Smita Avasthi 12/06/2023 Academic Senate Meeting Open Forum Statement: Resolution to Support Trans Students

Whereas SRJC has received a score of 2 out of 5 on the Pride Index<sup>[1]</sup>, a national benchmarking tool that identifies eight factors that can be modified to create a safer environment for LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff;

Whereas there has been an uptick of anti-trans attitudes throughout California and locally in Sonoma County, and trans students at SRJC have reported feeling isolated, unsafe in dorms, and lack a functioning process to handle discrimination complaints;

Whereas SRJC's Queer Resource Center (QRC) has not been able to access data needed to provide outreach and support to students who identify as LGBTQ;

Whereas SRJC's trans students are asked to take extra steps to succeed at SRJC, such as specifying pronouns or catching up on portions of class missed because regular bathroom breaks do not account for time needed to access the limited number of genderless facilities in remote areas of campus;

RESOLVED that SRJC improves the learning environment for trans students by adopting policies and procedures that institutionalize trans support by providing guidance on preferred pronouns on rosters, designating more campus bathrooms as genderless, establishing inclusive professional development training for faculty and staff, requiring cultural competency training for Resident Assistants (RAs) in dorms, revising the student complaint and grievance process, and providing the QRC coordinator with information needed to identify and reach at-risk LGBTQ students.

<sup>[1]</sup> The <u>Pride Index</u> was launched in 2007, and the index's instrument is reviewed yearly by its Advisory Board, which includes university researchers and LGBTQ campus leaders. It is supported by the Campus Pride Q Research Institute for Higher Education. Their evaluative instrument focuses on LGBTQ inclusion in the following eight areas: 1) Policy Inclusion; 2) Support and Institutional Commitment; 3) Academic Life; 4) Student Life; 5) Housing; 6) Campus Safety; 7) Counseling and Health; and 8) Recruitment and Retention Efforts.