

AS President Report to Senate
March 6, 2024
N. Persons

Recentering IDEAA in Our Work:

Recently, we have experienced renewed conversation both in the Academic Senate and through emailed messages involving serious issues related to Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism (IDEAA). We have seen individuals speaking to deeply personal experiences and feelings. We have had calls and demands for action shared with us. Our District administrative partners have held community and smaller meetings to address these serious concerns, gather data in a careful and responsible way, and offer space to communicate with each other.

Last year, the Academic Senate completed a revision of our Faculty Hiring Procedure, which includes language promoting student participation in faculty hiring. We recently renewed our focus on IDEAA principles through conversation at our Spring Retreat. The Academic Senate continues pursuing an IDEAA agenda. An example of this includes the resolution in support of trans students on our agenda today. Soon we will bring the list of DEIA-related demands developed a few years ago back to the body for review. Our faculty colleagues have demanded that SRJC “take immediate and meaningful action to deconstruct the present system and rebuild an academic and communal space that is rooted in Anti-Racist and Anti-Discrimination ideology.”

Making connections with colleagues and listening carefully, especially to underrepresented individuals, we can call each other in to the conversation. As Academic Senators, I remind you that you serve as a representative of *all* the colleagues in your senate area. When you speak at meetings, you speak for a large group of faculty colleagues, not solely for yourselves. Article IV, Section 3 of the [Academic Senate Bylaws](#) specify expectations of all senators regarding constituent communication, and state “each senator is expected to engage in discussions with Senate area constituents.” Regular meetings with constituents and additional methods of sharing ideas and input are outlined in this section of our Bylaws, and all senators are asked to review them.

It is our obligation as senators to respect and communicate the diverse range of input our constituents can provide. We owe it to those who have elected us to ensure that we are representing each area and their voices in our deliberations.

Opportunity for Attend ASCCC Spring Plenary April 18-20:

We have an unprecedented opportunity this year to send 11 faculty members to the ASCCC Spring Plenary. As part of the ASCCC Coaching Program, funds are available for faculty to attend the Plenary, which will be held at the San Jose Marriott **Thursday April 18th through Saturday April 20th**. Expenses for Plenary registration, hotel, 2 dinners (other meals provided as part of registration fee) and mileage will be covered by these funds. This is a unique chance for faculty to gain firsthand experience with ASCCC workshops. At

ASCCC Plenaries there are two days of presentations regarding current issues of interest to academic senates, ASCCC Area Meetings, and a full day of debate and voting on current resolutions. This is a rare and special opportunity for a significant group of SRJC faculty to learn firsthand what the academic senate is all about, gain valuable knowledge of current legislation and other issues impacting our work as faculty, learn more about how the work of local senates and the ASCCC advocate for our students, network with colleagues throughout the California Community College System, and learn through observation how to debate effectively on 10+1 issues of concern to us all. Please look for an email in the next few days announcing this opportunity and how to submit your name in consideration for inclusion.

The ASCCC Faculty Leadership Institute, held in mid-June, occurs too late in the fiscal year for us to use Coaching Program funds to send faculty. I highly encourage faculty interested in participating in this excellent leadership development institute to consider applying for a grant from the Faculty Fund for Advanced Study (FFAS). Please look for email from FFAS Chair Jocelyn Arild about this wonderful opportunity for financial support.

Strategic Plan Objectives to Strategy 1 Goal:

At the Academic Senate meeting of February 21st, the body voted to send the recommendation for modification to SRJC Superintendent/President Dr. Garcia. As requested, I have sent this communication to Dr. Garcia. I hope to talk with her about this recommendation in the near future.

Task Force Standard Language:

It our meeting of February 21st, the body voted to approve the recommended guidelines for workgroup/task force composition. This approved language has been posted to the Academic Senate website under the "[Current Senator Resources](#)" page.

Congratulations to Senator Dr. Mark Anderman and Colleagues:

Our very own Senator Anderman has released a new album of jazz music in collaboration with colleagues. Their music powered me through my Friday as I wrote this report and posted our agenda. Congratulations and thank you!