



# ACADEMIC SENATE

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

## MEETING MINUTES

May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025, 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

**PRESENT** M. Anderman, A. Atilgan Relyea, S. Avasthi, J. Davis, K. Frindell Teuscher, T. Jacobson, T. Johnson, J. Kremer, L. Larsen, D. Lemmer, L. D. Lukas, A. Martin, S. McGregor-Gordon, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, M. Papa, N. Perrone, N. Persons, S. Rosen (Petaluma), T. Ruiz, E. Schmidt, N. Slovak, J. Stover, I. Tircuit, P. Usina, A. Yu (remote)

**ABSENT** L. Aspinall (proxy T. Johnson), W. Downey, G. Garcia

**GUESTS** A. Foster, R. Holcomb, J. Smotherman, L. Collier, M. Senecal

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Stover at 3:15 p.m.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT** Land acknowledgement statement was read by President Stover.

### **OPEN FORUM**

1. **J. Pardoe:** faculty member from the English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) department expressed concern over the Curriculum Review Committee's (CRC) dismissal of EMLS 5, a transfer-level critical thinking course designed for multilingual students. Shared the story of a student named Juan, who, despite dedication and progress, continues to struggle due to a lack of appropriate support courses like EMLS 5. Urged the committee to reconsider the decision and support innovative, transfer-level coursework that provides essential language support for multilingual students to succeed.
2. **A. Atilgan Relyea:** senator and EMLS associate faculty member; reflected on the increased participation of associate faculty in shared governance and highlighted two recent ASCCC Spring 2025 resolutions: one advocating for equity between part-time and full-time faculty (*111.09 S25 Supporting a United Faculty Workplace for California Community Colleges*) and another calling for inclusive Senate participation for part-time faculty (*106.01 S25 Advocating for Inclusive Participation of Part-Time Faculty in California Community College Local Academic Senates*).
  - Expressed deep appreciation for fellow associate faculty senators and associate colleagues as well as contract faculty allies, urging continued support and advancement opportunities for associate faculty within the institution.
  - Emphasized the importance of inclusion, student-centered leadership, and ongoing collaboration to create a more equitable academic environment.
3. **N. Slovak:** Senator and current chair of the Tauzer Committee responded to questions from the prior meeting regarding the committee's absence within a recent college governance restructuring presentation.
  - Provided historical context, explaining that the Tauzer Lecture has been an SRJC tradition since 1987, independently managed by past lecturers to honor teaching excellence and service.
  - Emphasized that any decisions or discussions about the committee's role or name should involve its members, who continue to uphold this longstanding tradition.

4. **A. Martin:** Associate faculty senator affirmed the presence and value of autistic individuals in academic spaces; disclosing his late diagnosis of autism and personal challenges and misunderstandings faced throughout life, especially before autism spectrum conditions were widely recognized or diagnosed.
- o Emphasized the importance of acknowledging neurodiversity, noting that many individuals may be undiagnosed and encouraged patience and understanding toward students who may process the world differently.

#### **JUST CAUSE FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

President Stover asked if anyone was opposed to Senator Yu participating remotely. Hearing none, remote participation for Senator Yu was approved.

#### **MINUTES** Correction/Adoption.

##### [Minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025](#)

President Stover asked if there were any edits or corrections to the draft meeting minutes from last week. Hearing none, Senator Schmidt made a motion to approve [the Minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup>](#), seconded. The Minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup> were adopted by vote: 25 yes, 1 abstention.

M. Anderman – yes

L. Aspinall (proxy T. Johnson) – yes

A. Atilgan Relyea – yes

S. Avasthi – yes

J. Davis – yes

K. Frindell Teuscher – yes

T. Jacobson – yes

T. Johnson – yes

J. Kremer – yes

L. Larsen – yes

D. Lemmer – yes

L. D. Lukas – yes

A. Martin – yes

S. McGregor-Gordon – yes

G. Morre – yes

M. Ohkubo – yes

M. Papa – yes

N. Perrone – yes

N. Persons – yes

S. Rosen – abstain

T. Ruiz – yes

E. Schmidt – yes

N. Slovak – yes

I. Tircuit – yes

P. Usina – yes

A. Yu – yes

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** Any senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

Senator Morre made a point of clarification re: the Bylaws & Constitutional changes and the voting process.

