

AS President Report to Senate
January 18, 2023
N. Persons

Welcome Back Natalia!

Please join me in welcoming back our administrative assistance extraordinaire, Natalia Haworth, from her maternity leave. I've had the pleasure of meeting little miss Adeline and she is a sweetie pie. We are so very grateful to Natalia for all her expertise and incredible efficiency that make it possible for your Academic Senate to function optimally.

Use of Pro/Con/Parliamentary mics for Action Items:

The Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) has decided to make use of Pro/Con mics for debate of some action items, and will use this technique for our deliberations regarding the CVC Course Exchange question. As a body, the Academic Senate has been very productive this past fall in engaging in efficient debate that teased out important considerations, and we have moved much business along to the benefit of our community. That said, we encountered some situations this fall in which redundant comments, off-topic comments, or circular arguments have occurred, and we have had numerous instances of time being extended during debate that have caused us to run out of time to address important issues. Your ASEC would like to clear the decks of all agenda items introduced during the fall 2022 semester so that so that we can continue making progress on new business, 10+1 matters of interest to us.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges uses the Pro/Con mic format for deliberations at all its Plenaries prior to voting on resolutions. As it is stated in the [Local Senates Handbook](#) (p. 41),

“The Academic Senate, at its plenary sessions, requires members wishing to speak to an item to queue before a “pro” microphone on one side of the room or at a “con” microphone on the opposite side or to ask questions about parliamentary procedure at a “parliamentary” microphone located mid-room. This procedure provides for an orderly discussion of the issues within the allotted time, enables the president to terminate discussion when no one appears to speak further in support or in opposition. This practice generally reduced redundant comments.”

We will employ this method at our meeting on January 18 when we deliberate the CVC Course Exchange agenda item. The CVC Course Exchange question has come to the Academic Senate in years past as well as presently, without the body making any definitive recommendation. The item is not time-sensitive, so senators will have the opportunity to work with this debate format in a non-pressured way. In this manner of debate, senators who wish to speak to the agenda item should plan to take turns lining up at the Pro or Con mics. When there are no further senators lined up at either mic, debate ceases, and voting occurs. This means that if multiple senators are lined up at one mic, but none at the other, debate is over. If senators have questions of clarification or of parliamentary procedure, they should go to the parliamentary mic.

Brown Act Meeting Requirements:

AB 2449, Updated Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements went into effect January 1st, 2023, and remains in effect until December 31, 2024. A legal update regarding this law is posted under the President's report on the current meeting agenda webpage and can be found at <https://sclscal.org/legal-update-memo-no-19-2022cc-updated-brown-act-virtual-meeting-requirements-ab-2449-cc/>. The most salient pieces of that legislation follow below:

- A quorum must participate in person from a singular physical location identified in the agenda, that is open to the public, and within the boundaries of the LEA. The Academic Senate's primary physical location is the Senate Chambers, 4638 Bertolini Building. We have a second physical location that is in the Call Building at the Petaluma campus to facilitate equitable participation by our Petaluma-based colleagues – these are our two official meeting locations.
- Members may appear via videoconference for “just cause” or under “emergency circumstances,” both of which are carefully defined in the legislation:
 - “Just cause” – Individual board members can participate remotely when caregiving of a family member, a contagious illness, a physical or mental disability, or LEA [this acronym not defined in the documentation, so I take it to refer to the service area boundaries of our District]-related travel preventing them from appearing in person, OR may not be used more than two meetings per calendar year per Board member.
 - “Emergency” – Individual board members can participate remotely when there is a physical or family medical emergency that prevents them from appearing in person. In this case conditions for participation are prescribed in the legislation.
- A process for ADA compliance must be in place at the meeting location – I have engaged our Vice President of Human Resources and requested the Senate Chambers be brought into compliance with ADA requirements, as the room presently is not.

Senator Attendance and Participation in Meetings of the Academic Senate:

The Academic Senate has been challenged this semester in carrying out effective deliberations due in part to numerous absences. These are challenging times, we know, with illness and numerous sources of stress affecting our ability to be physically present at Academic Senate meetings. Senators are asked to keep in mind the Preamble to our Constitution:

This Academic Senate is created to secure the professional rights and to carry out the responsibilities of the faculty of the Sonoma County Junior College District. The faculty have the traditional right of college faculty to participate in the governance of the college. ***As specialists in specific disciplines and as experienced instructors, the participation of the faculty in the governance of the college is essential for the district's pursuit of its mission.*** [Emphasis mine] As professionals, the faculty have a right and a duty to set professional and ethical standards for the conduct of their profession and to promote the excellence of their profession. In order to achieve

these ends and in accordance with Title 5 of the California Administrative Code, Subchapter 2, Sections 53200-53205, this Academic Senate is established.”

