

AS President Report to Senate  
February 1, 2023  
N. Persons

#### Academic Senate Exec Committee (ASEC) meeting reminder:

All are welcome at weekly ASEC planning meetings. We meet remotely via Zoom every Thursday morning from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Please email us for the link and let us know if you want to speak about an issue with us so we can incorporate that into our agenda for these weekly meetings.

#### Retreat Thanks:

I want to thank all senators who were able to participate in our regular retreat on January 27<sup>th</sup>. I know it was not possible for everyone to attend. We had a robust discussion at the beginning of the meeting using appreciative inquiry to gather feedback on what we as individuals, as a body, and as an exec team have done to make our meetings effective, and we explored and shared what we all can do to improve upon them moving forward. One thing is very clear: 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday meetings are hard for everyone! Senators also commented that they appreciate others refraining from repetitious comments, value input from their colleagues from other disciplines, and wish they could hear more from those who don't speak up often. We also engaged in small group exercise and large group sharing a series of realistic scenarios involving 10+1 issues, talked about how to see these through the lens of the Academic Senate's purview, how to identify when issues overlap with our union and administrative colleagues' realms, and when an issue might not be a 10+1 but nevertheless communication and involvement of the Academic Senate would be helpful. We identified our current areas of primacy, where to find this agreement with our Board of Trustees (policy!), and learned that these should be reviewed annually. The retreat also included a review of our Constitution and Bylaws, as well as our senate subcommittees, with an eye to which fall under the Brown Act, and which ones we should consider renaming Ad Hoc Committees when we take up the revision of our Bylaws and Constitution.

#### Collegiality in Action Workshop:

All academic senators and AFA executive council members received an invitation to this event, which takes place in person on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-3:00 in Doyle Library room 146 (ground floor), from the Academic Senate. The workshop is jointly hosted by the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and the Community College League (CCL). The workshop presenters will include Virginia May (ASCCC), Larry Galizio (CCL) and Jeffrey Michels (CCCI).

This event was confirmed only after agreement to participate was given by all parties: this includes our Board of Trustees, the President's Cabinet, all instructional and student services deans, and our AFA leadership. I am especially grateful to our faculty union colleagues for agreeing to share part of their retreat day with us by joining us for this workshop. The complexities of getting this group of SRJC and external individuals together at the same place and time are daunting, so everyone's willingness is especially appreciated. I would like to extend

a special gesture of gratitude to Dr. Chong for his support in encouraging all administrators and the Board of Trustees to participate.

#### Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Spring Area B Meeting:

The spring ASCCC Area B meeting apparently will take place on March 24, not March 17 as previously announced. If the 3/24 date is in fact the correct one, SRJC will not be able to host, as this is during our spring break, most won't plan to attend, and members of ASEC have alternate plans already in place. I am trying to get confirmation from ASCCC of the correct date and will confirm as soon as possible. The ASCCC Area Meetings are where we receive important updates on legislation and other activity affecting the California Community College system, and also where we get a first look at draft Plenary resolutions and are able to present local senate resolutions intended to become part of the official ASCCC Resolutions Packet for statewide consideration.

#### Spring Plenary:

The [Spring 2023 ASCCC Plenary](#) will take place April 20<sup>th</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> (I've linked to the event webpage to ensure I am reporting on the correct date!). Your ASEC Team would like to send (virtually or physically) senators to this event to the extent financially possible. Please start thinking about your potential interest as a call will go out soon soliciting it. This plenary takes place in Anaheim. Other valuable ASCCC events are also coming up, and include both the Leadership and Curriculum Institutes.

#### *Los Cien*:

As part of my personal efforts to enhance my own understanding of the situation of others and decentralize my own cultural experiences, I attended a profound and inspiring *Los Cien* event, "An Honest Conversation about Anti-blackness" on Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>. The event included a panel of presenters with powerful messages to share and was the first of its kind hosted by the Latinx leadership group, *Los Cien*. If you're not a member of *Los Cien*, or are not familiar with this important Sonoma County organization, I am happy to share what I know about this inspiring group of leaders. There were three hundred people in attendance, with another two hundred on a waiting list, reflecting the interest in Sonoma County for experiences of this type. I am grateful to live in a place where this is the disposition of many, rather than where negative voices dominate.

