



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 1st, 2024
TIME: 3:15 pm
LOCATION: 4688 Bertolini
Santa Rosa - Senate Chambers
Petaluma - 628 Call Bldg.
ZOOM LINK

PRESENT

M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea, S. Avasthi, C. Cullen, W. Downey, M. Ferguson, G. Garcia (remote), M. Gonzalez Jordan, D. Harden, J. Kremer, T. Jacobson, D. Lemmer, D. McCall, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, P. Ozbirinci, J. Perez, N. Perrone, O. Raola, E. Schmidt, J. Stover

ABSENT

S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover), N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt), P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi)

GUESTS

A. Foster & A. Forrester – Faculty Professional Development Coordinators; Dr. Robert Holcomb – VP Academic Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Persons.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by Senator Lemmer.

OPEN FORUM

M. Anderman from the Music Department provided a statement in regard to the state of Academic Affairs, with support from the chairs of Music and Theatre Arts, which referenced historical reorganization that found faculty returning after summer without a department. If the administration is considering consolidation of academic departments again, the statement urges for a transparent shared governance process to include affected faculty in open discussions, per [Board Policy 3.6](#).

MINUTES

- [Draft minutes of April 3rd](#)
- [Draft minutes of April 17th](#)

Senator Downey moved to approve minutes of April 3rd, seconded. Vote: 25 yes, 1 abstain.

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
C. Cullen – yes
W. Downey – yes
M. Ferguson – yes
G. Garcia – yes
M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

D. Harden – yes
J. Kremer – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
T. Johnson – abstain
D. Lemmer – yes
D. McCall – yes
G. Morre – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
P. Ozbirinci – yes

J. Perez – yes
N. Perrone – yes
O. Raola – yes
S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – yes
J. Stover – yes
P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) – yes

Senator Johnson moved to approve minutes of April 17th, seconded. Vote: 24 yes, 2 abstain; motion passed.

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes

D. Harden – yes
J. Kremer – yes
T. Jacobson – yes

J. Perez – yes
N. Perrone – yes
O. Raola – yes

S. Avasthi – yes
C. Cullen – yes
W. Downey – yes
M. Ferguson – abstain
G. Garcia – yes
M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

T. Johnson– yes
D. Lemmer – yes
D. McCall – yes
G. Morre – yes
M. Ohkubo – abstain
P. Ozbirinci – yes

S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – yes
J. Stover – yes
P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) - yes

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None

REPORTS – [President's Report](#)

President Persons mentioned the linkable President's report delayed due to Drupal being down. President Persons urges the body to read the full report and highlighted the following:

- Reminder: call to Senators asking for volunteers from the body to serve on the task force for resolving faculty civility issues – the deadline to respond with interest is May 8th. The charge of the task force is to produce a draft resolution before the end of the semester. Senator Jacobson volunteered to serve on the task force as a representative from ASEC.
- State-level involvement: [Assembly Bill No. 1111 \[Postsecondary education: common course numbering system\]](#) was a focus of ASCCC Spring Plenary session. The bill is moving forward, first with these six courses: College Composition, Argumentative Writing, Public Speaking, Introduction to Statistics, Introduction to Government., Introduction to Psychology. To get involved you can voice your interest to be appointed to ASCCC task forces through [this form](#). Senators commented AB 1111 sounds innocent but is actually a complicated process involving course objectives; concern for summer work happening (district level and state level) while faculty aren't working.
- Elections Results: The constitutional revision passed; announced four new associate senators were elected. Reminder that nominations are open for at-large election; there are four vacant contract faculty seats; the deadline for nominations is May 10th.

CONSENT ITEMS

[Proposed Updates to Curriculum Writer's Handbook](#)

Senator Ohkubo motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded. Vote: 26 yes, motion passed.

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
C. Cullen – yes
W. Downey – yes
M. Ferguson – yes
G. Garcia – yes
M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

D. Harden – yes
J. Kremer – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
T. Johnson– yes
D. Lemmer – yes
D. McCall – yes
G. Morre – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
P. Ozbirinci – yes

J. Perez – yes
N. Perrone – yes
O. Raola – yes
S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – yes
J. Stover – yes
P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) - yes

ACTION ITEMS

1. PDA Day Question 1: Should the Professional Development (PD) Coordinators approve workshop proposals that are designed specifically for members of a particular department?

