



# ACADEMIC SENATE

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

## MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2024, 3:15 p.m.

Santa Rosa: Bertolini Senate Chambers, Room 4638 Petaluma: Room 690, Richard Call Bldg.

ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808 / [link](#)

**PRESENT** M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea, S. Avasthi, W. Downey, M. Ferguson, K. Frindell Teuscher, G. Garcia, M. Hale, T. Jacobson, L. Larsen, D. Lemmer, L. Dawn Lukas, A. Martin, S. McGregor-Gordon, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, M. Papa (remote), N. Persons, N. Perrone, O. Raola, S. Rosen (Petaluma), E. Schmidt, I. Tircuit, P. Usina, A. Yu (Petaluma)

**ABSENT** T. Johnson (proxy M. Ohkubo), N. Slovak (proxy N. Perrone)

**GUESTS** K. Blackwell, S. Jarrett, T. Richmond, K. Jolley

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Senator Avasthi read the land acknowledgement statement.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Senator Morre informed the body about three resolutions introduced at ASCCC Area Meetings addressing Math and English faculty concerns over negative impacts from AB 1705 implementation; he urged senators to support the resolutions and referenced the ASCCC email forwarded with more information.

### **JUST CAUSE REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

Hearing no objections, remote participation for Senator Papa was approved.

### **MINUTES**

Senator Persons made a motion to adopt the [Minutes of October 2<sup>nd</sup>](#), seconded. A **vote was called, and the draft Minutes of October 2<sup>nd</sup> were formally adopted**, with 28 unanimous yes votes.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

Senator Ohkubo pointed out an error on [Action Item #1 Local Degree Requirements](#), identifying the word 'how' as a typo. It was requested to remove the word leaving, ***Does the Senate wish to establish local degree requirements?*** as the Item question. Hearing no objections, the adjustment to Action Item 1 was made.

### **REPORTS**

President Stover gave his report:

- Thanked AFA president and AFA liaison for ongoing bridge-building work on projects (such as online teaching certification, standard academic calendar length, etc.) and positive collaboration
- New Faculty Mentor Program kick-off occurred, grateful for faculty participants and volunteers, as well as Rooted in Love and their work informing the program
- Encouraged community members to attend the November 8<sup>th</sup> & December 3<sup>rd</sup> [Rooted in Love workshops](#)

- Made a 'money-plug' for faculty to donate a small portion of their pay to the Academic Senate foundation fund: *if all faculty just pitched in one dollar it could expand opportunities for faculty members (such as attending ASCCC plenary sessions, etc.)*
- Mentioned the taskforces that launched from the previous meeting's decisions and asked for more senators to serve on the Senate Reapportionment taskforce
- Calls for proposals for Communities of Practice (CoPs) for the Spring Semester will be sent out by the Academic Senate email account by the end of the month
- At the last EPCC meeting:
  - During the waitlist procedure recommendations work with the District they came across a technical issue: it's not possible for students to have access to Canvas if they're on the waitlist. Administrative partners will provide an update at the next meeting
  - Productive discussion about moving waitlist practices to administrative procedures and ensuring broad availability on website for counselors and students
- Update on annual professional development funding resolution passed last spring:
  - Program and Resource Planning Process (PRPP) form-- President Stover is working with Jeremy Smotherman and Sarah Lesson to make sure the form accounts for faculty professional development needs
  - In the process of re-establishing the senate faculty professional development committee

## ACTION

1. [Local Degree Requirements](#) - *Does the Senate wish to Establish Local Degree Requirements in Student Success & Wellness (including Information Literacy) and American Institutions?*

Questions were asked and Articulation Specialist K. Blackwell clarified the following information:

- Local Degree pattern is something SRJC has always had
- Students following AA or AS *can* follow a transferable GE pattern as well
- Many students have no intention of transferring
- Many students follow a certificate or pursue a local health science's degree
- The local GE pattern is a requirement for local associate's degrees
- Updated Title 5 mandates a local GE pattern that accomplishes a minimum of 21 units
- Areas 1-6 are mandated through Title 5

President Stover clarified:

- ASCCC provided direction with two resolutions (which were previously provided in agenda materials, linked [here](#) & [here](#)) encouraging local senates to adopt local requirements in these Areas (7 & 8)
- There are many examples throughout the state of colleges adopting a local pattern vs. Cal-GETC pattern for transfer
- Students have the option to choose their pathway.
- Senators speculated about transfer goals versus other reasons students pursue education.
- There was a question regarding the language used in the [Support Doc Local Degree Language](#)
  - It was clarified there's no local choice in the language; it comes from the State.

