

AS President Report to Senate
N. Persons
September 20, 2023

Welcome New Senators!

Please join me in welcoming returning senator Scott Rosen, representing Area 4, and Albert Yu, at-large representative for Area 5 and a first-time SRJC senator. Both terms run through spring 2025. I would also like to express my appreciation to Casandra Hillman and Jordan Bell, who had hoped to serve but are unable to do so at this time.

Friendly Reminders:

- The Academic Senate embraces Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism, and Accessibility (IDEAA) values. Please consider these as you review materials for our meetings, and consider issues from the student perspective.
- Reading materials prior to attending senate meetings means you can focus on comments shared during deliberations, and that your own comments come from an informed perspective and that you have had time to gather input from the constituents you represent.
- Reading materials prior to participation in meeting supports robust discussion and has the potential to help us move items along. You can see from the abbreviated list of “Future Agenda Items” that we have many important issues to address, and efficient meeting discussions are the surest way to get to issues of importance to our students.

Area B Meeting:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Area B meeting will be on Friday, October 27. This meeting will take place virtually only. SRJC was going to host the meeting, but ASCCC conducted a survey to see how many would attend in person and the number was too small to support making hosting worthwhile. The time of the meeting has not been confirmed yet. As a reminder, you can receive notices about Area B-related things by signing up on the [ASCCC site to receive listserv messages](#).

Faculty Leadership Institute:

It is never too soon to start thinking about future Academic Senate leadership. Every June the ASCCC runs a very effective Faculty Leadership Institute (FLI). If you want to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the Academic Senate locally and statewide, the FLI is the experience for you. **In 2024 the FLI will be in Palm Springs from June 20-22 and only in-person participation will be offered.** You can get a sense of the type of professional development offered at the FLI by reviewing [last year's program](#). Please share this information widely with your constituent. We need to increase the number of SRJC faculty who are educated in the role of the Academic Senate and foster strong senate leadership for the future. ***I have been working to secure funding to send more than the usual 1-2 faculty members in 2024, so stay tuned.***

Appointment to VP of Human Resources Screening and Interviewing Committee (SIC):

I am pleased to report that some members of the Academic Senate Exec Committee have voted to appoint Tara Johnson and Tara Jacobson to the SIC for this position. Tara Jacobson and I both

applied, and therefore we did not participate in any part of the appointment process. I can say that the ASEC members who did deliberate used our usual criteria of breadth and depth of experience at SRJC, a diversity in discipline and CE/Transfer faculty, as well as seeking diversity in the range of lived experiences. I can also share that the District has requested we exhaust all possibility of contract faculty participation prior to extending a call to participate to associate faculty.

College Council:

College Council met on September 7th and meets again Sept 20th. At our first meeting we introduced the tri-chair model to the Council, which voted to approve this change to the College Council structure. The tri-chairs this year are Dr. Garcia, Debbie Weatherly (Classified Senate President) and myself (AS president). At the first meeting we addressed policies 2.1 (now referred to as Board Procedure or BP 2410) and 2.5 (will become BP 2510) and procedures 2.1P (now referred to as Administrative Procedure or AP 2410) and 2.5P (will become AP 2510). As a reminder, SRJC is in transition from its own policy manual to use of the Community College League of California (CCL) board templates. Use of these templates does not mean we cannot modify them to our specific needs, but does help us by automatically updating policy and procedure as laws and regulations change.

[BP 2410 Board Policies and Administrative Procedures](#) authorizes the Board of Trustees to “adopt such policies as are authorized by law or that it determines to be necessary for the efficient operation of the District.” It further states that “The Superintendent/President shall issue administrative procedures as statements of method for implementing Board policies.” This is a standard approach to Board and Superintendent/President authority, however, it is a departure from what had been the practice at SRJC, where pieces of 2.1P and 2.5P give/gave the Board authority over procedure.

The current work of College Council thus is to untangle this mixture of responsibility, so next steps include Dr. Garcia working with CCL consultant Jane Wright to develop a draft AP2410, then to revise current procedure 4.3.10P: Management Team Hiring Procedures to convert it to the CCL templates policy and administrative procedure at the request of our classified professional colleagues. Next steps include revision of our old Section 2 and 4 policies/procedures, these involve our governance and human resources. As a reminder, our own Faculty Hiring Procedure 4.3.2P is in Dr. Garcia’s hands, as is our recommendation to make 10+1 matters #4 (Educational program development) and #8 (Policies for Faculty Professional Development Activities) areas in which the Board and District rely primarily upon the advice of the Academic Senate. These two issues are related to the untangling of approval of procedure from policy and will be dealt with once that work is completed.

Finally, the Council is discussing possibly issuing a new survey to all committees and councils at SRJC in collaboration with the office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning. Not all committees and councils were included in the prior survey for various reasons, and additional information may be sought.

Program Review, Revitalization, and Discontinuance (Policy 3.6) Committee:

The 3.6 committee held its first meeting last week as well. As previously mentioned, the committee will now be meeting regularly on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. At our first meeting we reviewed the 3.6 procedure and had an overview of the spreadsheet of certificates and programs coming to us with recommendations for their disposition from the Academic Affairs Council (AAC). The committee's next steps are to eliminate from further review any of the 128 programs on the list which we feel do not need any further review (typically because AAC recommends program is vital and should continue, or due to voluntary discontinuance of a program). Once the list is whittled down we will identify certificates and programs needing further review prior to making a recommendation regarding all programs included in this year's cycle to the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA).