



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MINUTES

March 6, 2024, 3:15 p.m.

Santa Rosa: Bertolini Senate Chambers, Room 4638 Petaluma: Room 690, 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, C. Cullen, W. Downey, M. Ferguson, G. Garcia, M. Gonzalez-Jordan, D. Harden, T. Jacobson, D. Lemmer, D. McCall, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, P. Ozbirinci, J. Perez, N. Perrone, O. Raola, S. Rosen, E. Schmidt, N. Slovak, J. Stover, P. Usina

ABSENT: J. Kremer (proxy J. Stover), T. Johnson (proxy L. Aspinall)

GUESTS: Bentley Cavazzi, Ann Foster, Mason Koski, Caleb Poole, Maddie Ruddell, Dr. Molly Senecal, Guy Tillotson

CALL TO ORDER: 3:15 p.m. by President Persons

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

Land acknowledgement statement was read aloud by Senator Schmidt

[Full statement is available here](#).

OPEN FORUM:

- Bentley Cavazzi, ESL faculty, invited body to 7th annual “We the Future” social justice conference taking place at Petaluma Campus on Friday, May 3rd. This year’s theme is community power and collaboration. Keynote speaker is Dr. César Cruz. Call for proposals is now open.
- Maddie Ruddell, SRJC student, spoke in support of Resolution in Support of Trans Students, sharing their experience finding peer support in queer communities at school and imploring body to support all SRJC students by voting in favor of this Resolution.
- Caleb Poole, SRJC student, spoke in support of Resolution in Support of Trans Students, reiterating the importance of safety and inclusion for all SRJC students.
- Mason Koski, executive VP of SRJC Student Government Assembly & SRJC statewide representative to Student Senate for California Community Colleges, spoke in support of Resolution in Support of Trans Students. Koski expressed the importance of support from faculty toward SRJC students, and expressed appreciation for QRC and Senate for moving resolution forward.
- Guy Tillotson, Classified employee, recommended that the District hold an emergency evacuation drill at least once a year, and asked if Senate can help determine a date and time that least impacts instruction.

MINUTES:

[Draft Minutes of Feb. 21, 2024](#)

Draft minutes of February 21, 2024 reviewed. Senators pointed out that some senators’ votes were not represented in meeting minutes. Minutes will be edited and reviewed again at next Senate meeting. No vote was taken.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – N. Persons

[AS President Report to Senate March 6, 2024](#)

- President Persons announced Mason Koski as the new official Student Government Assembly Liaison representative to the Academic Senate, and thanked President-Elect Stover for coordinating with SGA.
- President Persons also announced an opportunity for 11 or more faculty members to attend Academic Senate for California Community Colleges plenary from Thursday, April 18 to Saturday, April 20, 2024; noted that the District will cover up to \$1,500 in expenses; encouraged senators to share with their constituents; and clarified that this opportunity is open to all faculty, including associates.
- Finally, President Persons shared several updates, including updates on action items from previous Senate meeting:
 - Task force guidelines have been added to Academic Senate website under Current Senator Resources tab
 - Recommendation regarding Strategic Plan Goal 1 Objective 1 has been resubmitted to college president Dr. Angélica Garcia
 - Responses to a survey from a recent retreat have been posted to the Senate website along with the retreat agenda

2. **Curriculum Review Committee Report** – A. Foster

- Ann Foster shared proposed updates to Curriculum Writer's Handbook sections 3, 4, 7, and appendices; noted that current handbook expires at end of academic year; and stated that CRC will share full updates with Academic Senate when they are complete.
- A senator asked for an example of how IDEAA principles may be integrated into Course Outlines of Record. Foster suggested examples like removing prerequisites from courses and including Methods of Evaluation that allow students to demonstrate ability in a variety of ways.

3. **VP of Student Services Welcome** – M. Senecal

- Dr. Molly Senecal introduced herself and her role as Vice President of Student Services, expressing need for cooperation between Academic Affairs and Student Services. Dr. Senecal also shared her prior experience in teaching and serving as a Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, and encouraged senators to collaborate with her where possible.
- A senator asked how Student Services is working to enact IDEAA principles. Dr. Senecal offered examples including: activities by SRJC's Intercultural Council, student affinity groups, and Hire UP program for formerly incarcerated students; recent hire of social workers and mental health therapists across District; and upcoming MOU for partnership with local housing agencies to address student housing insecurity.

CONSENT:

None.

ACTION:

1. **Resolution in Support of Trans Students** (4th discussion, 3rd Action discussion) – J. Espinoza

Senators are asked to consider whether to take action to approve this resolution in support of transgender students.

