

AS President Report to Academic Senate

May 15, 2024

N. Persons

Congratulations to Tara Jacobson, senator and Academic Senate Executive Committee at-large member, on being named *2024 Kinesiology Educator of the Year, awarded by the California Community College Physical Education, Kinesiology, and Dance Association!*

Postponement of Online Special Expertise Action Item:

The Academic Senate Exec Committee has decided to postpone the Action Item discussion of Online Special Expertise because of concerns regarding other time-sensitive agenda items. Online special expertise is about instructional standards, not job conditions, which are negotiated only after it is determined what the standards for instruction should be and it is decided that a person is qualified to teach. This is an academic issue about ensuring academic quality. This item was brought to the senate at the request of both the District Online Committee (DOC) and the Department Chairs (DCC).

It is my intention here to state why this is a matter that belongs in the Academic Senate's purview. Faculty skills constitute a type of academic qualifications, very similar to the establishment of minimum qualifications in a discipline, which is handled entirely by faculty and is a function of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Academic quality and academic qualifications are squarely within our purview. AB 1725 (Vasconcellos, 1988), which establishes the Academic Senates, states the following with regard to the California Community College system and Academic Senates: The provision of quality transfer education is a primary mission of the community colleges.”; “Emphasis is placed on the responsibility of the faculty to ensure the quality of their faculty peers.”; “Minimum standards governing procedures established by governing boards of community college districts to ensure faculty, staff, and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level and to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, and *the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.*”

Committee Appointments to Shared Governance Groups:

A call for submission of interest in serving on SRJC shared governance committees has gone out from the Academic Senate 3 times over the past two weeks. On Friday, May 10th, some members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee met to being making appointments to committees.

All faculty, regardless of where they are in their (multi-year) term of service on an SRJC shared governance committee, must respond to this email and fill out the webform to be considered for appointment to SRJC committees. If you do not respond and fill out the form, you may lose your seat on a committee. The process for these appointments, including tracking them from year to year, is complex and laborious and we appreciate your

understanding and willingness to follow process in order to help us complete this task as efficiently and quickly as possible.

A call for continued vacancies will come out this week and may even have gone out by the time of our meeting on May 15th. Committees such as Scholarship, Faculty Staffing Advisory, and Study Abroad tend to have way too many faculty applying for appointment, whereas other essential committees and councils such as Planning and Budget Council, College Council, Educational Policies Coordinating Council have hardly any faculty apply.

Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) Correction!

I often remind the academic senate that “challenges to the chair are welcome.” Well, one of you took me up on this after our last meeting via an email message that I welcomed. The question was, “shouldn’t we have voted to agree to cease deliberation during an action item discussion when someone stated ‘Call for the question?’”

Yes, in fact, this is correct. The motions “call for the question” or “previous question” are ways a member of the body can call for the vote to be taken. This motion takes precedence of others, can apply to any pending motion, cannot be used to interrupt another speaker, must be seconded, is not debatable nor amendable, and finally, **requires a 2/3 vote**. It was that last piece that I forgot about until you wrote.

That said, it further goes on to say that it is possible in some situations that it’ll be clear to all that there is no further interest in debate and no one else desirous of speaking. I believe when this happened at senate last week, I had 2 people still waiting in the queue. For this reason alone I should have explained the motion needs a second and then a vote of 2/3 to carry (to proceed to vote on the original item/question). When there is not a queue waiting, there is often a pause in the discussion where someone will utter this “Call” and in this case RONR advises that prior to calling for this motion to be seconded, the chair can ask if anyone is opposed to closing debate, and seeing no one who does want to speak, can declare debate closed and take the vote on the original motion. Please see RONR 16:1-7 for complete explanation.

Finally, I remind you all and encourage you to challenge the chair during the meeting if you feel proper procedure is not being followed, even if you are unsure. As I frequently state, we are all learning, and this is a process of continuous improvement we all benefit from.

District Educational Plan:

The DEP held its last weekly meeting of the Spring 2024 semester on May 7th. President-elect Dr. Stover and VPAA Dr. Holcomb plan to meet over the summer to strategize and plan the structure for this work moving forward. The workgroup will continue meeting on the same day/time schedule next fall, but may change to meeting every other week instead of weekly. The relationship of various SRJC planning efforts to each other and to our Strategic Plan continue to be discussed at various levels of district conversation including Dr. Garcia’s cabinet. At our most recent meeting the workgroup focused on Competency-

Based Education (CBE) and began consideration of defining “success” and possible metrics. This included discussion of academic success, completion as success, institutional learning outcomes and their relationship to student learning outcomes and success, the need to bring discussion regarding the philosophy of education to the Academic Senate for input, as well as a range of more specific concepts.

AB1111 Common Course Numbering Update:

Along with AB928 (Title 5 Cal-GETC Changes), AB111 (Common Course Numbering or CCN) implementation proceeds. Originally legislated to begin implementation in fall 2024, this was postponed to the Fall 2025 semester. Implementation will begin with CCN of a group of 6 courses all selected for their high level of enrollment across the California Community College system. These courses include College Composition (ENGL), Argumentative Writing and Critical Thinking (ENGL), Public Speaking (Communications Studies), Intro to Statistics (Math), Intro to American Government (Political Science), and Intro to Psychology (PSYCH). Department chairs in these areas have been notified that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is seeking faculty to attend one of three convenings this summer intended to gather input from discipline faculty in these areas. You can learn more by clicking [here](#) to access the update and information on Common Course Numbering Implementation.

College Council (CC):

CC most recently met on Friday, May 3rd. On the agenda were the following topics: 2nd reading of BP/AP 5110 (Counseling) and BP/AP 5050 (SSSP), both these items will be on the Board of Trustees agenda for their 5/14/2024 meeting; a first review of Chapter 2 Policies and Procedures for the Board of Trustees including Officers, Regular Meetings of the Board, Closed Sessions, Communication among Board Members, and Student Member (content similar to what you’d find in the Executive Committee Article of the Academic Senate’s own Bylaws); an update on Dr. Garcia’s IDEAA District Workgroup, which has been fully appointed and will use the Friday morning meeting time of the former President’s Consultation Council; a Shared Governance Workgroup update from the subgroup of the CC working on a draft manual, which included discussion of what constitutes an “established” or “official” body. We also discussed the establishment of an Accreditation Oversight Committee but did not conclude this discussion. Once date and time for meetings has been identified the Academic Senate will put a call out for 3 faculty to participate, as this would be an Academic Senate consultation committee.

Planning and Budget Council:

The final PBC meeting of the semester is on May 13th. On the agenda are the following topics: SRJC Environmental Scan, an update on institutional planning, update on the SRJC budget and the Student-centered Funding Formula (SCFF), and PBC shared governance survey results.