

AS President Report to Academic Senate  
April 3, 2024  
N. Persons

**Consent Items on April 3 Academic Senate Agenda:**

Senators will note there are two Consent items on our agenda this week. For those unfamiliar with Consent Items, these are typically action items for which no need to deliberate is anticipated. Any senator has the right during “Adjustments to the Agenda” to request that a Consent Item be pulled from Consent and moved to Action to allow for discussion.

**Consent Item 1: Change of Signatories at the Exchange Bank** – This item proposes to add our new Administrative Assistant, Elisa Clement, to those who are permitted by the Exchange Bank to sign checks from our checking account. This checking account is where we keep funds donated by those contributing to the Academic Senate’s fund used for beverages and snacks, and for gifts such as flowers and charitable donations in honor of current and former senators.

**Consent Item 2: Academic Senate Constitution** – Last year, the Academic Senate voted to update its Bylaws, an act which only requires a simple majority of the Senate to pass. The revisions did pass, and they included an increase in the number of associate faculty from 4 to 6, bringing the overall total number of senators from 26 to 28. According to our [Constitution](#), in order to bring the Constitution and Bylaws into alignment the amendments must be submitted to the electorate for a vote on as a result of either a petition by the electorate or by vote of the Senate to do so. Senators are asked to vote to submit the proposed changes, which serve only to bring the Constitution and Bylaws into alignment, to the electorate. The proposed changes are only those voted on last year by the body.

**Generative AI:**

Generative AI has been brought for discussion to the senate body twice already. We have tabled the topic in order to deal with other time-sensitive issues. The Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) has determined that it is advisable to wait until after the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Spring Plenary to bring this topic back to the body. At the Spring Plenary, Generative AI will be the topic of a General Session as well as a Breakout Session. We hope to bring back great ideas for addressing Generative AI at SRJC.

**Thirteen SRJC Faculty Representing at ASCCC Spring Plenary:**

I am thrilled to announce that SRJC will be able to support the participation of thirteen faculty members to participate in the ASCCC Spring Plenary. This support is possible thanks to the allocation of special Peer Resource Team (PRT) Funding used in part for SRJC to participate in the ASCCC Coaching Program. In addition to myself and Senator/President-elect John Stover (Sociology), the following faculty will be attending Plenary this spring: Laura Aspinall (DRD), Jurgen Kremer (Psychology), Aylin Atilgan Relyea (EMLS), Bitia Bookman (EMLS), Jessica Bush (Counseling), Jeniece Lusk (Sociology), Jessy Paisley (Counseling, EOPS), Nick Perrone (History), Johann van Gorp (Social Sciences), and Nora Wheeler (Mathematics). This is a rare opportunity for SRJC to support the development of potential future academic senate leadership and I am

very grateful to VP of Finance Kate Jolley and Executive Assistant to the President Karolina Nazario for their support and assistance.

#### **District Educational Plan:**

The DEP workgroup met March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. During Spring Break, President-elect Stover and I met with Dominique Benavides, research contracted to work with us. We reviewed past history of Strategic Planning and other relevant work with her. The workgroup has spent some time so far briefly discussing sample Educational Plans, and initiated a discussion of a summary statement to describe the DEP that will be carried over to our next meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The workgroup is also refining the timeline for its work, and as part of that we are identifying important junctures where the status of the plan's development will be shared with constituent groups such as the Academic Senate for input. The DEP workgroup will meet weekly through the rest of the spring semester. There will probably be summer work as well, and the plan is currently scheduled to be completed during the Spring 2025 semester.

#### **Business Dept. SLO Workshop observation:**

On Friday, March 29, I had the pleasure of being invited to observe the SRJC Business Department's SLO Workshop. Led by SLO Liaison Kim Kinahan, faculty members of the Business Department, with assistance from Administrative Assistant Kris Dalby and Dean Brad Davis (Career Education and Workforce Development), collaborated in a collegial session where Kim provided step-by-step instructions in incorporation SLO assessment into Canvas course shells. Kim artfully managed a hybrid training session with seven faculty participating remotely and ten additional faculty in person, responding in real time to various questions and walking faculty through the full process. It was heartwarming to observe the high level of collegial support provided each other during this session. Kim was able to respond to questions that were direction related to instruction as well as help faculty navigate the mechanics of the process. Kim also referred faculty to the SLO webpage at <https://slo.santarosa.edu/>.

Finally, I have been advised by Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Dr. Holcomb that SLO Coordinator and Liaison support will continue to be offered in the Fall 2024 semester.

