

**Academic Senate President's Report**  
**Wednesday, 18 September 2024 / John A Stover III, PhD**

Welcome back, everyone. Here's some highlights of my work since we last met:

**Addendum 9/17/18:** *At Planning and Budget Council (PBC) (on 9/9/24 and upcoming 9/23/24) we are reviewing the ongoing work of the District Education Plan, which is being integrated into District Strategic Planning Action Workgroups writ large. This is important work in that previous versions of the Strategic Plan, Education Plan, Student Services plan – all strategic plans, in fact – were siloed, not coordinated, and starting and stopping at different points in time. This shortcoming was first identified in Spring 2024 during our District Education Plan (DEP) Workgroup meetings, where we identified two areas of need associated with the planning process: (1) establish a better understanding of District strategic planning overall, and (2) establish a clear connection between the Education Plan and other planning areas, including but not limited to, Student Services, Finance and Administration, and Human Resources. The Administrative Response to those needs has been to develop a recommendation to PBC that is comprehensive, inclusive, and supports the overall Mission, Vision, and Values statements. In doing so, we'll eventually have a Strategic Plan that reflects a wholistic approach to supporting our students' success from every area of the college.*

*The faculty we appointed to the DEP Workgroup will continue with the District Strategic Planning Action Workgroups, and the overall composition of the group is being expanded to reflect the broader scope of planning and coordination. [Our 10+1 areas of interest](#) are being centrally considered – including but not limited to – include Items #4 Educational program development; #5 Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success; and #11 Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate. I serve on both PBC (as Tri-Chair) and the District Strategic Planning Action Workgroups (as Co-Lead) and am working closely with Administrative Leads Jeremy Smotherman and Kate Jolley, our many faculty appointees, and ASEC leaders in maintaining the integrity of the process as reflects [our 10+1 purview](#) and I will continue to update the body as required.*

**ALSO, on** the Planning and Budget Council, I'm working with District leadership to improve our internal policies and procedures as specific to grant writing. Specifically, I'm seeking to improve faculty consultation [on 10+1 matters](#) before, during, and after grants are sought, written, and implemented. District policies are not presently being followed, and there have been communication failures, lack of transparency, and leadership mistakes – my own included – that have inhibited the Senate's *rely primarily upon status* on matters such as policies for faculty professional development activities (*item #8*) and standards or policies regarding student

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preparation and success (*item #5*). Dr. Garcia and I have consulted and we agree there are improvement opportunities on multiple levels.

To that end, I've consulted with members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC), and one or more of them will be attending my weekly consultation meetings with our VPAA for the remainder of the Fall Semester (and possibly beyond). This will directly benefit us all, as I've been unable, thus far, to fully track all relevant [10+1 issues](#) on my own. VPAA Holcomb has agreed to this new meeting format, and I appreciate his willingness to work with us to improve our internal communication and procedural issues.

On the Faculty Staffing Committee, which I Co-Chair by position with Dr. Victor Tam [Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) and Applied Technology], I've been working with committee members to strengthen our diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and accessibility (DEIAA) related questions on both the quantitative and qualitative forms that departments and programs utilize in their advocacy for faculty positions. Dr. Tam and I also met with Dr. Jeremy Smotherman and Blair Lamb from IERP in discussion of these goals, and continued, evolving solutions are being sought.

I want to thank our Senate Administrative Assistant, Elisa Clement, for locating [Board Policy 3.14](#) and [Procedure 3.14P](#) as concerning The Academic Calendar, which in part states (per the procedure):

The Academic Calendar Committee will develop and forward calendar option(s) to the Academic Senate and other constituent groups for review. The committee's recommendation will then be presented to College Council. The bargaining agent for Unit A faculty and the District will approve an academic calendar in negotiations. The Superintendent/President will bring the negotiated calendar to the Board of Trustees. The Board approved Academic Calendar is submitted annually to the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

I am aware this policy is in conflict with current contract language, and will be reaching out to AFA and District officials to collaborate on how the Senate can fulfill its role as outlined in the procedure.

