faculty Orientation program as well as other Professional Development news.

Guided Pathways

- John Stover of the Academic Senate Exec Committee (ASEC) will continue to be the ASEC lead coordinating with this program.

- SRJC will receive a one-time allocation of \$552,528 this year that is supposed to last us 5 years until 2025/26 as we continue to work on initiatives that increase equity and reduce barriers for students. The following specific 3 areas should be prioritized: 1) implementation of system equity priorities with fidelity; 2) prioritizing teaching and learning; and 3) promoting Key Performance Indicator (KPI)-informed continuous improvement. Most of the ASEC team plans to meet with administrative lead Matthew Long on this program in the near future.
- Work on last year's Senate approved projects continued over the Summer, and John Stover is gathering updates and will report out at the next meeting.

Communities of Practice

- I am very pleased to report that SRJC will once again be offering Communities of Practice (CoP) to faculty this academic year. Dean Victor Tam and I will be meeting shortly to discuss allocation of funds for this purpose, and then the Academic Senate office will send out a call for proposals for CoP, followed quickly by a call for participants. I know I found the CoP experience last year to be inspiring and rewarding, and that it tremendously enhanced my self-reflection regarding IDEAA principles. I am so pleased we will be able to continue with this important work and broaden participation.

Faculty Mentor Program

- The Faculty Mentor Program gets underway this Friday at 12:30 in the Doyle Library 4th Floor Reading Room, where mentors and mentees will be introduced formally to each other. There will be a few optional social events for mentors and mentees this year. The ASEC is currently working on these. As our hiring practices evolve, so has the composition of our faculty. This year we had more mentor volunteers than new faculty, which is wonderful. We also found that we did not have quite the level of diversity of mentors to meet the requests of our new faculty. We hope to broaden participation in this program in future years. That said, one of the most important things we can do as mentors is to hang in there with our mentees and be sure that we regularly contact them over the long term so they know they can come back to us when needed. Every effort a mentor makes to connect with new faculty is so helpful to the long-term success of our new colleagues.

SRJC Committee Appointments

- Most committee appointments have been completed at this time. The ASEC will put a call out for the remaining open seats shortly. The ASEC has been discussing the use of consistent criteria by which committee appointments are made, and an upcoming Discussion Item will provide the start for our adoption of a transparent, consistent, and equity minded approach going forward. The criteria used in making appointments to committees this year were as follows:
 - Respect applicant preferences the best we can (if can't give first choice, will give second choice)
 - Balance of seasoned and newer voices on committees
 - Committee membership is diverse (gender expression, age, ethnicity, discipline representation)
 - Honor suggested committee makeup as stated in committee charge

Hiring Committees – Administrators

- Interim Dean, Language Arts and Academic Foundations: An internal recruitment will take place in September with an approximate starting date of October 1, 2022.
- Interim Senior Dean of Students: This position, replacing Dean Robert Ethington as he serves this year as the Vice President of Student Services (VPSS), will be advertised in just a day or so. The ASEC will be looking for faculty to serve on the Interim Senior Dean hiring committee on very short notice, as soon as we receive the request from President Chong's office asking the Academic Senate to appoint a faculty member to this committee.
- Dean of Instruction, Petaluma Campus: At their August meeting the Board of Trustees approved the continued service of Regina Guerra through the fall 2022 semester.

Faculty Hiring

- SRJC added 31 new faculty this year, including four new Ethnic Studies faculty members. Please consider attending the Affinity Group New Hire Mixer outside at the Burbank outdoor stage area on the Santa Rosa campus to welcome all our new hires!

