

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

District Educational Plan:

Responses to the call for faculty to serve on the Faculty District Educational Plan workgroup have been underwhelming. We have had several faculty respond, but several are from one discipline while many other types of disciplines are not represented at all. I will be issuing one final call for faculty to respond to this opportunity. Please communicate the importance of this work to your constituents and emphasize the need for a broad array of faculty disciplines to be represented. The typical schedule and workload for this type of workgroup is to hold 1-hour meetings on a weekly or twice monthly basis, with no homework involved.

Strategic Plan Discussion Update:

At our December 6 meeting we will revisit the issue of our vote on the Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives, Strategy 1 Objective 1. In May last year the Academic Senate voted 12-11 with 2 abstentions to recommend that this objective be edited – please see the [Minutes of May 17, 2023](#) for details. Subsequent to this vote in favor of recommending a change to the objective, former Superintendent/President Chong indicated that the District was rejecting the recommendation. Strategic Planning falls under 10+1 #10, which concerns “Processes for institutional planning and budget development,” an area of mutual agreement with the Academic Senate. Your Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) recently consulted with our Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) coach, Dr. David Morse, who advised that the District should not have outright rejected the recommendation, but should have come back with an offer to collaborate further. It is the desire of the ASEC to honor the 10+1 and for that reason we have placed this topic on the agenda for our December 6th meeting. Senators are encouraged in the meantime to consider how we might honor the intention of this objective as currently written while also considering what language we could use in a broader sense to communicate the general need for faculty professional development in support of academic quality.

Guided Pathways Update – Nov. 15 Discussion Item:

The Workplan: The Guided Pathways *Workplan* is a 10+1 #10 issue: Processes for institutional planning and budget development. This is an area of mutual agreement, not one where the Board/District are to rely primarily upon the advice of the Academic Senate. Once actual proposals for implementation are developed, they will likely be related to other 10+1 issues such as “Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines”, and such proposals will need to come to the Senate for our recommendation. At our November 15 meeting senators may want to consider whether they want to move this agenda item to an Action Item for our December 6th meeting. As an action item senators would have 3 options: they could recommend to endorse the GP Workplan (nice, but not required), they could opt to reject the Workplan, or they could opt to take no action at all. This item is planned to the Board at its December 12th meeting and needs to be submitted to the Chancellor’s office by the end of the year.

District Leadership: On November 2nd, 2022, the Academic Senate voted to recommend to the District the establishment of a short-term, high priority, multi-constituent workgroup whose purpose is to propose a structure for a Guided Pathways as soon as possible. That workgroup was formed and delivered to former Superintendent/President Dr. Chong a proposal on March 6, 2023, which Dr. Chong elected to hold for the incoming new Superintendent/President, Dr. Garcia, to respond to. The discussion leading up to the Nov. 2nd vote included much acknowledgement that the work of Guided Pathways requires the collaboration of multiple constituent groups within our District. The compilation of discussions regarding Guided Pathways is included in your supporting documents in preparation for our meeting November 15th. Based upon discussions and the recommendations of the Academic Senate, and following the presentation of the most recent report on Guided Pathways to the Senate on October 18th, 2023, the ASEC wrote to Dr. Garcia, outlining the conclusions presented in the report and requesting that she “immediately assume leadership” of Guided Pathways at SRJC.

In her response to our email, Dr. Garcia stated the following:

Thank you for sharing the Guided Pathways Academic Senate report from the October 18, 2023, meeting and your conclusions.

Academic Senate has been leading the Guided Pathways initiative at SRJC for over five years and I am grateful for your service and commitment to this work. Later today, I will be issuing a District wide communication announcing the Office of the President has accepted leadership of the Guided Pathways initiative in response to this request from the Academic Senate Executive Committee.

In this communication, you’ll learn more about the new cross-collaborative workgroup informed by the Taskforce’s proposal that I will be creating to move forward recommendations for Guided Pathways that help us address systemic barriers and opportunities for growth that can impact student success. I will be proposing a structure that more clearly defines decision making processes. The District will ensure that appropriate levels of consultation and opportunities for participation or engagement of the work will align with our shared governance and collective bargaining agreements.

I recommend the Academic Senate formally acknowledge that the Taskforce successfully completed its task. The District will assume Guided Pathways leadership moving forward.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we continue to advance Guided Pathways at SRJC.

This is the reason for the *District Leadership* portion of this discussion item “Guided Pathways Workplan and District Leadership” you see on our agenda for November 15. *Please note that Dr. Garcia has suggested the Academic Senate consider formally acknowledging the District Leadership of Guided Pathways.* I would like to emphasize that the Academic Senate is not giving up control over Guided Pathways, but, as our past minutes of discussions indicate, that we have recognized there are many facets involving multiple constituent groups that need to be involved in the implementation of Guided Pathways at SRJC. Dr. Garcia’s email to ASEC (shared above)

and her subsequent email to our entire college community on November 1st are indicative of the District's intent to continue consulting with the Academic Senate regarding all Guided Pathways issues related to all academic and professional matters falling under the [10+1](#) .

Standard Language for Use in Work Group Calls for Participation:

The Academic Senate has been making use of task forces/work groups lately to be productive in moving the business of the body forward. We have noticed that some aspects of work group calls for participation could be standardized. To that end, the ASEC has developed language for discussion and possible recommendation to use regularly. You will see the proposed language on the agenda for this week's meeting as an Information Item. ASEC does not want to get out ahead of the senate body, so you are asked to consider whether you feel this would be helpful to future calls for work group participants and reflects the will of the body. This item can be moved from Information to Discussion and possible Action should the body agree it would be useful in some form.