

AS President Report to Academic Senate  
March 15, 2023  
N. Persons

My report is relatively brief this time – it was a short cycle between meetings with the interviews for the Superintendent/President position taking up a good chunk of last week.

**Planning and Budget Council:**

PBC met March 13<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda were the Budget Calendar, ACCJC Institutional Set Standards, an update on the Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives, a Grants Structure update, and information about the Hire UP Pilot Program. The Goals and Objectives item received a good bit of discussion, with specific interest in the Strategy 1 (“Academic Quality”) Goals and Objectives. These were developed through Town Halls in fall 2022 semester, presented at a PDA session this semester in February, and reviewed at multiple Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee meetings. Faculty present at the council meeting on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> indicated they would like to see this brought to the Academic Senate for more than the report currently scheduled to occur at our meeting 3/15/2023. This item is therefore on our April 19<sup>th</sup> agenda for Discussion for senators to provide input and feedback regarding the Strategy 1 Goals and Objectives - the soonest date that there is room on our agenda for new business. The Goals and Objectives will, in the interim, be shared widely with the college community. Please note that, unlike the Mission, Vision, Values statement, the Strategic Plan goals and objectives do not become part of district policy or procedure but are components of the Strategic Plan itself.

**Constitution/Bylaws Workgroup:**

This workgroup, composed of senators John Stover, Monica Ohkubo, Tara Johnson, Tara Jacobson, and myself, met for the first time last week for 2 hours. We’ll meet again this Thursday and again after spring break and hope to bring a proposal to the body for first consideration on April 5<sup>th</sup>. This work is important to the functioning of the Academic Senate. Several portions of the Constitution and Bylaws need to be updated now that the body has approved the permanent expansion of the Exec committee. The workgroup plans to highlight topics requiring specific attention from the body, such as the fate of our subcommittee Faculty Professional Ethics, area representation, and subcommittee language.

**College Council:**

At our meeting of College Council on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we agreed to use the same Guidelines for Dialog used for the Collegiality in Action workshop. We then moved on to a brief review of the documents shared from last year’s initial work on Shared Governance Reorganization. The Council then reviewed use of a new document that displays responses from SRJC committees and councils in a functional way and agreed we will look at work product/output and use this data from each group to try mapping committees/councils as part of a reporting and organizational structure. The Council also heard a proposal from Dr. Jeremy Smotherman regarding a proposed new Institutional Effectiveness Committee. This matter was referred to the President’s cabinet for discussion and then to come back to College Council. Finally, we reviewed a proposal from the Faculty Equivalency Committee to officially indicate meeting times

to be weekly on Fridays from 1:00-3:00, with the understanding that 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays will be the official meeting date when business items will be addressed, and that all other Fridays will be held open for “just in case” review of Equivalency Cases. The College Council agreed to this formalization of the meeting days/times.

**President’s Consultation Council:**

Dr. Chong’s council met March 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the agenda was a report-out from each constituent group, an update on the Superintendent/President Search, a Shared Governance Update from College Council co-chairs Nancy Persons and Gene Durand, and an update on the new Student Information System (Banner, by Ellucian) implementation.

**Superintendent/President Interviews:**

While hiring committee deliberations are confidential, I can say that I and 3 other faculty (Margarita Gonzalez, Sean Martin, and Brenda Flyswithawks) served on this committee. I was very inspired by some of what we saw and heard and have high hopes for the future of SRJC. Announcement of forums for the candidates moved forward in the process may have been announced by the time this report is published, but they are planned to take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Educational Planning and Coordinating Committee:**

EPCC met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, at which time we reviewed proposals for reinstatement of the Pharmacy Technician AS and Certificate, a Business Management Certificate, a Linux Essentials Skills Certificate, and Linux Administration Skills certificate. These programs are all moving forward.

**Faculty Equivalency Committee:**

The FEC met last Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we continued reviewing our process for Equivalency Case Review, discussing specifically how we can be efficient in reviewing and determining outcomes for cases while also improving equity in our process. We agreed that we will make use of a form internal to the committee that could speed up the notification process when a case is clearly uncontested either in favor or rejection of the equivalency request. There are times when it is quite clear from the evidence provided that an applicant is obviously qualified (or not), and in this case we acknowledged that we could provide Screening and Hiring committees (SIC) with a faster response. We hope that this will help speed up SIC’s ability to notify applicants of intent to interview. We further agreed that, should a case require our synchronous discussion in a meeting, we will invite the discipline expert(s) to join us in that conversation. The FEC, in collaboration with Human Resources, is querying other HR departments to find out if any can recommend best practices that help Equivalency Committees maximize their ability to be equitable through the process while also being expedient.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, refreshing spring break. That said, I know that many of you will be very busy grading mid-term exams and papers, and I hope that in the midst of that important work you are able to care for yourselves as well.