Senator Lukas **motioned to establish local degree requirements**, seconded. Discussion on the motion followed:

- Senators agreed it'd be valuable to the community and SRJC could lead by example for the state
- A point of clarification was sought if the motion is specific to what those local requirements are
- Senator Garcia made a motion to **amend the motion to adopt local degree requirements in Area 7, American Institutions, and Area 8, in Student Success & Wellness, seconded.**
- Discussion on the amendment to the motion, as follows:

- point of clarification: specifying unit values too? No, just specifying *Areas*
- A vote was called on the amendment to the motion; with **28 yes votes the amendment to the motion unanimously passed.**
- President Stover asked if there was discussion on the amended motion: *Does the Senate wish to adopt local degree requirements in Area 7, American Institutions, and Area 8, Student Success & Wellness?* Hearing none, **a vote was taken and the amended motion passed with 28 yes votes: Senate unanimously voted to adopt local degree requirements for SRJC in Areas 7 & 8.**
- With 4 minutes left on the item senators discussed the topic of unit values; it was clarified that the advice is to add no more than 6 units to current local degree requirements
  - American Institutions requirement would be 3 units
  - Student Success & Wellness would be 3 units
- With no time left on the item and more questions about unit value, language, and criteria, President Stover stated the item would be back on the next meeting agenda with Senators Ohkubo, Usina, and McGregor Gordon in the queue.

2. [Revitalization of Faculty Professional Development Committee \(a Senate subcommittee\)](#)

Point of order about the framing of the Item to the body-- *Shall* they re-establish the committee versus *how* they will re-establish the committee?

Senator Schmidt **made a motion to re-establish the Senate professional development committee, with further discussion as to the difference between subcommittee & consultation committee, and other details at a later time; seconded.** Hearing no discussion on the motion, the **vote was called and the Senate unanimously agreed to re-establish its professional development committee, with 28 yes votes.**

With 13 minutes left on the item, senators discussed the *how*:

- PD should apply to all faculty equitably (not arbitrary, or based days scheduled to teach, etc.)
- Questions regarding the professional development coordinators' workload, and the interface between the senate subcommittee on faculty professional development and the district professional development committee
- The flex obligation is determined for associate faculty by the schedule of classes, therefore allied faculty who are not in the schedule of classes, have no obligation
- the New Faculty Orientation and yearlong program should be a separate entity because of the large amount of work involved
- Critical need to center Associate Faculty members in campus-wide equity efforts because associate faculty bring an immense diversity of experience and represent actual diversity that Contract faculty at SRJC do not.
- Need to increase scope of professional development activities (comment specifically called for EMLS instructor literacy skills)
- Bylaws need to be amended to address the changes to the committee (references to Bylaws included in [support document](#))
- District is handling an accounting issue with the days associate faculty are scheduled and how they're paid for PD. However, the idea that every associate faculty member should receive professional development is in the Senate's purview (senate could have the power to recommend budget and AFA could negotiate the specifics).
- The District accounting system which enables the current arrangement should be examined as we consider these changes (restriction of operation due to expediency versus equitable application).

- Senator Usina made a motion to bring the item back as an urgent discussion item. Before it was seconded, there were points of order regarding the definition of 'urgent item', at which point the time ran out on the item.
- Senator Atilgan-Relyea **motioned to extend the time on the item by 5 minutes, seconded.** Hearing no opposition, **time was extended.**
- Senator Aspinall made a point of order: *urgent* means something is time-sensitive (don't want to conflate the words urgent and important); working under a deadline
- Senator Usina **withdrew her motion** based on the conversation.
- President Stover clarified: We will bring back the action items we voted on today and will continue to discuss the intricacies of those decisions we made today.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. [What Shall Be the Academic Senate Recommendation for Area 6 Curriculum in the New CAL-GETC Pattern?](#)

President Stover introduced the Area 6 curriculum topic, clarifying the different choices of action included on the [support document](#), including the official recommendations from the Ethnic Studies department.

Senators discussed:

- The importance of Ethnic Studies as a distinct discipline; Ethnic Studies courses have unique curriculum and pedagogy
- Senators urged faculty members whose courses could possibly meet the criteria to be included within the Ethnic Studies area to follow the recommendations of the department
- The Ethnic Studies department is slowly growing (with new associate faculty hires)
- The Ethnic Studies department has a completely different lens of operating (think: critical race theory, decolonizing consciousness, etc.)
- Area 7 constituent comment: other courses should be able to fulfill the Ethnic Studies local requirements
- Senators urged faculty to understand the teaching praxis of the discipline, and to listen to the experts who understand it best
- Dashboard of unduplicated hits showed many students wanted to take ethnic studies courses this semester and weren't able to get in
- Many senators in favor of choice of action #1; faculty should support the new department as it grows, with the content of Ethnic Studies courses being taught by the department only
- Question was asked if the language in the recommendation could be updated. It was clarified that the state defines the 'related areas of study' --from Title 5 Education code; wording cannot be changed.

