



# ACADEMIC SENATE

The primary voice of the faculty in academic and professional matters at Santa Rosa Junior College.

## **CORRECTED & APPROVED Minutes:**

October 18, 2023, 3:15 p.m.

Santa Rosa: Bertolini Senate Chambers,  
Room 4638

Petaluma: Room 628, Richard Call

Bldg. ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808

Click [here](#) to start Zoom.

[Current Meeting Materials.](#)

## **PRESENT:**

M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea, S. Avasthi, A. Donegan, W. Downey, J. Fassler, M. Ferguson, G. Garcia, M. Hale, T. Jacobson, T. Johnson, L. Larsen, D. Lemmer, D. McCall, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, J. Perez, S. Rosen, E. Schmidt, N. Slovak J. Stover, P. Usina, C. Williams, A. Yu

## **ABSENT:**

P. Ozbirinci

## **GUESTS:**

T. Jacobson, L. Larque, M. Long, D. McCall, E. Wilde, S. Whyllly

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Persons.

Senator and President-Elect Stover read a statement regarding the intent of a land acknowledgement statement and appropriate response to the reading of such a statement. [Full statement is available here.](#)

The Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by Senator Stover.

## **OPEN FORUM:**

- D. McCall: Recently attended BSU meeting and Town Hall on Guided Pathways. Guided Pathways is a model of collaboration between faculty, staff and students. Addressed disparity for students of color (provided handout from GP Town Hall). 58% of SRJC students are students of color. Requested Senate create group or department that considers the unique needs of our students of color. [Full statement is available here.](#)
- L Larque: Here to advocate for the Senate to adopt Peer Online Course Review (POCR) immediately. Fear it will be dragged out for years, much like Guided Pathways. Online teaching is constantly evolving and changing. [Full statement is available here.](#)
- E Wilde: Asking Senate to take a more active role in supporting and promoting ways we connect as a community and offer transformational experiences to our community such as: museum, Day Under the Oaks, Planetarium, Oak Leaf Newspaper, Dance program, Theatre productions, etc. [Full statement is available here.](#)
- T. Jacobson: People are being silenced. AFA is asserting that no conversation can take place in any forum if the topic touches on working conditions. Faculty need to provide input prior to negotiations taking place so that all decisions are made with this input. [Full statement is available here.](#)
- J Fassler: Reading statement on behalf of K. Frindell-Teuscher. AFA is the exclusive bargaining agent for the faculty. Faculty evaluations is one such topic that Senate and AFA have interest and purview over. Asks that Senate meet in closed sessions to discuss evaluations and POCR. [Full statement is available here.](#)

- A. Donegan: Addressed erosion of democratic values here at SRJC. Has observed troubling things over the past year. The Strategic Plan values did not come to the Senate. Town Halls are not legally required to represent faculty, the Senate is. Mission, vision and values went to the Board of Trustees without any input from this body. Asking that we publicly discuss what we should do if the President of the College does not follow through on the will of the Senate. Requested that it be put on as an agenda item if the President of the College does not follow through on the will of the Senate. The former president vetoed a recommendation that was passed by the Senate and the senator requests that this issue be placed on an upcoming Academic Senate agenda.
- “the fact that Dr. Chong vetoed a vote that this body took about funding professional development in connection with our discipline expertise. That that could be voted on and somehow it was vetoed.” if the President of the College does not follow through on the will of the Senate. The former president vetoed a recommendation that was passed by the Senate and the senator requests that this issue be placed on an upcoming Academic Senate agenda
- S. Whyly: Current Generative AI models we have available are built and trained on stolen works from minoritized people. We have an opportunity to do better and teach our students why they should not use these models. [Full statement is available here.](#)

**MINUTES:**

[Minutes of September 20, 2023](#)

[Minutes of October 4, 2023](#)

Senator Ohkubo motioned to approve minutes, seconded.  
 Motioned passed with 25 yes and 1 abstention.