Furthermore, our Bylaws state in Article VI, Procedures: “A Senator who is unable to attend a meeting may designate in writing any other member of the Senate as proxy. All proxies must be in the hands of the Senate’s President or other Executive Committee member prior to the Call to Order of any meeting. In no case will a Senator hold more than one proxy at any given meeting” and “A Senate member absent from two consecutive meetings of the Senate or 50 percent of the meetings in a semester [4.5] may be declared delinquent by the President and after discussion with the Senator and the Executive Committee.” If so declared that seat will be considered vacant.”

I am communicating this information to you all not to be heavy-handed, but to remind you all of the importance of our work and the value of your involvement, so that we have multiple perspectives reflected in our deliberations, something we cannot accomplish without as many of us present together as possible on a regular basis. In addition, the many proxies we encountered at the fall semester meetings made it challenging to accurately count votes in a timely fashion. Please try your best to plan your schedule so that you are available and prepared to participate in all Academic Senate meetings so that you can be the best possible representative for the area you serve.

Collegiality in Action Workshop:

This semester we will engage in a **Collegiality in Action (CIA) workshop which will be held on Friday, February 10th, from 1:00-3:00. It is important for all senators to try to attend this workshop if at all possible.** This workshop is offered by the ASCCC and the Community College League (CCL). You can learn more about CIA visits on this [ASCCC CIA webpage](#). The purpose of a CIA visit is “to help districts and colleges successfully implement state law and regulations that call for effective participation by faculty, staff and students in district and college governance.” Senators who can be available at this time are asked to hold this date and time free for participation in this important workshop. Members of our administration and Board of Trustees have been invited to participate in addition to faculty members from our Academic Senate and union. Please be on the lookout for additional information. Your ASEC team met together with Virginia May (President of the ASCCC) and Larry Galizio (President and CEO of the CCL), described our concerns regarding the current culture here at SRJC relevant to 10+1 issues, and our hopes for improving collegial relationships facilitating our ability to carry out the academic and professional matters that are the 10+1.

Constitution Consent Item on Agenda:

On our agenda for the January 18 meeting, you’ll notice there is a Consent item regarding the reconstitution of the Constitution work group. The purpose of this is to ask this group, consisting of consisting of Monica Ohkubo, Joe Fassler, Tara Jacobson, John Stover, Kat Valenzuela, Jen Carlin-Goldberg, and Anne Donegan, to reconstitute itself to pick up this work, but we’d like to add the Bylaws revision to the charge since the two documents are so closely linked. If you feel

more discussion of the issue is needed, please feel free to pull this item from the Consent agenda.

Representatives Needed:

SGA Liaison: We need a Senator willing to be our liaison to the Student Government Assembly. This group meets every Monday at 3:00. I've tried to cover this myself during the fall semester without success.

Planning and Budget Council: We have two vacancies for senate appointees this semester, as two faculty members are on sabbatical. PBC meets from 1:30-3:00 on 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly, see the PBC webpage here for further information:

<https://bussharepnt2019.santarosa.edu/committees/pbc/SitePages/Committee%20Home%20Page.aspx> . I will put out a call following our Jan. 18th Academic Senate meeting calling for those interested to reply. The first meeting of PBC is Monday, January 23rd.

ASEC Mini-retreat:

Your ASEC was hard at work over the break. We held a mini-retreat in early January at which we reviewed our efforts and progress over the fall 2022 semester and considered ways in which we can continue making progress this spring. You're seeing results from this in this report as well as in the structuring of descriptions associated with agenda items. You frequently hear me saying "we are all learning" and in fact we are. I look forward to continuing to grow and learn as I serve as your Academic Senate President. I continue to be grateful for the hard work and contributions of all ASEC members and all of you academic senators in bringing their/your own perspectives and lived experiences to our Academic Senate work.

Information Regarding Closed Sessions:

A suggestion was made at our November 30, 2022 meeting regarding the use of closed session to take a vote on appointments to search committees. The use of closed sessions for purposes of this type is expressly prohibited per government code, as is holding a secret vote for officers within local senates. Please see the *Local Senates Handbook*, p. 33 under the "Open Meetings Act" section to read the full explanation.

Change to Superintendent/President Search Advisory Committee:

George Sellu was originally appointed to this committee by the Academic Senate but is not able to serve. Margarita Gonzalez-Jordan, another faculty member who had originally applied to serve has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Thank you, Margarita!

Correction to AS President Comment at 12/7/22 Meeting:

At this meeting I indicated that the maker of a motion may withdraw the motion up until it is seconded. This is incorrect: the motion may be withdrawn by its maker up until it is restated by the chair (AS President), prior to deliberation. We are currently researching further details on withdrawal of motions and will report back.