Today we will consider again the resolution on Generative AI writing tools as brought forward by English faculty Purnur Ozbirinchi in our last meeting. In addition, ASEC has agreed to bring forward a discussion topic on the question of establishing a Senate Task Force on Generative AI more broadly. As a reminder, discussion of Generative AI-related tools, applications, and programs fits squarely within the Academic Senate as relevant to so many areas of our [10+1 purview](#) including, but not limited to: standards or policies regarding student preparation and success (*item 5*); grading policies (*item 3*), and; policies for faculty professional development activities (*item 8*). I am hopeful the Senate can take steps towards meaningful

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action sooner rather than later, especially given the quickly evolving and ever changing AI-related landscape.

Today we'll also hear the recommendations in support of our upcoming discussions and action on Title V related curriculum changes, and going forward we will have Discussion / Action items to address throughout the rest of the semester. Please keep in mind that we must reach decisions on or before our December 4th meeting. If we were NOT able to come to a decision on or before December 4th, our 25/26 AY Local GE Pattern would only include the required Title 5 Areas 1 thru 6 with no local graduation area until one could be developed and agreed upon by our Senate. No one wants this, I personally don't think we'll be in that situation, AND it's worth remembering this as we move forward into Discussion and Action starting on October 2nd.

In support of our ongoing public education campaign [on 10+1 matters](#) and in partnership with VPSS Dr. Molly Senecal and many others, on Thursday, September 26th from 10am to Noon David Morse [faculty member at Long Beach CC, Past President of ASCCC, and outgoing, shared governance coach to SRJC] will provide a two-hour College Governance Presentation/Training for Student Services. Dr. Senecal has been a strong advocate for this training, and Senate consultation overall, since she's joined SRJC, and I'm quite grateful to her for her advocacy and support of Student Services' adherence [to 10+1 matters](#).

Next, some reminders: the screening and interviewing committee (SIC) is being formed for the recruitment of the Dean of Language Arts and Academic Foundations position. Contract faculty interested in serving should reply to the email that was sent out to all contract faculty (9/12/24), with a brief statement of interest, by 12:00 p.m. (noon) PDT, Friday, September 20th. You can find [the link to the job description here](#)

Faculty are still needed for several committees including, but not limited to, the Accreditation Oversight Committee, the Integrated Student Success Committee, Faculty Equivalency, and Educational Planning and Coordinating Council (to name just a few). Please consider stepping up to serve in these, and other, faculty designed roles that support the representation of [our 10+1 interests](#) across shared governance committees district wide. Refer to related emails as sent out through our Academic Senate and/or Administrative Assistant's accounts, and thank you for your service.

I also want to promote the workshop series that is coming up through the local partnership between SRJC and Rooted in Love, and encourage you to attend and participate in one of more of the following workshops (as also recently promoted via email):

- Part 1: IDEAA 101: IDEAA Explained: Navigating Common Misconceptions
  - Monday, September 23rd, 3:00-5:00 pm // Location: Bertolini Student Activities Center (SAC)

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- Part 2: Culturally-Sustaining Communication
  - Wednesday, October 16th, 12:00-2:00 pm // Virtual via Zoom
- Part 3: Equity-Minded Syllabus
  - Friday, November 8th, 12:00-2:00 pm // Location: Bertolini Student Activities Center (SAC)
- Part 4: Radically Humanizing Pedagogy
  - Tuesday, December 3rd, 3:00-5:00 pm // Location: Bertolini Student Activities Center (SAC)

As has been shared in email messages, *“Each session will provide practical strategies and insights that will help us create more humanizing, equitable, transformative, and empowering educational spaces. We encourage you to attend and actively participate in these discussions as we work together to build an environment where all students can thrive.*

*Please RSVP for the sessions [here.](#)”*

Finally, I've been informed some Senators were confused by the roll call vote taken during our previous meeting (9/4/24) which failed to extend time on one of our discussions. Please keep in mind that when a Senator motions to extend time, IF there is an objection – as there was in our last meeting – a roll call vote MUST be taken. *“How does this support effective use of our time or promote Senator's participation if their hand was already raised?”* you might be wondering! Good questions, too, I'll say. Suffice to say, there's no easy answer to these questions. Since we had already talked about the Waitlist multiple times – and had already voted to move the topic from Discussion to Action – other Senators felt it was not necessary to extend time for discussion. As per Robert's Rules, the motion was seconded, we took the roll call vote, and the time extension was voted down. Please remember this is not personal, that discussion CONTINUES on Action Items, and in the end we are all trying to do the same thing – remain action oriented as we deliberate, discuss, and analyze items on our agenda.

I appreciate you all and thank you for letting me be of service in this role.