M. Anderman-Y	M. Hale-Y	J. Perez-Y
L. Aspinall- Y	T. Jacobson-Y	S. Rosen-Y
A. Atilgan Relyea- Y	T. Johnson-Y	E. Schmidt-Y
S. Avasthi- Y	L. Larsen-Y	N. Slovak- Y
A. Donegan-Y	D. Lemmer-Y	J. Stover-Y
W. Downey-Y	D. McCall-Y	P. Usina-Y
J. Fassler-abstain	G. Morre-Y	C. Williams-Y
M. Ferguson- Y	M. Ohkubo-Y	A.Yu-Y
G. Garcia-Y	P. Ozbirinci (proxy Hale)- Y	

**REPORTS:**

1. President’s Report – N. Persons

No official report today in the interest of providing more time for agenda items. President Persons acknowledged the horrific events in the Middle East and asked that we proceed during this meeting with kindness towards one another.

2. [Guided Pathways Update](#) – J. Stover and M. Long

- Constituent question regarding First Year Experience (FYE) course being handed off to ISSC. This was corrected as ISSC is not developing a course. Rather an FYE program is being piloted by EOPS with ISSC support. The FYE Course has moved through our curricular processes and been approved by CRC. Course is interdisciplinary and any faculty can teach it.
- Concerns raised about ISSC doing work of faculty-based notes from their work groups. Notes indicate there may be a course being developed. Concerns raised about how decision was made for ISSC to take on FYE program.
- Senator Anderman asked that GP appear on next agenda as a discussion item.

**ACTION:**

Peer Online Course Review (POCR)

*At our last meeting, the body approved a motion calling for the Academic Senate to establish a task force with the purposes of establishing a POCR process as drawn from the sample POCR pilot process already presented to us and referenced below (see document below for details). Senators are now asked to consider the following: what recommendations does the body have for the composition of the task force and who shall make the selections.*

[Peer Online Course Review \(POCR\) Explained](#)  
[POCR Task Force Motion Approved October 4, 2023](#)

President Persons passed the gavel to Vice President Ohkubo to chair this item to allow President Persons to participate in the discussion.

Discussion took place, the following points were raised by Senators:

- POCR is a curricular issue and the Senate has the right to have an opinion and make recommendations on this matter
- POCR is a process for course review and the Academic Senate has the right to make recommendations and have opinions regarding the process for course review
- The POCR discussion should take place prior to negotiations, how otherwise would the faculty union have any idea what the Senate's recommendations for course reviewer responsibilities would be
- The union does not dictate the process for course review to the Curriculum Review Committee, nor should they dictate the process for online course review
- The Academic Senate by law must be notified prior to negotiations when Evaluation is to be negotiated
- The badge earned is a qualification, a credential, and is not evaluative, it is an indication that for a specific section of a specific course training in online instruction has occurred and a level of expertise may be claimed
- Calling the process for online course review is a red herring designed to instill fear and the direct result of this is to obstruct consideration of the benefits of the peer review process for online courses and for our students' success
- POCR is an opportunity for professional development, a 10+1 matter which the Academic Senate voted just last year to recommend be an area in which the District and Board rely primarily upon the recommendations of this body

- Agreeing not to discuss POCR at the Academic Senate is akin to giving up the right to determine curriculum and curricular processes as a faculty member
- POCR is an entirely opt-in process
- Several 10+1 matters are threatened when we consider not discussing POCR at this body and making recommendations: Curriculum; Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success; and Policies for professional development activities
- Once a process has been identified the time will be right for the matter of compensation and working conditions to be discussed, but not before then

Senator Ferguson Moved that the Senate move to closed session so that the faculty could discuss POCR without District representatives present.

Discussion of the motion ensued:

- Concerns raised about violation of Brown Act
- Stated there are exceptions to the Senate not being able to move to closed session
- Stated this item does not meet the criteria for allowable exceptions

Senator Schmidt extended the time for 5 minutes, seconded.  
No objections.

Senator Donegan motioned to extend time by 5 minutes, motion seconded.  
Motion to extend time failed with 11 yes, 14 no's and 1 abstention.

M. Anderman-Y	M. Hale-N	J. Perez-Y
L. Aspinall- N	T. Jacobson-N	S. Rosen-N
A. Atilgan Relyea- N	T. Johnson-N	E. Schmidt-Y
S. Avasthi- N	L. Larsen-Y	N. Slovak- Y
A. Donegan-Y	D. Lemmer-N	J. Stover-N
W. Downey-Y	D. McCall-N	P. Usina-N
J. Fassler-Y	G. Morre-Y	C. Williams-N
M. Ferguson- Y	M. Ohkubo-abstain	A. Yu-N
G. Garcia-Y	P. Ozbirinci (proxy Hale)- N	

Motion to move to close session failed with 6 yes, 15 no and 5 abstentions.

