

Academic Senate President's Report

21 October / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. On Friday, October 9th I attended the Area B meeting, and the [2026 Fall Plenary Post-Area Meetings Resolutions Packet](#) is now available for your review. At our November 4th meeting, a day before Fall Plenary begins, we'll devote time in this meeting to gather feedback from Senators and your constituents on suggestions for voting. Between now and November 4th, please review the packet and check in with your constituents in gathering their recommendations.

Last week was the [CCCAOE Fall 2026 Conference](#), and a team of four SRJC community members (*B. Davis, K. Kinahan, M. Rhodes, and myself*) attended and participated in the many workshops, keynotes, and networking opportunities available. One outcome of the week was connecting with [Araceli Nuñez, North Bay Subregion Coordinator](#) from the [Bay Area Community College Consortium \(BACCC\)](#) and she'll be attending a future Academic Senate meeting to help us learn more about regional opportunities and resources for supporting our programs and connecting students to careers and job opportunities throughout the region. Credit for Prior Learning, programs that support competency based educational pathways, and building noncredit to credit pathways are all ways we can meet the needs of our students and local economies by putting the community back in community college. In this era of budget cuts and reorganizational chaos in which we live, [the CCCAOE conferences and professional development opportunities](#) are an inspiring reminder that we are a significant part of the larger whole. We have an important role to serve not only in Sonoma county but across the Bay Area and are especially well positioned to grow, as just two examples, our public training, safety, and emergency management programs and introduce competency based educational pathways providing farm workers with agricultural career pathways. There is a lot of innovation and student-centered programming being carried out across the state, and I look forward to sharing what I learned with faculty, students, staff, and administrators in these and other areas.



In the Academic Senate office and among the Executive Committee, we're working on creating public facing webpages documenting our recommendations and resolutions in support of more consistent tracking and implementation. We have also received a request to agendize the topic of Banner implementation as specific to these three questions.

- **Replacement & Purchase:** *Did the Administration make sure that faculty had sufficient input before decided to replace the legacy SIS (instead of adding necessary security patches, etc.) and to replace it with Banner?*
- **Quality:** *Now that Banner has been purchased and implemented, it is not clear that Banner will ever be able to sufficiently meet our needs. Do we have other options?*
- **Priorities:** *While we are thinking about the above and dealing with issues related to the implementation of Banner, what areas of Banner's scope should be the priority? How can we address these?*

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It will take time to collect, edit, and produce a history/timeline of events into a document for Senators and the public. Documenting faculty input into switching from SIS to Banner goes back as far as 2014, and in / around 2017 the Senate reviewed multiple options for replacing SIS (*I just happened to see this conducting other research, so I know there's more to be found*). Also, much like we just accomplished with the priority registration topics in our last meeting, when we focus specifically on implementation issues, we're able to direct the purview and recommending role of the Senate appropriately. In the meantime, we'll continue to receive Banner Updates in our Information Items, and we'll continue to work towards solutions in support of our students' educational goals.

An additional reminder that with the recent increase in ICE activity in Sonoma County, it's a good time to remember the importance of supporting students with flexibility in their attendance and participation in our courses should they need it. Please consider again these two resolutions: [Advocating for Flexibility in Attendance and Participation Policies for Students at California Community Colleges Resolution 105.02](#) as inspired by [local SRJC Resolution](#) (both from Fall 2025). Please stay safe and remember how important it is to support our students.

The work of the Academic Senate Taskforce on the question of establishing a 16 week Academic Calendar has not yet met this academic year, but we will before the end of the semester, and we will need an extension thru Spring 2027 to complete our work, which will come back as a consent item at our next meeting. The work of the [Academic Senate's Faculty Professional Development Committee continues](#) with the recent approval of proposals for Spring 2027 Communities of Practice (CoPs) and the testing and developing of language in support of the successful launch of the Vision Resource Center for faculty (which is already available to classified staff). I am also working with committee members and District partners L. Collier, J. Smotherman, and V. Tam to develop and introduce assessment tools that will be used in CoPs starting in Spring 2027 and in support of integrated learning and application. Consultation also continues with the VPAA on the [Student Enrollment Management Plan](#).

Other committee work includes but is not limited to the following: [Faculty Staffing](#) as lead by Vice President Ohkubo has adjusted its Fall deadlines to account for the upcoming early retirement incentive deadline, and [Faculty Equivalency](#) as lead by L. Sparks continues to strengthen its charge, training, and collaboration efforts with Human Resources. [Educational Planning and Coordinating Committee \(EPCC\)](#) as lead to V. Hamilton continues its work reviewing board policies, and I am grateful to these faculty members for their expertise and service in these areas.

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As a recommending body, we value our role in making recommendations on matters of primary reliance in the [10+1 areas of curriculum, degree and certificate requirements, grading, student preparation and success, accreditation processes, and faculty professional development matters](#); and, as we continue to navigate the complex waters in which we culturally, economically, and politically swim, let's remember to put our humanity first. To work together, to be kind and supportive as well as curious and future thinking. Let's work to create solutions, find ways to connect, and build the pathways our students need for successful futures. Let's remember that the best of who we are is represented in guests like Frank Aspinall, who is here today to be recognized for his craftsmanship and expertise in contributing to the history of the SRJC Academic Senate. Let's be creative in our solutions and collaborative in our efforts. Thank you for letting me be of service, and Happy Halloween, too.

