

AS President Report to Academic Senate

May 17, 2023

N. Persons

Senators, it is our last meeting of the year. I don't know about you all, but it's been a year of extraordinary learning for me as your Academic Senate president. I continue to be grateful to you and all the electorate for placing your trust in me, and I will continue to do my best to lead the senate in the coming academic year and represent all faculty voices in academic and professional matters in service to our students. I have learned so much this year listening to you all, and I am so proud of all that we have accomplished: approving recommendations to meet our Accreditation obligations, voting to have SRJC join the California Virtual College (CVC) as both teaching and home colleges, completing the Faculty Hiring Procedure revisions, supporting priority registration for Rising Scholars, and so much more. I am excited for the opportunity to mentor Dr. John Stover, your president-elect, next year. John and I will work together with the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) and all of you to ensure we continue strengthening the SRJC Academic Senate. Now on to the final AS President's report to the Academic Senate for the 2022-23 academic year:

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:

The closure of the strategic planning process is important to all constituencies of the college, and many of our district-wide processes, including the PRPP, are dependent upon this work. The Goals and Objectives have come to us 4 times now: as a report, as an information item, as an "urgent" discussion item, and now as an action item. The process for the Strategic Plan was for the Mission and Vision to go to the Board for approval from the Planning and Budget Council (PBC), and this process was initiated last year and completed this fall. The Goals and Objectives, originally scheduled for the May meeting, will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its June meeting. The process for Strategic Planning (SP) as it was understood and developed by the PBC was for the Goals and Objectives to be developed through a series of Town Halls (fall 2023) and PDA session (spring 2023), and then to be shared with various constituent groups. Numerous faculty members and others spent a combined total of 4.5 hours contributing the ideas that formed the basis for the Goals and Objectives. These were then synthesized by the SP Coordinating Committee, forwarded to PBC, and then sent forward to be shared with various constituent groups. This is what you are discussing today. All other constituent groups have already reviewed them. Some faculty members on PBC expressed interest in the Academic Senate having the opportunity for this topic to be considered once more by the Academic Senate. Strategic Plans typically address planning at a high-level view envisioning the future of a college as a whole. The PBC has not asked the Academic Senate for a recommendation of approval regarding the Goals and Objectives (G&O), PBC has concluded its meetings for the current year, and any substantive changes to the Goals and Objectives presented today would need to be endorsed, through a vote, by the Academic Senate as a body to be taken back to the PBC. The G&O you have seen and discussed were scheduled to be shared with the Board as an information item at its May meeting, but after the most recent PBC meeting I concluded that the presentation of this item to the Board would be better timed following our discussion. This item is now scheduled to be presented to the Board at its June meeting. The closure of the

strategic planning process is important to all constituencies of the college, and many of our processes, including the PRPP, are dependent upon this work.

New Position Student Services:

The (interim) Vice President of Student Services, Robert Ethington, meets with me regularly for a 1:1 to keep each other updated on developments in our areas of responsibility. Recently Robert informed me that he intended to put a request in to the Board of Trustees for a new position, tentatively called the Director of Student Equity and Achievement. He and I had an initial discussion as he wanted to get the position on the May Board agenda, though there is no desire to run a hiring process for it until faculty return in the fall – he wanted to get pieces into place in the meantime. Robert indicated he was open to holding off on this request in May, and after hearing him describe it I asked him to do so, and to then meet with the full Academic Senate Exec Committee (ASEC). Robert graciously opted not to put the item on the May agenda, and met with the full ASEC Tuesday May 16th. This was a very productive meeting in which we learned that the intent is to separate out the responsibilities for managing Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) grant and related grants from the responsibilities of the Dean of Counseling where they were merged together a few years ago. We also learned that there were no new costs as savings have been realized already through the recent elimination of 2 other positions. In addition to asking questions regarding the primary responsibilities of this position, we asked Robert to discuss how he saw it functioning in relationship to the Guided Pathways proposal submitted to Dr. Chong (and on hold for our new Superintendent/President to address). After a very productive and collegial discussion, Robert indicated the title of the position for the job description would be amended slightly to make it clear the primary responsibilities of this position would be for SEA grant administration and associated work. He further indicated he would add language into the job description indicating the position would collaborate to some degree with any Guided Pathways position/office. I want to again thank VP Ethington for his collaborative and collegial approach in working with the ASEC team. My intent on reporting on this today is to assuage any concern that new positions are being proposed and implemented without transparency. VP Ethington has reached out to the All Faculty Association (AFA) in addition to discussing this proposal with the ASEC.

Faculty Hiring Procedure:

As noted in earlier AS President Reports to both this body and to the Board of Trustees, the Senate finished its work revising Procedure 4.3.2P on March 15, this was delivered to Dr. Chong and VP of Human Resources Gene Durand at the end of March. VP Durand has some comments and requests for editing that he has indicated he will communicate to ASEC soon. If the changes are substantive, this procedure will come back to the Academic Senate next fall.

New Faculty Social:

Last Friday members of the ASEC joined Professional Development Coordinators Anne Donegan and Alexa Forrester and VPAA Robert Holcomb at Shone Farm in a social event to celebrate the conclusion of the New Faculty Learning Program of our current cohort of new faculty. I want to thank Anne and Alexa for all their work with our newest contract faculty colleagues this year – it was a big class and a big task! We look forward to working more closely with Anne and Alexa

next year as we hope to strengthen collaboration of the Academic Senate with these coordinators and to resume the AS's Faculty Professional Development subcommittee.

Planning and Budget Council 5/8/2023

On PBC's agenda for this meeting were the following: An accreditation update, information about a potential grant (California Open Educational resources Language Initiative or COERLI), Fiscal Health Assessments, Census Drop Information, Strategic Plan update, and Student Equity Plan Metrics update. Significant time was taken at the beginning of the meeting on debate about the minutes, and about clarify questions asked by a member, and by discussion of the Strategic Plan. The COERLI grant is promising, we are being asked to join with another college writing the grant to agree to serve as a participant. The grant would in part help make possible the development of Open Educational Resources (OER) for teaching American Sign Language (ASL).

SRJC Local AA Degree – Option A issue:

Last week I met with our Articulation Officer, Kate Blackwell, to learn more about a process unique to SRJC that has an adverse effect on our students seeking to be granted the AA degree. This issue will come to the Academic Senate next fall. Currently, students are restricted in which courses can be applied to the various areas of the AA pattern. This restriction is not from Title 5 and it is unclear how it came to pass, but the practice has been in place for over a decade. Currently, Admissions and Records (A&R) is dealing with the issue on a case-by-case basis, and it does not arise often, but I feel we need to make a formal recommendation regarding this restriction, so we will take it up in the fall.

District Online Committee 5/10/23:

I am an invited guest at DOC meetings, and I was able to attend last week. Part of the DOC agenda was devoted to recommendations that were developed to forward to the Academic Senate for our consideration next year. DOC had three general areas of concern when considering what would be most beneficial to students engaged in online learning: delivery of instruction by faculty with online learning expertise developed through training in online instruction that includes best practices in online andragogy (instruction to adults) and current research; consistency in and access to course and instructor contact information; and the content of online *course* (not the *instructor*) evaluation. The recommendations forwarded to me included more detail, and also included language that would fall into the area of the collective bargaining agent. When these matters are taken up by the Academic Senate next year we will address them in a way that steers clear of matters of working conditions and compensation, but which does address the committee's concern about training to ensure online instruction, identifying and recommending practices that are beneficial to students in general, and what should be the content of online course evaluation (not instructor).