M. Anderman-N	J. Fassler-Y	L. Larsen-N
L. Aspinall- N	M. Ferguson- Y	D. Lemmer-N
A. Atilgan Relyea- N	G. Garcia-abstain	D. McCall-abstain
S. Avasthi- N	M. Hale-N	G. Morre-Y
A. Donegan-Y	T. Jacobson-N	M. Ohkubo-abstain
W. Downey-Y	T. Johnson-N	P. Ozbirinci (proxy Hale)- N

J. Perez-abstain  
S. Rosen-N  
E. Schmidt-Y

N. Slovak- abstain  
J. Stover-N  
P. Usina-N

C. Williams-N  
A. Yu-A

## **BREAK**

### 1. Senate Goals 2023-24

*The Academic Senate identified ongoing and anticipated topics for deliberation at its fall retreat on August 25, 2023. The Academic Senate now needs use these as it identifies priorities to address during the 2023-24 academic year.*

[Academic Senate Fall 2023 Retreat Goals and Priorities Notes](#)

Discussion took place, the following points were raised by Senators:

- If adopted goals and priorities will be added to the list of future agenda items
- Goals have been more of a “compass”, providing direction to the Senate and are not prescriptive.
- Request for two motions, one to approve these goals and one to adjust the bylaws to allow a more pragmatic approach that allow for changing priorities and flexibility.
- Opinion also expressed that the current bylaw language is permissive enough and does not indicate that action must be taken.

Senator Ohkubo moved:

We adopt the Senate goals for 23/24 as a non-exhaustive discussion of goals taken at the time of our fall retreat, keeping in mind that there are other urgent needs that may arise during the academic year, seconded.

Senator Schmidt motioned to amend, seconded:

We adopt the Senate goals for 23/24 as a non-exhaustive discussion of goals taken at the time of our fall retreat, ~~keeping in mind that there are other urgent needs that may arise during the academic year, seconded.~~

Senator Schmidt moved to extend the time by eight minutes.  
No objections.

Amendment passed unanimously.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Ran out of time, following discussion items will be added the next agenda and new business will follow after:

### 1. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Student Success: Policy Recommendations

*Generative AI has arrived and is actively being used by students and faculty in higher education. How will we approach Generative AI at SRJC to provide faculty support for instructional design and ensure*

*student success in the effective and ethical use of this technology? What policy/procedure, faculty professional development, and other efforts are needed? What recommendations might we make to the District, and what support might we want from the District?*

## 2. Faculty Evaluations

*California Education Code Section 87610.1, Section 87663, and Section 87664 identify faculty evaluations as an area of shared purview for academic senates and bargaining agents, and that the bargaining agent has the right to negotiate the specific contract language for the process, but only with the input of the academic senate. According to the Board agenda of September 12, the All Faculty Association (AFA) and District have reopened Article 14A and 14B: Evaluations, stating they “have an interest in a fair and effective evaluation process, making changes that would improve the clarity or process. The District and AFA have an interest in negotiating the effects of recent legislation Amending Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, to Include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Standards in the Evaluation and Tenure Review of District Employees.” In addition, the AFA side letter on Faculty Self-evaluations was extended through the fall 2023 semester. Finally, the Academic Senate has received faculty requests to discuss how faculty evaluation reviews are conducted in different modalities. What shall the Academic Senate’s recommendations be in these areas?*

[ASCCC Paper: Sound Principles for Faculty Evaluation](#)

[DEIA Competencies Criteria](#)

[DEIA Guidance Memo](#)

[Form 400 Regulation Text DEIA Evaluation and Tenure Review](#)

[AFA Contract Article 14A](#)

[AFA Contract Article 14B](#)

[AFA Side Letter on Regular Continuing Evaluations \(includes Self-evaluation\)](#)

Relevant Sections of California Ed Code:

[Section 87663 \(PDF of Section\)](#)

[Section 87664](#)

**ADJOURNMENT: 5:00 p.m.**