

AS President Report to Academic Senate
September 6, 2023
N. Persons

Thank you!

- I want to thank all who were able to attend our retreat last Friday the 25th. I know not everyone could make it and appreciate the advance notice from those who alerted me that they could not participate. We had robust discussions and got to know each other, which is always a great help when we need to come together to work productively. I would like to extend my thanks to the Senate Exec team – they carried the bulk of the load in presenting segments of our retreat program and it was a pleasure to watch them work. For everyone’s benefit, the presentation shared at the retreat is available here: [Academic Senate Fall 2023 Retreat presentation](#) and I highly recommend all senators review slides 7-12 as they contain important information about how we conduct Academic Senate meetings (and why), and also provide information helpful to senators and the constituents they represent regarding expectations of senators.

New Faculty Mentor Program:

- The Academic Senate hosts the Mentor Program for new faculty. This year we are pleased to have 13 new faculty members participating and had over 23 faculty step up to volunteer as mentors. Mentor and mentee pairings were sent out to these faculty members, and they will have their first social event for them next Friday afternoon following their New Faculty Learning Program training. Some pairings have already managed to meet up and get going.

Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) and All Faculty Association (AFA) Cabinet Collaboration:

- The ASEC invited AFA Cabinet members to meet up with us and discuss areas of mutual interest and to begin establishing a collaborative working relationship. We shared desired agenda items and agreed upon a list of issues to discuss. The two groups met on August 30th and discussed 4 topics: an update on Self-evaluations; opened a discussion to identify areas of overlapping interest; and an update on ASEC’s request to negotiate additional reassigned time for the expanded ASEC group. The fourth item discussed was the sharing of information on the Academic Senate’s Coaching Program. I shared information about the general types of services I have requested from the ASCCC and explained that AFA Cabinet and executive council would at some point be invited to participate in some of our Coaching Program activities, should they be willing and interested. I am extremely grateful to our AFA colleagues for their demonstrated willingness to engage with ASEC in this manner. Both groups have agreed to meet up again to continue the conversation in the spring 2024 semester.

Coaching Program Update:

- I reported previously that we have submitted a list of desired services to comprise our Coaching Program with ASCCC. Since that report I’ve received confirmation from our coach, David Morse of Long Beach City College (and past-president of the ASCCC) that he is now working with ASCCC to arrange for an official contract for SRJC to sign off on so that we can begin to consult with David.

Guided Pathways:

- There will soon be a series of 5 town halls, including one virtual one, where the college community can hear about Guided Pathways work and offer ideas as we continue to work toward implementation of Guided Pathways at SRJC. Dra. Garcia, Dean Matthew Long, and President-elect Dr. John Stover and I will all be present for each town hall and I am very interested to share information and hear from as many of you as possible. This is a big opportunity for those with longstanding interest in Guided Pathways to come back to the table and contribute actively to this effort.
- President-elect Stover continues to work hard to shepherd along the First Year Experience Course the Academic Senate voted to recommend be developed as part of the Guided Pathways project. He has consulted and communicated religiously with various faculty and staff in an effort to move this project along. You should soon see an announcement regarding the proposed course, and I anticipate there will be further discussion regarding it during the current academic year.

AB 928 Implementation Update:

- AB 928, the Cal-GETC single general education pattern law, was passed last year and now the intersegmental committee is working on implementation. You have all seen by now email from me notifying you of open hearings on the implementation plans for both this legislation and AB 1111 (Common Course Numbering). Regarding Cal-GETC, some decisions have been made which will affect some course offerings at SRJC. The biggest impact of this legislation and its implementation will be on what is known as Area E of the CSU GE pattern. Area E is where lifelong learning courses are located, and Area E is being eliminated as part of the Cal-GETC implementation. I recently requested to meet with our Articulation Officer, Kate Blackwell, to educate myself on the full implications of the implementation of Cal-GETC. Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) faculty chair Ann Foster and Dean of Curriculum Josh Adams joined us for this meeting. Kate explained she is developing a presentation about the effects of Cal-GETC that will ultimately be shared with specific disciplines, as the implications of the loss of Area E and other implementation factors affect very specific areas of our curriculum.

Academic Senate Administrative Assistant Recruitment:

- External recruitment for the AAI for our body is underway. The deadline to apply is September 6th. The committee will meet soon to develop screening criteria and we expect to be able to conduct interviews to find a new permanent person toward the end of the month of September. I continue to appreciate the contributions of our STNC assistant, Trevor Acebo, in the meantime.

General Shared Governance Update:

- Most shared governance committees will begin meeting in September this year. I am gratified to see us returning to the habit of allowing classes to get underway, including the start of Transfer Track classes this week at our Petaluma campus, prior to beginning the regular committee meeting cycle. The District Online Committee met today, and College Council will meet for the first time this year tomorrow, September 7th. I am pleased to say that Superintendent/President Dr. Garcia will be a regular member of the council this year.

Screening and Interviewing Committee (SIC) Appointments:

- Vice President, Student Services: The ASEC met last Thursday, without Executive Secretary Aspinall present, and discussed appointment to the SIC for the Vice President of Student Services. We unanimously agreed to appoint Laura Aspinall (DRD) and Margarita Gonzalez (Counseling) to serve on this SIC based upon the strong qualifications they presented in their emails indicating interest to serve. Several other faculty responded to the call to serve, for which we are very grateful. It is never a good feeling to turn down faculty who volunteer to serve.
- Vice President, Human Resources: The call for faculty to indicate interest in serving on this SIC will have gone out by Sept. 6th, and the deadline to reply with a statement of qualifications and interest (not to exceed 250 words) is due by noon on Tuesday, September 12th.

Reminder!

- ASEC meets every Thursday morning via Zoom from 8:30-10:00 a.m. for our agenda-planning session. You are always welcome to join us as a guest. Please email ASEC if you would like to join us, and please let us know in advance if there is an issue you would like time to present to us.