

AS President Report to Academic Senate
February 20, 2024
N. Persons

Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism, and Accessibility:

We have an agenda item, a resolution in support of our Trans students, that prompted strong feelings at our last meeting. At the end of last week, we were all subject to racist rhetoric injected into our work lives as one person made use of a District distribution list to share strongly negative personal thought. I want you to know I was in contact with our Superintendent/President Garcia from the moment that first email was shared. I am a person who feels that silence implies complicity, but yet I found myself, as many of you probably did, trying to wrestle with the right way to respond. When I was young, I was fortunate to spend my summers at a camp where diversity, equity, and inclusion were values we were taught about regularly, and where we used to sing a variation of a John Donne poem “No Man is an Island.” One line we sang kept going through my head all weekend: “Each man’s joy is joy to me, each man’s grief is my own.” I thought about the grief the email was causing, and worried about the harm some comments made at our last meeting caused. I thought about how ineffective email is as a way to work through such serious issues, so while I deeply appreciated most of what I read, I was troubled by this modality of communication as a way to deal with the deeply seeded problems we are having treating each other with care and respect.

I am grateful to those who joined Dr. Garcia’s *Cafecito* Tuesday morning either remotely or in person, but we need to continue this work. I am so grateful to colleagues like Emily Schmidt, who called in the person who made the offensive comment, and did so with concern that we not leave the response to our colleagues of color. I am grateful to the Cabinet for quickly assembling and working behind the scenes. I ask that we all proceed today with kindness and care for others – that we consider carefully how our comments will land when received by others whose lives are so different from our own and whose joy and grief we can so quickly affect.

Please choose your words carefully today and moving forward. We have seen many of these difficult issues before. I have every confidence that our current administration is taking notice and making positive change happen. The more of us that share in this effort, the better we all are for it.

PRPP: It’s almost PRPP season again. PRPP, or Program Review Planning Process, is the application and process we use for planning and budgeting at SRJC. This year will be a selective year, with only certain parts of the PRPP requiring an update/input. This year department chairs and others are asked to complete section 4.1d in addition to sections 2 and 6. Members of the PRPP committee will be providing context for department chairs and others soon. A communication regarding gathering information about SLO plans is forthcoming, pending the next SLO liaison meeting.

Peer Online Course Review (POCR) Webinar:

Great news for all of us: The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is offering a free webinar on POCR on February 29th! See this page <https://asccc.org/events/peer-online-course-review-pocr> for more information and for a link to register for this free webinar.