#### **REPORTS**

##### **1. [President's Report:](#)**

- [ASEC Ballot Template Sp25 Elections](#)
- [Elections Taskforce Certification Report](#)
- [Adopted Resolutions – April 26, 2025](#)

President Stover:

- announced the certified results of the At-Large Representative elections: Jesus Nieto, Tim Melvin, Jurgen Kremer, Vincent Hamilton, and Kasia Fortunati. He also thanked Kyle Zeck for running and encouraged trying again next election cycle.
- extended gratitude with Certificates of Appreciation to those senators whose service concludes this semester, recognizing the senators exemplary service upholding the [10+1 in Title 5](#) and...
  - Senator Martin's vocal advocacy and support of associate faculty rights and responsibilities and autism awareness.
  - Senator Yu's engaged advocacy of at-large senator responsibilities in Area 5 (plus shared enthusiasm for electronic dance music festivals)

- Senator Slovak’s steadfast critical engagement and advocacy and support of faculty-centered standards and practices
- Senator Kremer’s (*returning*) support in decolonizing the curriculum and centering students in their studies.
- Senator Usina’s fierce advocacy in support of student Information literacy and recognized the early career mentoring she provided to him
- Senator Larsen’s ongoing support for Work Experience, advocacy for faculty professional development standards, and all contributions to the health of the Senate
- Senator Johnson’s statewide advocacy in support of Adapted Physical Education standards as well as her local advocacy
- recognized outgoing Executive Committee Officers:
  - Senator Avasthi as Equity Advocate and
  - Senator Atilgan Relyea as Associate Representative
- concluded by thanking the body for the many learning experiences in his first year of presidency and expressed appreciation for their shared work in facilitating all faculty voices.

**2. Educational Planning Coordinating Committee (EPCC) Subgroup Update – R. Holcomb**

R. Holcomb, Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) presented the draft AP 3775 on Artificial Intelligence (AI). He shared College Council is expected to form the multi-constituency AI task force ([recommended by the Academic Senate, via Action Item 1c., on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#)). With President Stover he co-led the work in AP 3775 on Academic Integrity, sharing they collaborated with colleagues from other community colleges to create the draft before the body. Feedback from Senators followed:

- appreciation for the draft; pleased concerns and opinions from senators were reflected within
- concern for certain language becoming obsolete (referencing ‘*Spring 2025*’, ‘*novel*’ tools, etc.)
- recommended consistency in the listing of AI tools
- clearer alignment with existing Academic Integrity policy and procedures
- within *Faculty Responsibility* section, encouraged clarifying ambiguous language and AFA contract alignment
  - President Stover clarified the meaning of the asterick on ‘*Syllabus Statements*’—this is a recommendation, not a requirement; for a requirement, that would need to be negotiated between AFA & District.
- within *Student Responsibility* section, the list is dense – encouraged simplifying

**3. [Faculty Online Teaching Certification Work Group Final Report](#) – T. Jacobson, L. D. Lukas**

T. Jacobson announced the report would come back as a Discussion Item next year.

L. D. Lukas began the report-out with background, then updated the body that the workgroup conducted extensive research to develop their proposal, which is compliant with State and Federal regulations as well as disciplinary best practices.

Senator Jacobson detailed the group’s final recommendations, then asked the body for questions. With no questions, President Stover moved onto the final report on the agenda.

**4. [Faculty Professional Development Senate Subcommittee Revitalization Workgroup Report](#) – A. Forrester, A. Foster**

A. Foster began the report by summarizing the main proposals for the senate Faculty Professional Development Subcommittee composition and charge. Feedback from Senators followed:

- Third-party accreditation certification requirements for areas of teaching and how those re-certification activities can count toward professional development hours
- General concern that associate faculty are not qualified for PGI

- Concern that any faculty member which do not teach full-time semester assignments do not have a flex obligation

**CONSENT** Treated collectively as one Action item. Any senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

1. [CRC Curriculum Handbook Updates \[Unit Value Change Guidelines\]](#)
2. **Bylaws & Constitution Work Group Proposed Changes for Spring 2025 and Request for Extension of Work & Taskforce membership thru Fall 2025.** See also
  - a. [Related Cover Sheet](#)
  - b. [Constitution Proposed Changes](#)
  - c. [Bylaws Proposed Changes](#)
3. **Thematic Learning Opportunity at SRJC Petaluma AY2025-26 and Beyond**
  - a. [Cover Sheet and Resolution](#)
  - b. [Recorded Presentation by Dr. AC Panella, Incoming Chair of Petaluma Faculty Forum](#)
4. [Adoption of Faculty Professional Development Senate Subcommittee Revitalization Recommendations](#)

Senator Persons made a motion to adopt the Consent agenda, seconded. Hearing no discussion on the motion, the vote was called and the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously with 26 yes votes.