A senator mentioned from their poll of constituents the consensus was: current practice is fine. Professional development committee coordinators don't make these decisions unilaterally; what do the Professional Development committee members think of these proposals? It was clarified the committee is looking to the Academic Senate for recommendations and faculty feedback. President Persons provided clarification: the Academic Senate makes the recommendation to the District or the governing board. So, in this case, the Academic Senate would make a recommendation to the Professional Development Committee, not the other way around; it is a Senate Consultation committee.

More views expressed included: PDA day is a day we all come together, with time for collaboration with all

colleagues, which the department-specific meetings would take away from; also, a full week of Professional Development would be useful. Another senator said they would answer yes on approving workshops designed specifically for members of a particular department because they believe the way things are going so far is okay-- there is space for coming together *as well as* resolving urgent matters that certain departments may need to address. Senators mentioned multiple ways forward to address the variety of needs in this topic: AS recommendations to district re: professional development expansion; revitalizing Professional Development Committee under the AS in the fall; revisiting the academic calendar topic and the need for department-specific days and week-long professional development activities; etc. More suggestions included: department specific-workshops be approved, so long as they don't serve as proxies for *general* department meetings; approval of workshops designed specifically for members of a particular department *if* those workshops occur during the last session of the day. Concern was expressed that department meetings are not professional development which expand pedagogy or introduce new strategies. Senator Garcia moved to maintain PDA as it currently operates and approve workshop proposals that are designed specifically for members of a particular department, seconded.

Vote: 17 yes, 7 no, 2 abstain; motion passed.

M. Anderman – yes
 L. Aspinall – yes
 A. Atilgan Relyea – no
 S. Avasthi – no
 C. Cullen – no
 W. Downey – abstain
 M. Ferguson – yes
 G. Garcia – yes
 M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

D. Harden – yes
 J. Kremer – yes
 T. Jacobson – no
 T. Johnson– yes
 D. Lemmer – yes
 D. McCall – no
 G. Morre – yes
 M. Ohkubo – no
 P. Ozbirinci – no

J. Perez – yes
 N. Perrone – yes
 O. Raola – yes
 S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
 E. Schmidt – yes
 N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – yes
 J. Stover – yes
 P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) - abstain

2. PDA Day Question 2: 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?

Senator opened saying their area constituents agreed to providing online modality, with differing views on limitations. Another expressed concern that in the past there has been standing room only providing RSVPs for sessions can help alleviate crowding and help for planning purposes; online is a more accessible way to participate-- in-person-only can create barriers for immunocompromised, geographic limitations for associate faculty wanting to participate, etc. Another voiced support for having hybrid options; yet the purpose of the day in principle should reflect coming together in-person. Senator Stover moved to approve workshop proposals offered online, HyFlex, and in hybrid modalities and recommend they be spread out throughout the day. Clarification about the question specifying online-*only*-workshop proposals. Senator Stover retracted motion. President Persons declared the Action Item out of time. Senator Raola moved to extend the time on the item by 5 minutes, no opposition. Senator Perrone moved to recommend continuing with the current practice (which is approving all while trying to spread them out so there are no more than 1-2 online-only workshops per session); seconded.

Vote: 23 yes; motion passed.

M. Anderman – yes
 L. Aspinall – yes
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
 S. Avasthi – yes
 C. Cullen – yes
 W. Downey – yes
 M. Ferguson – yes
 G. Garcia – yes
 M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

D. Harden – yes
 J. Kremer – no
 T. Jacobson – yes
 T. Johnson– yes
 D. Lemmer – no
 D. McCall – yes
 G. Morre – no
 M. Ohkubo – yes
 P. Ozbirinci – yes

J. Perez – yes
 N. Perrone – yes
 O. Raola – yes
 S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
 E. Schmidt – yes
 N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – yes
 J. Stover – yes
 P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) - yes

President Persons suggested skipping the break; no oppositions.