Senator Ohkubo **motioned to move this Discussion Item to Action item on the next meeting's agenda, seconded.** Discussion on the motion:

- Senator Hale **motioned to extend the time on the topic by 5 minutes. There was objection so a vote was called whether to extend time on the item by 5 minutes; it passed with 27 yes votes, 1 no vote.**

M. Anderman – yes  
 L. Aspinall – yes  
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes  
 S. Avasthi – yes  
 W. Downey – yes  
 M. Ferguson – yes  
 K. Frindell Teuscher – yes  
 G. Garcia – yes  
 M. Hale – yes  
 T. Jacobson – yes

T. Johnson (proxy M. Ohkubo) – yes  
 L. Larsen – yes  
 D. Lemmer – yes  
 L. Dawn Lukas – yes  
 A. Martin – yes  
 S. McGregor-Gordon – yes  
 G. Morre – yes  
 M. Ohkubo – yes  
 M. Papa – yes  
 N. Persons – no

N. Perrone – yes  
 O. Raola – yes  
 S. Rosen – yes  
 E. Schmidt – yes  
 N. Slovak (proxy N. Perrone) – yes  
 I. Tircuit – yes  
 P. Usina – yes  
 A. Yu – yes

- Senator Hale **made a motion to amend the motion on the floor, to move only option number one (the recommendations of Ethnic Studies department), seconded.** Discussion on the amendment to the motion as follows:
  - Senators in support and haven't heard widespread opposition from constituents to choice option 1
  - A senator felt that it would be pre-emptive to only choose option 1, wondered if enough discussion was had
  - Others asked questions regarding Ethnic Studies courses; it was clarified that the methodologies and pedagogies of ethnic studies are different and distinct from other disciplines.
  - Many felt there was a robust discussion; some wanted all options included
- Seeing no more discussion, a **vote was called on the amendment to the motion to only forward choice 1 to an Action Item. The amendment to the motion passed with 24 yes votes and 4 no votes.**

M. Anderman – yes  
 L. Aspinall – yes  
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes  
 S. Avasthi – yes  
 W. Downey – no  
 M. Ferguson – yes  
 K. Frindell Teuscher – yes  
 G. Garcia – yes  
 M. Hale – yes  
 T. Jacobson – yes

T. Johnson (proxy M. Ohkubo) – yes  
 L. Larsen – yes  
 D. Lemmer – yes  
 L. Dawn Lukas – yes  
 A. Martin – yes  
 S. McGregor-Gordon – yes  
 G. Morre – no  
 M. Ohkubo – yes  
 M. Papa – yes  
 N. Persons – no

N. Perrone – yes  
 O. Raola – no  
 S. Rosen – yes  
 E. Schmidt – no  
 N. Slovak (proxy N. Perrone) – yes  
 I. Tircuit – yes  
 P. Usina – yes  
 A. Yu – yes

A vote was then called on the amended motion, which **passed with 27 yes votes and 1 no vote.**

M. Anderman – yes  
 L. Aspinall – yes  
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes  
 S. Avasthi – yes  
 W. Downey – yes  
 M. Ferguson – yes  
 K. Frindell Teuscher – yes  
 G. Garcia – yes  
 M. Hale – yes  
 T. Jacobson – yes

T. Johnson (proxy M. Ohkubo) – yes  
 L. Larsen – yes  
 D. Lemmer – yes  
 L. Dawn Lukas – yes  
 A. Martin – yes  
 S. McGregor-Gordon – yes  
 G. Morre – yes  
 M. Ohkubo – yes  
 M. Papa – yes  
 N. Persons – yes

N. Perrone – yes  
 O. Raola – yes  
 S. Rosen – yes  
 E. Schmidt – no  
 N. Slovak (proxy N. Perrone) – yes  
 I. Tircuit – yes  
 P. Usina – yes  
 A. Yu – yes

- President Stover confirmed Discussion Item 1, 1st Choice of Action, will be moved to an Action Item for next meeting.
- President Stover asked if there were objections to delaying Discussion Item #2 regarding the revision of the Senate bylaws to the next meeting to allow time for the guests presenting the Information Item. Hearing no objections, the [2024 Title IX Regulations: Exploring Key Provisions information item](#) was introduced. Guests Stephanie Jarrett, SRJC District Title IV Coordinator and Theresa Richmond, (Interim) VP of Human Resources spoke with Kate Jolley, VP of Finance and Administrative Services present.

## INFORMATION

The [Title IV Updates presentation](#) included:

- Key changes in 2024 Title IV -- updates and differences to 2020 regulations
- History of Title IV: enactment in 1972, changes in policy guidelines issued and revoked, etc.
- People who report sex discrimination aren't expected to navigate the complicated policies; they are not burdened to assess which policy applies-- it is the responsibility of the Title IX coordinators and Vice

President of Human Resources.

- For more complex situations outside investigators are used to determine if the grievance is harassment
- The investigation must determine if it has the preponderance of evidence needed; need to prove it's more true than not true
- Important note: new Title IX regulations are not retroactively applied (they apply to incidents that happened after August 1, 2024)

A couple senators made comments but with the item running out of time, President Stover stated it would be brought back as a Consent Item on the next meeting's agenda.

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