AS President Report to Academic Senate
N. Persons
October 4, 2023

Reminders:
- **Call for faculty interest in serving on Wait List work group**: Deadline to respond to Academic Senate email is Friday, October 6th, at noon. AS President Nancy Persons will be chairing this workgroup. Email sent to all contract faculty.
- **Call for faculty interest in serving on District Educational Plan work group**: Deadline to respond to the Academic Senate email is Wednesday, October 11th, at noon. AS President Nancy Persons and Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Dr. Robert Holcomb will co-chair this work group, that will serve as part of a larger multi-constituent work group.
- **Guided Pathways Town Halls**: There are two more Town Halls on Guided Pathways to be held on Thursday, October 5th from 12:00-1:30 in the Bertolini Student Activity Center (SAC) and on Friday, October 6th via zoom from 1:00-2:30. These are highly interactive events where participants first are given data especially relevant to part-time student achievement at SRJC, then presented with 3 examples of typical SRJC students, and finally asked to provide input on perceived barriers to student success and potential solutions to address them. If you have not already attended one of the town halls, or if you have but want to participate again, you're highly encouraged to do so.

Abstaining:
- Senators, please consider this gentle reminder that when you abstain from a vote, it means none of your constituents were represented by a vote. It is natural to abstain when you have not been present for discussion (for example – abstaining from voting on minutes for a meeting you missed) and consideration of an issue. That said, the fact that we vote and make recommendations to the District and Board underscores the importance of reading materials prior to coming to Senate meetings – when you are well-informed, you can better inform your constituents of items up for vote and come prepared to participate effectively. For example, at our last meeting we had an amendment to a motion presented that may have been unexpected, but being cognizant of the issue to be voted on and having read materials in advance makes it more likely that you will be able to make a decision regarding how to vote in these instances.

Action Item Refresher:
I see the academic senate body starting to extend time limits on discussions. While this is often desired, it carries with it the danger of delaying our ability to bring new, timely, and important issues to the body for consideration. In the spirit of helping refresh everyone's memory regarding the Peer Online Course Review (POCR) agenda item, I offer the following recap of the issue:

POCR:
- As a teaching college SRJC must have some type of Peer Online Course Review Process in place

- We have time to try out a pilot project should the body so decide, because becoming a Teaching College is a multi-year process
- A typical pilot project would call for 2 reviewers (needing some type of compensation, would refer to our collective bargaining agent, the AFA) and 5-7 faculty with courses willing to undergo review
- There is training available from CVC in form of a 6-week, approximately 10 hours/week for training to be a reviewer
- Courses are reviewed, NOT the faculty teaching them. This has nothing to do with faculty evaluation, only *course review* in the following 4 areas:

  Section A: Content Presentation
  The 14 elements for quality course design in this section address how content is organized and accessed in the course management system. Key elements include course navigation, learning objectives, and access to student support information.

  Section B: Interaction
  The six elements in this section address instructor-initiated and student-initiated communication. Key elements of quality course design covered in this section include regular effective contact, both between and among instructors and students.

  Section C: Assessment
  The eight elements in this section address the variety and effectiveness of assessments within the course. Key elements include the alignment of objectives and assessments, the clarity of instructions for completing activities, and evidence of timely and regular feedback.

  Section D: Accessibility
  The 16 elements in this section are reviewed to determine if a student using assistive technologies will be able to access the instructor's course content as required by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (also known as "508 Compliance"). The accessibility elements in Section D focus on instructor-generated content that is primarily under the control of faculty when developing a course.

Planning and Budget Council (PBC):
- At PBC's last meeting of September 25th, we heard an update regarding the Guided Pathways workplan, which is in the process of being written at this time by members of the reconstituted multi-constituent workgroup formed at the call of past President Chong and using a highly collaborative approach. At this meeting Dr. Jeremy Smotherman gave an update on progress related to our most recent Accreditation Institutional Self-evaluation Report (ISER), most specifically regarding the Quality Focus Essay (QFE) which is included at the end of the ISER. One recommendation focuses on the role of College Council in establishing a two-way communication model for participatory governance. Finally, we also heard an update on PRPP Cabinet Priorities, an update on the Strategic Enrollment Management workgroup, and on a

proposal for a grant for the EMC program through CARESTAR, a nonprofit foundation. The grant provides $25,000 over three years to revise a community health workers course for the Native American community in partnership with emergency medical services and tribal community health representatives. The grant includes a 5% for indirect costs to the college. It was agreed the grant aligns with the Strategic Plan and the grant should move forward. There were several "hot topics" that arose during the PBC meeting and these have all been added as future Discussion Topic agenda items for PBC so that the council is able to proceed with current business without becoming sidetracked and so that important issues that arise can have their own discussion time.

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

- The Program Review Committee met most recently on Tuesday, September 26th. The committee is currently reviewing first all certificates and degrees up for cyclical review that have been designated as "Vital" by Academic Affairs Council (AAC). Once we've eliminated any programs from that list that we feel need no further review we will move on to review of those designated for "revitalization" and "discontinuance." We plan to start staggering discussions with deans and department chairs regarding specific programs while we continue to work through the list of "revitalize" or "discontinue" to identify all programs for which we feel we need to bring in deans and/or department chairs for consultation. The committee meets next on October 10th, at which time we hope to determine which, if any, of the programs marked "Vital" require any further review. To accomplish this work the committee has broken into 3 pairs of faculty for review of all "vital" certificates and programs.