**BREAK** – 5 minutes

**ELECTIONS (ASEC OFFICERS)** Ballots will be paper-based, and voting will take place in the Senate Chambers and (if necessary) in our SRJC Petaluma location. Election Taskforce Senator Members T. Johnson, S. McGregor-Gordon, and N. Persons will confirm the results of the election for the body.

- [Vice President Candidate Statement: Tara Jacobson](#)
- [Executive Secretary Candidate Statement: Monica Ohkubo](#)
- [Equity Candidate Statement: Nick Perrone](#)
- [At-Large Candidate Statement: Laura Aspinall](#)
- **Associate Faculty Candidates Statements:** [Jessica Bush](#) and [L. Dawn Lukas](#)

During the break individual ballots for each senator (including those remote via zoom) were distributed and collected; the Election Taskforce counted ballots and certified the **results of the Executive Officer Elections:**

- ✓ **Vice President:** Tara Jacobson
- ✓ **Executive Secretary:** Monica Ohkubo
- ✓ **Equity Representative:** Nick Perrone
- ✓ **At-Large Representative:** Laura Aspinall
- ✓ **Associate Faculty Representative:** Jessica Bush

President Stover thanked those who ran and reminded the body with no Action or Discussion agenda they would next hear the Information agenda.

**ACTION:** Items must come from the Discussion agenda of a previous meeting or be carried over from a previous Action agenda.

None.

**DISCUSSION**

None.

## INFORMATION (4:30 – 5:00)

### 1. [Strategic Action Workgroup Action Steps Update](#) – J. Smotherman

J. Smotherman began the presentation by passing [physical copies of the newest \(as of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025\) update](#) on the Strategic Planning Action Work Group action steps, which incorporated Senator feedback from the last presentation. He mentioned the addition of operational metrics for each action step. Questions from senators:

- How improving the term-to-term persistence impacts the target of 17,500 FTES
- How the student population for student feedback in the surveying process was identified
  - It was clarified a call for participation was made by Student Government Assembly (SGA).

### 2. [Student Equity 3.0 planning](#) – L. Collier & M. Senecal

#### a. See also [2025-28 SE Plan Template and Resources \(CCCCO\)](#)

Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Senecal, and Director, Student Equity & Achievement, Student Services, Li Collier, presented their presentation on the Student Equity plan. This is the third time SRJC is writing a plan, to continue receiving the Student Equity Achievement (SEA) grant funding. Research shows student educational plans provide students better opportunity for persistence. The work group plans to gather and incorporate feedback from the college community before the submission of SEP 3.0 by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Questions from senators followed:

- How non-credit student populations fit into the plan
  - Non-credit students are represented in the metrics (successful enrollment metric reflects all students)
- How certificate programs, especially for Career Education (CE), fit into the plan
  - Completion metric includes both degree and certificate

The work group will incorporate stakeholder feedback and continuously update the college community.

## ADJOURNMENT

President Stover thanked the guests and reminded the body of the Special Study Session on faculty hiring on May 21<sup>st</sup>. He adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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### ALL FACULTY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ACADEMIC SENATE MEETINGS

This Academic Senate is created to secure the professional rights and to carry out the responsibilities of the faculty of the Sonoma County Junior College District. The faculty have the traditional right of college faculty to participate in the governance of the college. As specialists in specific disciplines and as experienced instructors, the participation of the faculty in the governance of the college is essential for the district's pursuit of its mission. As professionals, the faculty have the right and a duty to set professional and ethical standards for the conduct of their profession and to promote the excellence of their profession. In order to achieve these ends and in accordance with Title 5 of the California Administrative Code, Subchapter 2, Sections 53200-53205, this Academic Senate is established.