

Academic Senate President's Report
Wednesday, 5 February 2025 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. The many long days of January are gratefully behind us, and the 28 days of February are a welcomed and more succinct journey through the final full month of winter. These are tumultuous times in which we live, and there are tremendous amounts of change transpiring. Locally all levels of Sonoma county educational institutions are experiencing the most profound challenges, controversies, and changes to ever occur simultaneously. Regionally the impacts of climate change are changing patterns of fire, rain, seasons, and bloom cycles, and nationally the news is a daily barrage on our rights as individuals and the foundations of our democracy. In the dialectical relationship that is our micro-, meso-, and macro-level interactions and institutions, we are once again reminded of our Agency and the Structure in which we live. Don't forget to recognize the power of your personal choices, the importance of your friends and family, and the strength in our collective engagement in protecting the [mission, vision, and values of our beloved SRJC community](#). Remember that... Together we rise. Together we resist. Together we thrive.

On Friday, February 24th we held our Academic Senate Spring Retreat, and we engaged in community building, planning discussions, as well as a pilot focus group activity supporting the development of action steps from every constituency of the college - faculty, students, classified, and administrators - in support of the [Strategic Planning Action Workgroup](#) (SPAW). The robust and insightful discussions we had – *“What can we do as a body to staff workgroups that we have passed/initiated?”* and *“How shall we engage in establishing priorities and management specific to our fiscal management?”* – will form the basis for forthcoming Discussion Topics this semester. Also, the action steps that Senators created during the focus groups have already been forwarded to the SPAW members for inclusion, as appropriate, in their work. Speaking of SPAW, we've onboarded four new faculty members - Kirby Bunas, Amy Merkel, Mark Anderman, and Leslie Crane - which means, once again, all senate areas of representation are present to contribute to the work. I'm very grateful to those who served previously, and both Jeremy and I remain committed and engaged in maintaining a robust, active, and productive faculty role in this work.

Dr. Garcia has formally responded to our recommendations on faculty hiring with a draft of AP 7120A for the Recruitment & Hiring of Contract Faculty in response. I did not have time to review the AP in full before completing this report, so I will simply repeat what was shared with me: *“The structure and format recommended to me (Dr. Garcia) in Spring 2024 is embedded throughout. In the interest of clarity, this AP addresses the process for Contract Faculty. An AP for Associate Faculty recruitment and hiring is needed, as the process is different.”* I'm very

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appreciative of our Past Senate Presidents and Senators, and our current College President and Senators in working together to update our approaches.

[Our existing AP 2410 is helpful to us all in this regard \(linked here\)](#) as it outlines (but does not closely define) processes for work to be carried out. I've included an excerpt, with items 2 and 4 highlighted as they indicate our Senate role going forward.

[AP 2410 Board Policies and Administrative Procedures](#)

...

Process for Development of New and Revised Policies & Procedures

...

2. If the subject matter of a policy or procedure is under the purview of the Academic Senate, the Academic Senate President, in consultation with the Academic Senate Executive Committee, shall assign a lead faculty member or members as deemed necessary to work with the lead administrator to prepare the draft.

...

4. The lead shall prepare a draft policy in consultation with District subject matter experts and the Superintendent/President or designee, and submit the draft to either the Cabinet Administrator or the President of the Academic Senate. If a policy requires an accompanying procedure, the procedure shall be drafted and submitted concurrently.

So we will proceed with the Senate's role in updating AP 7120A as per the [AP2410](#) process specific to matters of 10+1 purview in BP/AP revisions and will appoint a faculty lead to work with district officials in continuing to maintain a strong faculty voice in this process. To that end, I am recommending we appoint Senate VP M. Ohkubo as our lead, and her expertise and dedication to this process will serve us well as we seek to bring this work into current practice. It is also important - and will continue to stress going forward - the importance of having human resources involved in the development of faculty hiring policies and procedures.

An update for you all concerning our December 11th memo to VPAA Holcomb on the topic of Dual Enrollment and College & Career Access Pathways (CCAP). Following up on conversations with key stakeholders, I'm pleased to share that Vice President M. Ohkubo and Counselor Lisa Dulberg have been appointed to work with Karolina Nazario and Vanessa Luna in developing a Dual Enrollment / CCAP Plan. This is a great step forward in our engagement on [10+1 matters](#) as specific to items 1 (curriculum), 4 (program development), and 5 (student prep and success). I'm grateful to Vice President Ohkubo for her expertise and willingness to serve, and am looking forward to the forthcoming plan.

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Re: our Waitlist Recommendations: “pre-Banner” recommendations 1a and b will be implemented when Banner goes live. Kate Jolley is working with the Project managers and Ellucian to determine how many of our recommendations 2a thru i can be implemented upon launch, and they will provide us with a timeline for the remainder once determined. I'll stay in close communication with the VPAA and Kate Jolley to keep you all up to date.

Today I also want to welcome our new Senators today: Senator Tony Ruiz in Area Three, and Senator Justin Davies Area Nine. Welcome, aboard!

Remember 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. **[Consider contributing today.](#)**

Thanks for reading this report, as always, practice good self care and stay strong in these challenging times in which we live.