

AS President Report to Senate
January 17, 2024
N. Persons

Senators, welcome to the Spring 2024 semester. Our phase of big transitions continues: the new Lindley Center is open, Bech Hall being demolished, ESL moving, many STEM departments moving, the Construction Trade Center at Petaluma is growing, SRJC Roseland is getting an overhaul - new VPs coming in (Dr. Molly Senecal in Student Services, Interim VP Theresa Richmond in Human Resources) – in short, there is a lot going on at all times. Hang in there and remember to breathe.

Student Government Assembly (SGA) and ASCCC Liaisons:

SGA Liaison: The Academic Senate traditionally has a senator each semester who serves as a liaison to the SGA. In academic year 2022-23 I did this myself, but I have not been able to this year. The SGA liaison is an informal role – you attend as many meetings (Mondays 3:00-5:00, Zoom option) as you are able, act as a conduit to communicate SGA issues to us and keep us informed of SGA general themes through occasional brief reports. *Please contact me if you are willing to do this.*

ASCCC Legislative Liaisons: The ASCCC has identified several liaison roles. These are more informal roles where your name is shared with ASCCC and you receive periodic email notifying you of current issues. You, in turn, share information with relevant SRJC academic departments and our local Academic Senate leadership as appropriate. These liaisons are not compensated for – this is a more informal role with a low time commitment, and Flex can be earned by serving using the Academic Senate “forever flex” activity code. We need liaisons for CTE, IDEAA, Noncredit, and Part-time faculty communications. Please let me know if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

AS Administrative Assistant Update:

I need to share with you the bad news that our latest administrative assistant, Dorothy, decided to resign from her position as of December 15th. She was very happy working with the Academic Senate and wanted you all to know that. She objected to the equalization of pay over 12 months for what is primarily a 10-month position. After serving as the faculty member on the last 2 recruitments for this position, I am grateful to turn this responsibility over to President-elect and Senator John Stover. The initial deadline to apply for this vacancy closed on January 12th and it is my fervent hope that this time the position will be filled more quickly than last year. I also want to extend gratitude to Dr. Mary-Catherine Oxford, who will again be serving as the administrative member of the committee.

In the meantime, I again ask your patience and understanding as I attempt to take care of some of the AAll’s responsibilities during the vacancy.

Retreat Reminder:

Our Spring 2024 Retreat will take place next Friday, January 26th, from 9:00-1:00 in the Doyle Library 4th Floor Reading Room. The full agenda will be posted in due time. For now, please note these important details:

- Breakfast (coffee, hot water, dairy and non-dairy creamer, bagels, cream cheese, lox, onion, capers, gluten-free muffins, fruit) will be provided for you.
- **Senators are asked to bring a small snack or beverage item to share during the break**
- No lunch will be provided
- Please arrive punctually if possible, as we have a community-building exercise planned for the first half hour 9:00-9:30.
- Our ASCCC Coach will be providing a 1.5 hour training from 11:30-1:00 on Shared Governance specifically for us and issues relevant to our institution, and will also take us through some scenarios to apply our learning – this will be a highly interactive session.

Donations for Coffee and Snacks at Our Meetings:

The District is not allowed to use general funds for food and beverage, so the coffee and snacks provided for you at our regular meetings are all paid for out of a donation-based fund we maintain at Exchange Bank. This fund has also paid for bereavement flowers, for sending additional faculty to ASCCC events, and for other social occasions. Please consider donating. [Click here to access the payroll deduction form for this fund.](#) Thank you for considering!

Communities of Practice:

The call for participants for this year's Communities of Practice will have gone out by the time of our meeting on the 17th. There are not as many proposals this year as in past years, possibly due to the new requirement to identify an SEA metric for each proposal. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has offered to help with assessment, so facilitators need not worry. The deadline to submit a response to the participation survey is Friday, January 26, at 5:00 p.m.

Coaching Program Update:

I and your Academic Senate Exec Committee (ASEC) have been meeting periodically with our Coach, Dr. David Morse. David has over 35 years of experience with his local academic senate, many of those years also spent working on the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Executive Council, during which time he also worked closely with many CCC union leaders. David possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience, and one thing I really value about him is his even-handed approach to any issue. In working with David, we have decided to hold several trainings with SRJC employees. The first will be David's training session with us at our retreat next Friday, where he will provide a deeper look at what "Shared Governance," as rooted in AB1725 (Vasconcellos) means and how to apply it in real life. In addition to working with us at our retreat, David will also be providing a related training to Dr. Garcia's cabinet and the ASEC that goes even deeper into issues. In the future we hope to hold an additional session to which we will invite our All Faculty Association partners.

David has also been providing guidance and advice regarding numerous questions I and the rest of ASEC have had over the past few months. We recently consulted with him regarding the status of our Academic Senate subcommittees. Upon his advice and our own consideration, we plan to

discuss potential change in status of some of our subcommittees to be designated task forces due to the applicability of the Brown (Public Meetings) Act requirements. More to come on that via our future agenda items!