

Academic Senate Executive Committee
Officer Elections
Candidate Statement: Laura Aspinall
Position: Executive Secretary



My name is Laura Aspinall and I am running for Secretary of the Academic Senate. I served in this role previously for five years and currently am the At-Large Representative on the Academic Senate Executive Committee. I am excited to return to the role of Secretary and to continue working with President Persons and President- Elect Stover.

- **By the very nature of my job I have a broad understanding of our District.** I have been a Contract faculty in the Disability Resources Department since 2005 performing both allied and instructional duties; prior to that I was an Associate faculty in Disability Resources for two years. As a Disability Specialist I interact and work with students, faculty, staff and administrators from across the District. I have familiarity with our degree, certificate, noncredit and student services programs. I have respect for discipline expertise and understand that our college's programs and departments often have unique needs that are integral to their success.

- **I bring with me a breadth of knowledge regarding our programs, curriculum and shared governance processes.** I am a past department chair, current and past AS Senator and past AS EC Secretary. I have served on College Council, Integrated Student Success Committee (ISSC), Institutional Planning Committee (IPC), Educational Planning and Coordinating Committee (EPCC) and my discipline's curriculum cluster tech review committee. I co-chaired the Lab Equity Task Force and served as chair of the Class Size/Waitlist Task Force. I have authored many Course Outline of Records for my discipline, served on departmental and District-wide hiring committees, as well as a variety of tenure committees, both within and outside my department. All of these experiences have contributed to my knowledge of our how our governance processes work, and where they fall apart. My interests are always in creating processes that are transparent, effective, invite participation and are collaborative.

- **I am passionate about supporting students to achieve their goals and reducing the barriers that impact students' ability to do so.** For some this may be finishing a class successfully, for others this may mean earning a degree or transferring. For all, this means meeting students where they are and providing the supports and resources needed to reach their goals. Students experiences at SRJC are what inform the shared governance work that I do. While equity has always been core to my work, I have spent the last five years intentionally learning what it is to be a practitioner of equity. It is a practice I engage in every day, personally and professionally. Informally and formally. Somedays I get it closer to right than others, but I am always looking to learn more and to do better. It has opened my eyes to our students' experiences and how much power we wield. We have the ability to create experiences in which our students feel challenged, yet supported and valued by our college community. Whether our intention or not, we also create experiences that are damaging and leave students feeling they don't belong at our college, and worse, questioning their worth. Often the difference between these two experiences isn't much. I look forward to building on the equity work the Senate has started and am eager to see where it will take us.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to continuing our work together as a fellow Senator, and hopefully as your next Secretary!