3. New Faculty Learning Program Content [see [Past NFLP Content \(2023-2024\)](#) & [New Faculty First Year Experience 2020-21](#)]

Senator opens suggesting the senate could address the multiple topics in this item through a work group that could research further and provide a proposal for a specific priority list. Another mentioned the associate orientation is no longer happening and another mentioned AFA is negotiating a paid associate orientation with the District. A senator suggested the professional development coordinators bring a draft program calendar that AS could review. It was suggested that a Canvas shell for faculty to review before the orientation so they can ask clarifying questions in-person and refer to it throughout the year. Professional Development Coordinators will put together an agenda for a single day of orientation for the Senate to review at next meeting's agenda; they will also consult with ASEC during the summer who may feel compelled to bring forward New Faculty Professional learning content topic to discuss.

DISCUSSION

Online Special Expertise

[Department Chair Council \(DCC\) Request for Academic Senate Discussion of Online Special Expertise Recommendation to Academic Senate from District Online Committee May 10 2023](#)

Senator began the discussion stating the body must first resolve the discrepancy between hourly assignments and contract faculty. There are many disciplines that already have special provisions (DSPs) for online expertise already, and the lack of equity between contract and hourly assignments provides a disturbing hierarchical context. President Persons reminded the body the Contract is the union's territory, and the Academic Senate's purview is in the value of offering professional development in online special expertise / the value in students having instructors trained in online learning expertise. Senator urged the body to make a recommendation on this topic a priority because of issues previously mentioned (students reporting disparate experiences across departments, most other community colleges having a policy, etc.). Senator Jacobson moved to make this discussion item an action item for next meeting's agenda, seconded.

Vote: 22 yes; motion passed.

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
C. Cullen – yes
W. Downey – yes
M. Ferguson – no
G. Garcia – yes
M. Gonzalez Jordan – yes

D. Harden – yes
J. Kremer – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
T. Johnson – yes
D. Lemmer – yes
D. McCall – yes
G. Morre – no
M. Ohkubo – yes
P. Ozbirinci – yes

J. Perez – yes
N. Perrone – yes
O. Raola – yes
S. Rosen (proxy J. Stover) – yes
E. Schmidt – no
N. Slovak (proxy E. Schmidt) – no
J. Stover – yes
P. Usina (proxy S. Avasthi) - yes

With time still left on the discussion item, senators continued the discussion, saying faculty unfamiliar with online pedagogical approaches leads to student agony and class-dropping. It was mentioned the overlap of purview on this issue between AFA and the Senate; President Persons will ask to meet with AFA representative(s) and bring feedback to ASEC. A comment was made that online teaching provides a method of teaching to reach those previously marginalized by the education system. Around 80% of students here are part-time; a student-centered approach doesn't always work for faculty, and a resolution would help the body understand why a district-wide policy is critical for consistency. Another comment asked for more research, suggested a possible work group before acting on specific recommendations. President Persons will talk to other AS presidents at various CA Community Colleges to see if they've gone through a similar process and can provide insight.

INFORMATION

1. State of Academic Affairs ([presentation](#)) – Dr. Holcomb, VP of Academic Affairs

Vice President of Academic Affairs shared the state of academic affairs may seem like a contradictory situation-- it's true they are facing challenges and there is a structural deficit but they are making progress in areas such as accreditation, SLOs, enrollment plans, meeting annual benchmarks for fiscal stability, etc. Concerns from senators involved the uneven approach of management and the performative language regarding department reorganization and approaches to vacancies. Senators asked for more information about last year's budget cuts to better understand the fiscal momentum referenced.

2. [Proposed Change of Status to Academic Senate Subcommittees](#)

President Persons relinquished the gavel to Senator Ohkubo to chair this item.

President Persons explained there was an informal meeting with VP of Finance and Administrative Services last year in which she was told legal counsel was reviewing all the college's shared governance committees and other committees to ensure Brown Act compliance (committees fall under the Brown Act committee if they are making recommendations to a governing board; this also extends to subcommittees of a body that makes recommendations to a governing board). They advised three senate subcommittees should be changed: Faculty Fund for Advanced Studies, Faculty Recognition Committee, and Elections Committee. Because they do not make recommendations to anyone, nor meet on a regular basis, they should be designated as task forces instead.

A senator asked about the term task force versus work group; President Persons mentioned College Council has a group working on a draft shared governance manual, which will include a glossary and clarify terms. President Persons also mentioned in a consultation with their shared governance coach that the Academic Senate Executive Committee doesn't have to fall under the Brown Act because the purpose of their meetings is to develop the agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

5:05 pm