[QRC Resolution in Support of Trans Students v.2 SRJC Pride Index Report 2016](#)

[California Community College Athletic Association Constitution and Bylaws](#) (see section 1.11: Participation by Gender)

[Compilation of Transgender Terminology](#) – Support document to aid senators in use of appropriate terminology

- A senator expressed appreciation for QRC and SRJC students’ effort in providing new draft resolution. Senator Stover moved to adopt updated version of Resolution in Support of Trans Students and forward to Board of Trustees. Motion seconded.
- Senator Avasthi read the new Resolution aloud, noting some changes from the last draft resolution. A senator suggested that the text should be changed to define “QRC” as an abbreviation for Queer Resource Center where it first appears in the document. No senators opposed; edit will be made.
- Some senators shared a concern that votes against this resolution may be seen as a rejection of general support for trans students. President Persons reiterated that senators may vote yes or no for a number of reasons separate from their personal feelings on a given topic.
- Motion passed with 24 YES and 2 NO votes.

M. Anderman - Y	D. Harden - Y	J. Perez - Y
L. Aspinall - Y	J. Kremer (proxy Stover) - Y	N. Perrone - Y
A. Baris Atilgan Relyea - Y	T. Jacobson (proxy Aspinall) - Y	O. Raola - Y
S. Avasthi - Y	T. Johnson - Y	S. Rosen - Y
C. Cullen Y	D. Lemmer - Y	E. Schmidt - Y
W. Downey - Y	D. McCall - abstain	N. Slovak - Y
M. Ferguson - N	G. Morre - N	J. Stover - Y
G. Garcia - Y	M. Ohkubo - Y	P. Usina - Y
M. Gonzalez Jordan - Y	P. Ozbirinci - Y	

- 2. Annual Professional Development Funding for Faculty Discipline Expertise** (2nd discussion, 1st Action Discussion) – A. Atilgan Relyea and N. Slovak
Senators are asked to consider supporting a resolution advocating for establishment of a process for District provision of regular funding for faculty professional development in their area of discipline expertise.

[Resolution in Support of Annual Professional Development Funding for Faculty Disciplinary Expertise v.2](#)

- Senator Anderman moved to approve resolution. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- President Persons will submit resolution to District.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Faculty Professional Ethics Committee** (3rd discussion)

On May 17, 2023, the Academic Senate voted to approve all revisions to the Bylaws. During this revision, the body elected to remove the Faculty Professional Ethics Committee from the list of senate subcommittees. What shall be the formal recommendation of the Academic Senate regarding the disposition of this subcommittee?

- A senator shared that they had researched policies & procedures implemented at other California Community Colleges, and suggested adopting similar “civility” policies if Senate moves to do away with this committee.
- Another senator sought clarification on Human Resources Interim Vice President Richmond’s input during previous Senate discussion on this topic, and suggested tabling discussion until Senate has a greater understanding of current HR processes. President Persons asked for clearly identified questions from senators to

share with HR on this topic.

- Senators continued to share thoughts and anecdotes in favor of, and against, this committee before time expired on the item.
- Senator Stover moved to extend discussion time by 10 minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed with none opposed.
- Senator Stover moved to make this an action item at next meeting. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. PDA Day Activity Questions (2nd Discussion) – A. Foster, A. Forrester

On behalf of the District Professional Development Committee, our Faculty Professional Development Coordinators have asked the Academic Senate to provide input regarding whether to include department meetings as an optional activity on Professional Development Activity days. Senators are asked to make recommendations regarding the following:

- *Should the Professional Development (PD) Coordinators approve workshop proposals that are designed specifically for members of a particular department?*
- *Should the PD Coordinators approve workshop proposals that are offered only in an online modality, and should there be a limit to the number of online-only workshops?*
- *What should be the priorities of PDA Day programming for faculty?*

Questions for Academic Senate about PDA Day

- A senator suggested the importance of first answering the question: what is the institutional role and aim of PDA day? The senator suggested that this will help inform responses to other questions, and expressed the view that PDA day should be for the institution to come together as a whole.
- Another senator shared the view that PDA day learning opportunities may benefit faculty in certain disciplines more than others.
- Another spoke in support of online modalities, noting that they offer accessibility tools like captioning and transcripts.
- President Persons reminded the body that new professional development programming schedules could also be explored, pointing out how some colleges offer an entire week of professional development activities.
- Time expired on this item and it will be brought back to agenda at next meeting.

3. New Faculty Learning Program Content (First Discussion) -A. Foster, A. Forrester.

Policies for faculty professional development activities is #8 of [the 10+1](#). In addition, Article 30.03.C.4 (in MOU of February 19, 2021, states “The NFPL program will be developed by the Academic Senate with collegial support from the faculty professional development coordinator(s) and approved by the VPAA.” What content does the AS recommend be covered during the fall (mandatory) and spring (multiple options) semesters of professional development for new faculty?

This agenda item was not addressed, as meeting time expired during discussion item 2.

INFORMATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:01 pm

DRAFT