#### **College Council**

The Council most recently met on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Agenda topics included a first discussion of the revised District Access Committee (DAC), presented by interim VP of HR, Theresa Richmond. Facilities has created a separate accessibility committee. Due to that change the DAC is adding "digital" into the function and revising its charge. The Council discussed various aspects of the proposed new configuration of the DAC, and VP Richmond will now take College Council input back to the DAC for consideration.

Next, College Council reviewed responses to its recent Committee and Council Survey. We discussed the possibility of Council members reaching out to meet with various shared governance groups to review their survey results together using some prompts developed by Council members. The next step will be for Dr. Garcia to direct the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research (OIER) to compile survey results so that they can be shared.

The Council also heard first readings of several new Board Policies and Administrative Procedures (BP and AP) as part of our migration to the Community College League of California (CCLC) templates for Board Policy and Procedure. These included BP/AP 3503 (Missing Student Notification); BP/AP 3433 (Prohibition of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX); AP 3434 (Responding to Sexual Harassment Based on Sex Under Title IX); and BP/AP 3540 (Sexual and Other Assaults on Campus and in Campus Programs). These BP/AP will come back to College Council for second reading prior to going to the Board of Trustees for approval.

College Council also heard from its Shared Governance Manual workgroup, which has met and made updates to the draft Manual including a table of contents, glossary, and committee structure. We discussed the need for potential videos for Chairs as an asset to include, and acknowledged that College Council should have a retreat in Fall 2024 to perform additional work related to the development of this manual.

Finally, SRJC Superintendent/President Dr. Garcia presented a proposal to create an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism (IDEAA) Shared Governance Committee, as our current committee structure has no such group focused on this work. Membership would include individuals in positions with specific expertise in IDEAA. This concept will come back to College Council for further consideration and constituent groups will be approached for input and feedback.

#### **Planning and Budget Council:**

PBC met March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 11<sup>th</sup> a proposal to apply for the Golden State Pathways Grant was brought forward by VPs Holcomb and Senecal. The grant would provide support for various activities related to Dual Enrollment. At this meeting we also reviewed the Budget Calendar, heard a PRPP update, and reviewed the Planning and Budget Framework.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Council was introduced to a proposal to establish an Accreditation Oversight Committee, a subcommittee of the PBC, by Dr. Garcia. This item will come back to PBC on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and will be taken to College Council afterward. Accreditation is one of the “10+1” where the District has agreed to rely primarily upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate, so consultation with this body regarding the charge and composition of such a subcommittee will be necessary. The Council also received an update on the Enrollment Management Workgroup, which is now meeting every other week instead of weekly. The workgroup will next assess funding based on use of the new Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). Credit enrollment at SRJC has groupn 6.05% when compared to Spring 2023. Finally, the Council heard an update regarding the Educational Policies Coordinating Council, to be addressed below.

#### **Educational Policies Coordinating Council:**

Recent EPCC meetings focused on approving and supporting new degrees and certificates including updating curriculum for advanced transportation manufacturing and communication studies transfer degrees. The scope of EPCC includes serving as a multi-constituent clearinghouse for education matters and can serve as a venue for relevant discussions such as artificial intelligence and waitlists.

Academic Senate has a waitlists task force to develop proposals to present to the Academic Senate and to consult with EPCC. Generative AI is another topic which might include a call to EPCC to develop draft policies and procedures to bring forward to the Academic Senate for consideration, or to be consulted in collaboration with the Academic Senate as it approaches this topic, for example.

The first part of the EPCC charge has been less utilized in recent years. It reads “To assist the Academic Senate in the development of sound educational policies, procedures, and practices by encouraging thorough discussions of current issues among constituent groups represented by the committee.” EPCC in recent past has been on hiatus, was almost disbanded, before being brought back fully in recent years. This aspect of its charge had been somewhat lost and is now being recognized as a useful council to work in collaboration with us.

**Sharing Sad News:**

For those of you who remember our former administrative assistant, Natalia Haworth, I am very sorry to share with you that her middle child, 7-year old Ever Reign Haworth, passed away 2 weeks ago due to a very rare form of cancer, Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma. Natalia’s family asks that those interested in donating in honor of Ever donate to the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, the Seattle Children’s Hospital, Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital, or the Make-a-Wish foundation, as all played roles in Ever’s care. Members of the ASEC are heartbroken over the loss of Ever, and President-elect Stover will be traveling to the memorial service to celebrate Ever’s life.