

**Academic Senate President's Report**  
**Wednesday, 21 August 2024 / John A Stover III, PhD**

Welcome back, Senators, Faculty, Students, Staff, and Administrators. It's good to be in community with you again, and I'm very much looking forward to our work together this AY2024-25 in carrying out [our 10+1 purview](#).

Let's start by welcoming our newest (At Large) Senators: K. Frindell Teuscher in Area 2; L. Dawn Lucas in Area 3; MJ Papa in Area 4; and Ivan Turcuit in Area 3. Last year we also permanently expanded our Associate Senator seats, and we now welcome aboard Senators Anthony Martin in Area 12 and Siobhan McGregor Gordon in Area 13. I'm grateful you have all stepped up and look forward to your contributions. I welcome all Senators to New Senator Orientation Friday, August 23rd from 10am to 11:30 am here in the Senate Chambers. I also want to welcome back after their time away Senators Michael Hale (Area 3), Lauralyn Larsen (Area 1), and Albert Yu (At Large Area 5). You were missed and we're glad you're back.

It's also important to remind everyone of the wonderful team of Senators who lead this body: Past President and New (At Large) Senator in Area 11, Nancy Persons; Vice President and Senator from Area 10 Monica Ohbuko; Executive Secretary and Senator from Area 8 Laura Aspinall; Associate Representative and Senator from Area 13 Aylin Baris Atilgan Relyea; At Large Representative and Senator from Area 10 Tara Jacobson; and, Equity Advocate and Senator from Area 6 Smitha Avasthi. Combined, the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) collectively has DECADES of experience in support of Senate purview.

This Fall we will bring back Discussion and Action items related to Online Special Expertise Action (as had previously appeared on our May 1st agenda with supporting documentation [here](#) and [here](#)); the [Waitlist Workgroup Proposals](#) and [Student FAQ](#) (presented to the Senate on May 15th); as well as the [New Faculty Professional Learning Program Goals and Structure](#), which is [#8 on the 10+1](#) and in follow up to the many suggestions Senators have already made for ongoing faculty orientation (see [April 3rd discussion minutes here](#) and [April 17th discussion minutes here](#)). It's important to remember there remains considerable interest in supporting both contract and associate faculty onboarding, and as a shared area of purview with our faculty collective bargaining agent, the Senate is seeking collaboration with AFA on these, and other, matters.

New, important activities in Fall 2024 will include our recommendations on the Cal-GETC Title 5 Changes ([as first previewed](#) at the end of Spring 24 semester and being reintroduced today) and [Common Course Numbering](#). Institutionalizing our [SLO activities](#), [Guided Pathway Implementation](#), [BP and AP review](#), [Faculty Professional Development](#), Faculty Hiring Policy and Procedures, [Generative Artificial Intelligence](#), [the Academic Calendar](#), and many other topics will also be discussed.

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This summer I participated in the ASCCC [Faculty Leadership Institute](#) and their [Curriculum Institute](#); met with campus leaders and the Board President; planned with the ASEC team; prepped for major committees; and began preparations for Fall meetings and retreats. There was also a lot of unexpected work that helped me remain flexible in my service to the community. I also learned another important lesson this summer - just because someone says "*The Senate should take up this work*" does not mean that work is within our [10+1 purview](#).

[Within our 10+1 purview](#), there are many opportunities for change in which we can make recommendations. My job as your President is to focus our work where we best thrive - in our "rely primary upon" areas of...

- Area 1: Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses
- Area 2: Degree and certificate requirements
- Area 3: Grading policies
- Area 5: Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
- Area 7: Faculty roles/involvement in accreditation processes (self-study, annual reports)

Area 4 [educational program development] and Area 8 [policies for faculty professional development activities] are also areas we recommended be considered "rely primarily upon" to the District in Spring 2023, and I continue to advocate in follow up.

One of the things I have also learned in preparation for this role is the importance of faculty collaboration. We are not always going to agree on how to proceed or what is best for this institution, our students, or our programs. What we can do, though, I believe, is focus on better processes and richer discussions based on tools that promote the broadest, most equitable principles of engagement. We will use and customize Robert's Rules and Pro-Con-Parliamentary Mics for our local needs and issues as we move into the semester and in support of our efforts at richer, deeper, and more respectful discussions.

In closing, a shout out and a reminder. First, kudos to our SLO Faculty Coordinators and the many, many folks who made yesterday's SLO-focused day a success. We have much room for growth and evolution in our SLO practices, and I am encouraged by the many voices and contributions to these efforts. Let's also remember why we are here: for our students, on every macro-meso-micro level of consideration. ASEC has already met with SGA leaders in support of their [9+1 right to participate](#). I encourage you to attend their meetings on Mondays from 3 to 5pm, and we'll be engaging more often and with stronger purpose with our SGA trusted servants going forward.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be of service to our faculty, students, and community. Thank you for your attention and I welcome any questions.