#### Planning and Budget Council (PBC):

PBC met on January 23: The Council heard presentations regarding 4 grants being proposed for application: Basic Needs, Improving Upper Division STEM Education, EEO Innovative Best Practices, and the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices grant. The STEM grant would allow for a qualified student to participate in hands-on research opportunity in Switzerland in the area of Physics. The EEO grant would be used to provide deans and potentially department chairs with professional development in the hiring and retention of faculty of color.

The CRP&P grant, for \$300,000, would be used to enhance the current Communities of Practice. Funds come from Chancellor's office IEPI office. Part of the 2019 DEI Integration Plan

intended “to advance implementation of system-level strategies to recruit, retain, and support faculty and staff diversity. A core focus of this work has been to create and provide students with an equity-centered, anti-racist learning environment where they can be successful.” The plan has the goal to eliminate cultural bias in teaching and curriculum and to counteract institutional racism. The core goal of this grant is to “develop DEIA-focused professional development opportunities to upskill faculty and successfully expand their capacities to serve students, improving students’ experiences and outcomes.” I conducted 2 meetings about this grant with faculty and administrators, including our professional development coordinators, Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) chair Ann Foster, and one of our Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Coordinators. The proposal for this grant is in progress. In the meantime you can learn more about this grant at <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Institutional-Effectiveness/Grant-Opportunities/Culturally-Responsive-Pedagogy-and-Practices-Grants> . If awarded the grant, we are hoping to use the funds to significantly expand our Communities in Practice opportunities for faculty to participate and facilitate.

PBC members also heard an update on the Enrollment Management Plan, the Accreditation response plan, and the College Council committee survey. The co-chairs of PBC will draft a response to the survey to be discussed with PBC at its next meeting.

#### Enrollment Management Workgroup (EMW):

The EMW met last on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The plan was briefly discussed at PBC as noted above. The workgroup has been officially disbanded, per the decision of PBC. In its place a new Enrollment Management Implementation Team has been created. I know we will be hearing more about this in coming months from our Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Dr. Robert Holcomb.

#### College Council:

College Council is holding its first meeting of the spring 2023 semester on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:15. As a reminder, all are able to attend College Council meetings as guests. This week on the agenda we will discuss the GreenPrint proposal of the Sustainability Committee, the proposed changes to the Integrated Student Success Committee (ISSC) charge, continue discussing the Shared Governance Reorganization by reviewing our recent Committee Mapping Exercise, continue discussing the College Council Core Duties and Charge Update, development of a Participatory Governance Handbook, and forming workgroups to lay the groundwork to bring these various projects back to College Council for review.

#### Educational Policies Coordinating Council (EPCC):

EPCC will meet February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15. At that meeting we will continue reviewing programs seeking approval. These include Virtual Production Fundamentals Certificate, Aerial Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry (AS degree), Aerial Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Certificate, Academic Preparedness: English Certificate, and Academic Preparedness: Mathematics Certificate.

#### Strategic Planning:

First, let me say that I think I can speak for both Vice President of Student Services (VPSS) Robert Ethington and myself when I say how grateful we are that Dr. Jeremy Smotherman, Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness, is back from his parental leave. Welcome back, Jeremy! Robert, Jeremy and I have met a couple of times to review the work that was done by the Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee (SPCC) and the Town Halls conducted during the Fall 2022 semester. Jeremy, Robert and I will be hosting a session on SRJC's Spring PDA day in the afternoon to present the work done via these Town Halls and by the SPCC on the next step in the regular Strategic Planning process, which is to identify the Goals, Objectives, and Key Performance Indicators that will be incorporated into the current plan. Please join us to provide your feedback and find out about this latest step in our Strategic Planning process. The SPCC itself, a subcommittee of PBC, will meet again on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Pronouns and Rosters:

I have been working with Don Webb (IT) and Dr. Roam Romagnoli, Language Arts and Academic Foundations (LAAF) Dean to incorporate opportunity for students to indicate pronouns they will be addressed with onto rosters. My thanks go to Dr. Romagnoli for their help with this project and for working with IT.

#### Faculty Equivalency Committee (FEC):

FEC met the afternoon of January 27<sup>th</sup>. We currently have no cases to review. Over the winter break I met with Sarah Hopkins and Sussanah Sydney of Human Resources to gain background knowledge and review processes in the hopes of updating Faculty Equivalency forms and process to make them more accessible and understandable to the external community, especially applicants. As we do not yet have any Equivalency cases to review, FEC has begun to review our forms and processes to see where we can improve. The focus is on making it evident to our department chairs, faculty hiring committee chairs, and applicants exactly what is needed in order for their case to be reviewed. We hope to make the process more understandable to the external candidate.