

President's Report January 19, 2022

Welcome back, everyone. I don't know about you, but I really needed that break! As I've racked up the years—this is my 27th year at the College—and as I get older and more tired, I increasingly find that during each break, I'm wondering how I can find the strength, energy, and focus to meet the demands of a new semester. But every new semester I do, and it is because the work matters and I get to do that work with you all. So thank you to every one of you for making this the place I want to be.

Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Natalia Haworth. And welcome to Shawn Brumbaugh and Jan Kmetko, both of whom are filling vacancies for the spring semester.

We have two vacancies right now. Professor Romagnoli is on leave this semester, so we are recruiting for a one-semester vacancy in Area 3. That email has gone out; the deadline for expressing interest is next Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Area 10 leave replacement for Professor Ohkubo, which ends in early April, is also open. We have made numerous attempts to fill that vacancy; as we did not receive any expressions of interest last fall, that recruitment will remain open until filled. Any contract faculty member interested in serving should reply to the email that went out from the Senate account. We will send periodic reminders until that vacancy is filled.

The Program Mapper purchase is in progress. As a reminder, in December a group of people representing the GP program mapping workgroup, student services, IT, and Senate Exec attended a demo of the Program Mapper software and had a follow-up discussion. That discussion yielded a handful of questions that Vice President Kate Jolley and I followed up on with the Program Mapper rep, and based on that conversation VP Jolley took forward a recommendation to the President's Cabinet that the College make the purchase. This is a great tool that will help our students explore the many certificates and majors that SRJC offers, see recommended semester-by-semester course sequences, and also see variations in course requirements for majors based on some transfer institutions' unique requirements.

The student-facing website redesign project also took a significant step forward last week, when the Board of Trustees approved an expenditure of approximately \$80,000 for an "Award of Contract for Guided Pathways Website Pathway Consultant."

I'd like to thank the members of these Guided Pathways workgroups and others who are moving this work forward. We will be hearing from the Guided Pathway workgroups this spring and hope to schedule reports for the next couple of Senate meetings so that you can hear directly from the folks doing this work.

College Council continues its work on a redesign of the College's governance system. At our last meeting in December, the Council began work on a set of principles that will guide us as we move forward. We plan to make significant progress on a draft at a College Council retreat scheduled for January 31. Also, for those who may be unfamiliar with College Council, it is broadly representative of all constituent groups at the College. Members include all of the Vice Presidents, the presidents of Student Government, SEIU, the Classified Senate, AFA, and the Academic Senate; an additional student; and two additional Academic Senate appointees, Laura Aspinall and Anne Donegan.

This semester, the Educational Planning and Coordinating Council will be working on developing a plan that ensures that the ongoing work of reviewing policies and procedures occurs in a deliberate, sustainable way. We want to move away from a reactive mode of pushing through a lot of policy review each time we're up for accreditation. The goal is to identify the scope of the work and evenly distribute it throughout the years of each accreditation cycle. Additionally, we need a process that respects the Senate's role in advising on policy that falls within the 10 + 1. There is too much policy and procedure for the Academic Senate to closely vet—an initial review identified approximately 150 policies and procedures that are relevant to our areas of responsibility. So we need a process by which EPCC can

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assist the Senate as appropriate without weakening the Senate's role in representing the faculty and advising the Board.

The spring Senator election cycle will be up and running very soon. Please run, and please encourage your colleagues to consider running for a seat. The nomination period will close on Wednesday, February 23, at noon.

Important dates:

On Monday, January 24, from 3 to 5, Stephanie Curry and Michelle Bean from the ASCCC Executive Committee will present on how Senate work and DEIA work come together.

Our Spring Retreat is Friday, February 11, from 10 to 3; for the last 1.5 to 2 hours of the retreat, we will host presenters Cheryl Aschenbach and LaTonya Parker from the ASCCC Executive Committee, who will talk with us about Minimum Qualifications and Equivalency for Ethnic Studies.

Spring Plenary is April 7 through 9. Based on Senate resources, Exec will determine the number of Senators we can send. Senators, please consider this opportunity, especially if you have not yet attended a Plenary. The more Senators who have this experience, the better for our own Senate here at home. It's an opportunity to learn a lot about content—ideas, great programs at other colleges, etc.—and also what I find to be a really beautiful, respectful Senate process. Bringing that learning home strengthens us.

Finally, this is Amy Quinn's last meeting. I would like to thank Amy for being our admin extraordinaire for the past eleven-plus months. It has been a joy to work with Amy and to know that all of the behind-the-scenes work is being taken care of, which makes possible the work that all of us do here in this room. I am sad to say goodbye but happy for her as she embarks on new adventures. Thank you, Amy.

Therein ends my report.