What I Did Over the Summer:

- Attended *Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Leadership Institute* in June (in person). At this institute I was able to make strong connections with various ASCCC leaders and have established a strong rapport with them. We plan to invite ASCCC to offer us several training events again this year. The multiple opportunities to network and learn a whole lot of extra information was invaluable. I spent a good chunk of time talking with Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, President of the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC), our lobbying group. The theme of the Leadership Institute this summer was "Stronger Together" and featured the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges (SSCCC) presenting in partnership with the ASCCC throughout the institute.
- Attended the *ASCCC Curriculum Institute (CI)* (virtually), along with Ann Foster (co-chair of Curriculum Review Committee, or CRC), Josh Adams (Dean and CRC co-chair), Josh Pinault, Chas Crocker, Kerry Loewen (Dean), and Cathy Prince (Dean). The CI overflowed with important information on current and impending legislation including Assembly Bill (AB) 928, AB 1111, and AB 1705. Descriptions of these bills and how to contribute input can be found at both the ASCCC and FACCC websites. In brief,
 - AB 928, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, seeks to establish a single GE pattern of 34 units throughout all segments of the California Public Higher Education system. This bill proposes several changes to the current IGETC pattern. We will be talking about this at an upcoming AS meeting. Faculty can submit feedback about AB 928 at the ASCCC homepage at <https://asccc.org/>
 - AB 1111 requires all California Public Higher Education institutions to adopt a common course numbering system. You can provide input on the implementation of this bill also at the ASCCC homepage at <https://asccc.org/>
 - AB 1705: While the ASCCC and FACCC both supported the good intentions behind AB 705, both are opposed to AB 1705. ASCCC leadership has been very effective in working collegially with the CA legislators to revise portions of this bill, but now both

organizations are formally opposed to the adoption of the bill. Faculty and others are strongly advised to contact their legislators regarding AB 1705, and I recently sent out an email forwarded from FACCC that includes a link to submit such commentary to your representatives. I highly recommend taking a look at the email and considering sending in your feedback – FACCC makes this a very easy action to take.

- Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Planning Sessions: Over the summer, new VPAA Robert Holcomb and I began meeting on a weekly basis to establish a rapport and begin planning out the academic year. I am very pleased with our ability to communicate effectively, regularly, and productively. VPAA Holcomb also recently attended an ASEC meeting, and we had a productive, collaborative discussion we look forward to continuing.
- Student Government Assembly (SGA) President Abrea Tillman: Abrea and I met to establish communication and I am thrilled to be working with her. Abrea will be making regular reports to the Academic Senate, as it is my intention to foster stronger communications between the Academic Senate and the Student Government Assembly. I was also able to present on the AS 10+1 at the SGA's retreat this summer, along with our administrative assistant Natalia Haworth.
- ASEC Summer Planning Meetings: ASEC met 4 times over the summer, and in addition each member met in an individual one-on-one with me as we started putting together the agendas for our upcoming Academic Senate meetings, as well as other topics requiring advance planning.
- SRJC Student Housing: I served on the hiring committee for the Director of Student Housing – this was a courtesy on the part of Servitas, the company that will run our student housing. This turned out to be a very rewarding experience, as I learned a great deal about the care and thought that go into the hiring of the people who will work directly with our students in the dorm.
- Other: Made 2 reports to our Board of Trustees in June and August (their July meeting was cancelled); participated in 2 out of 3 Integrated Student Success Committee (ISSC) retreat organized and run by our own Byron Reaves, Equity Advocate, and Dean Matthew Long; met with Institutional Effectiveness director Jeremy Smotherman to prepare for work on the new Student Equity Plan 2.0 and SRJC's new Strategic Plan; met informally with Trustees Fishman and Battenfeld individually, began meeting with VPs Gene Durand (HR) and Kate Jolley (Finance) to plan upcoming committee meetings and share information; and generally did a lot of research to get up to speed on all things Academic Senate.

Academic Senate President Recommended Reading:

- *The Costs of Completion* by Robin Isserles – this very recent publication was written by a faculty member in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, but the observations she makes could well apply to our situation in California and is very relevant to the AB 1705 debate. You can listen to a 1-hour podcast of her talking about her work on the FACCC website at <https://www.faccc.org/>.
- *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk* – this book describes ways to achieve equitable outcomes for students – from the library catalog description: “offers practical guidance on the design and application of campus change strategies for achieving equitable outcomes.”

In closing, I would like to say once again how pleased I am about the opportunity to work with each of you!