

Academic Senate President's Report
Wednesday, 15 January 2025 / John A Stover III, PhD

Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome to our Spring 2025 Semester. It is great to see you all today, and some of you earlier this week, and I am looking forward to our continued productivity and good work together. I want to start by expressing my solidarity and support of those impacted by the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles and the surrounding cities and neighborhoods destroyed by these overwhelming catastrophes. We live in surreal times with problems of exponential proportions. Let's remember this semester and the months and years ahead to focus on our Agency, both individually and collectively, as we work together to advance the [mission, vision, and values of our beloved SRJC community](#). I'm honored and proud to do this work in partnership with you all. Together we rise. Together we resist. Together we thrive.

Since I last saw you, [I reported to the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2024](#), unplugged from the College for two weeks over Christmas and New Year, and started new planning and scheduling strategies which will help support the work of the Senate. First, the Senate Office via our Administrative Assistant will be available on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during Spring Semester. In addition, the Senate President job is allotted 80% reassign time, so you can reach me Tuesdays through Fridays of the Spring Semester. *Both the Senate President and the Senate office are "closed" to the public on Mondays.*

Next, hopefully you have noticed that we have Consent Items on our agenda regarding the updating of our Senate Exchange Bank accounts. In our long journey to update access and management of these accounts, I was happy to learn that we may in fact have some limited funds available to sponsor Senators and faculty at the Spring 2025 ASCCC Plenary in Irvine, California. I'll be working with the Academic Senate Executive Committee and members of our Finance and Administrative services to clarify what money is available for senate leadership development and report back as soon as I know more.

Last week the District met with our accreditors in follow-up to the SLO related work we successfully engaged in during 2024. We look forward to the public dissemination of that meeting and the recommendations of our accreditations, and here on the Academic Senate we are continuing and deepening our discussion on how to meaningfully and effectively establish our local institutional policies and procedures. At its core, it is worth remembering that thoughtful, reflexive contemplation of our andrological, discipline-specific approaches serves both our own faculty development and the learning of our students. It is truly a win-win situation, and boy, don't we really need all the "win-win" situations we can muster these days? Let's be inventive, bold, and creative as we find the solutions best suited to our faculty and students together.

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Another topic we have to look forward to this semester is the update and revitalization of our New Faculty Mentor Program. This is important for many reasons, including improving upon past mistakes and finding new ways to create community and connection across cohorts of faculty hires. With challenging budgets and diminished faculty hiring this year - and likely in subsequent years - our highest priorities are in creating community and supporting retainment and growth amongst our peers.

Regarding a few technical notes, we have some corrections and updates to make to our minutes from Fall 2024 and in AY2023-24 specific to the inclusion of the President to those "In Attendance." We also need to update the Bylaws to reflect previous changes passed by the body but not reflected on the current document. Spring Communities of Practice are kicking off soon, too, and I very much appreciate everyone's help in getting these wonderful programs up and running. Please be patient with our Senate Office as we work through the byzantine matrix of PAFs and funding codes.

Some quick reminders: we are looking to fill two Senator vacancies (Areas Two and Three) both current and forthcoming, and are also looking to staff senate approved workgroups on Bylaws and Constitution reform and revitalization of the Professional Development Subcommittee of the Academic Senate. The deadlines for all of these opportunities [for 10+1 service](#) is before Noon this Friday, January 17th, so don't delay in stepping up for this important, exciting work.

Don't worry if you haven't had a chance to sign up to [make monthly contributions to our Academic Senate voluntary fund](#), which funds our coffee, snacks, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY retreats and professional development opportunities. There's still time! Let's build a strong Senate leadership team now and going forward. [Consider contributing today.](#)

Thanks for reading this report, as always, and here's to us working together in 2025.