ACADEMIC SENATE

The primary voice of the faculty in academic and professional matters at Santa Rosa Junior College.

MINUTES
7 October 2026, 3:15 p.m.
Santa Rosa: Senate Chambers, Doyle 145
Petaluma: Mahoney Library 726, 2nd Floor, Petaluma.
ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808

PRESENT M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea (remote), S. Avasthi (remote), L. Branen-Ahumada, K. Bunas, J. Bush (proxy Ohkubo), J. Davis, K. Fortunati (remote), V. Hamilton (Petaluma), A. Hsieh, T. Jacobson (Petaluma), D. Lukas, J. Lusk (remote), T. Melvin, J. Nieto, A. Oliver (proxy Nieto), M. Ohkubo, MJ Papa, N. Perrone, S. Rosen, T. Ruiz (proxy Hamilton), E. Schmidt, I. Stockburger, I. Tircuit, N. Tran, N. Wheeler

ABSENT J. Bush (proxy M. Ohkubo), A. Oliver (proxy J. Nieto), T. Ruiz (proxy V. Hamilton)

CALL TO ORDER 3:17 pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT — The Land Acknowledgement was read by Senator Perrone.

> *We acknowledge that we gather at Santa Rosa Junior College on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People in Santa Rosa and the Coast Miwok People in Petaluma, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.*

OPEN FORUM

1. **Vince Hamilton – Counseling Department - Banner** — Open Forum Statement V. Hamilton
2. **Jessica Melvin – Vice-President SEIU - Banner** — Open Forum Statement J. Melvin

JUST CAUSE FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY SENATORS: K. Fortunati, J. Lusk, A. Atilgan Relyea, S. Avasthi. No objection to participating remotely.

MINUTES

Minutes of 2 September 2026
Minutes of 16 September 2026

Senator Melvin moved to approve September 2, 2026 and September 16, 2026 minutes. Seconded. Approved by 26 yes, 1 abstention.

M. Anderman	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	M. Papa	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	A. Hsieh	yes	N. Perrone	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	T. Jacobson	yes	S. Rosen	yes
S. Avasthi	abstain	D. Lukas	yes	T. Ruiz (proxy Hamilton)	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Lusk	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Bunas	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Stockburger	yes
J. Bush (proxy Ohkubo)	yes	J. Nieto	yes	I. Tircuit	yes
J. Davis	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes	N. Tran	yes
K. Fortunati	yes	A. Oliver (proxy Nieto)	yes	N. Wheeler	yes

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA- None

REPORTS

1. President's Report - J. Stover **President's Report**

President Stover gave report updates:

- Money raised for the Academic Senate goes directly to the Academic Senate. The Senate has an Exchange Bank account; there is no overhead from the Foundation. The funds are used for scholarships to send faculty to Plenary, snacks, food and coffee for Senate meetings. It was noted that the donation form will be updated for clarity by the payroll department.
- President Stover will be attending the Area B meeting this Friday. The Senate will spend time in October looking at resolutions going to State Plenary in November.
- Colleagues in the Public Safety Training Center are putting together a Faculty Forum. President Stover will work with them to create language for the forum, which will come back to Senate for consideration.
- Reviewed Consent item on the agenda today which supports change in priority registration.
- Reviewed agenda item, the formation of a Priority Registration Academic Senate Consultation Committee.
- Reviewed agenda item, Associate Areas of representation, recommendation to adjust slightly.

INFORMATION

1. **Student Services Reorganization Overview** M. Senecal

M. Senecal, Vice-President of Student Services – Reviewed the background of the process and meetings where feedback was gathered. This draft is focused on structure and not people.

- Reviewed the feedback regarding one location for students to start their SRJC student experience.
- A high-level review of the groups on Draft #2 of the Student Services Reorganization Overview. Petaluma and Roseland are forthcoming.
- A Senator mentioned faculty could be under Academic Affairs instead of Student Services, including counselors and disability resources.
- A Senator expressed the need for the Public Safety Training Center to get consideration, so they have the opportunity to express issues and uniqueness of the center with students' needs.
- Senator raised several questions about the rationale and consistency behind specific callouts and subcategories.
    - Access Counseling and Enrollment Services - Student Financial: Why is the Veteran Success Center specifically highlighted? Is it the only subcategory under Student Financial?
    - Belonging, Equity, Student Rights - Cultural Centers: Why are the Disability Cultural Center and the Casita not included or identified as cultural centers?
    - Second Chance/Rising Scholars: Why is there a dotted-line connection to Academic Affairs rather than simply using another forward slash to include Ignite?
        - The Administration clarified the following:
            - Veteran Success Center: It is a distinct department that currently reports to the Director of Student Financial Services. It is the only other department reporting to that director, which explains why it is specifically identified.
            - Cultural Centers: The Disability Cultural Center currently sits under the Disability Resources Department. Feedback suggested there seems to be a disconnect. The callouts are intended to increase awareness and ensure all cultural spaces, including the Disability Cultural Center and Casita are recognized under cultural centers.
            - Second Chance, Rising Scholars and IGNITE: The Rising Scholars team, including faculty, recommended bringing IGNITE and Rising Scholars together under Student Services. Since IGNITE currently sits within Academic Affairs and Rising Scholars sits within Student Services, the dotted line is the connection.
- A Senator inquired where the Career Hub is located.
    - Administration reported the Career Hub will remain under Academic Affairs

Time expired on the item.

2. **The New IERP Dashboards and Potential Uses** J. Smotherman

J. Smotherman, Director of IERP, reviewed a presentation on the New IERP Dashboard and Potential

Uses.

- New demographics dashboard that includes ethnicity and identity, 2025-26 SRJC at a Glance that looks at student headcount enrollments with multiple populations, and enrollment splash page, including student enrollment status and a degree and certificate dashboard.
- A Senator inquired about the ability to drill down into individual courses and breakdowns of students.
    - Administration reviewed the enrollment splash page; it currently allows users to view data by department which is the most detailed level of information available but if there is a purpose, the data could be provided.
- A Senator questioned the sorting by the Trustee Area.
    - People pay close attention to what is happening in specific Trustee Areas.
    - Have the ability to see areas to improve enrollment.
    - Allows us to have a conversation with the Trustee for strategies needed to support our students in our community.
- A Senator noted appreciated the amount of work that has gone into the dashboard.
- A Senator inquired about the ability to see in real time, drops across departments.
    - Administration noted this is something that could be looked into.
- A Senator suggested a new dashboard for waitlist data by the department.
- A Senator reviewed their department and hoped the dashboard would include productivity, fill rates, waitlists, and broader student success metrics besides enrollment and completion data. With the discussions of reorganization and budget issues, it would be helpful to have a transparent viewpoint, so departments are not all pitted against each other for resources.
    - Administration noted this is one year's worth of work. Will continue to look at the informal recommendations received.

Banner Implementation Update *(Standing Item)*
[no additional update this week - see VPAA update from 1 October 2026 here]

CONSENT Treated collectively as one Action item. Any Senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion. ***Given that Banner does not recognize in progress units…***

1. Does the Academic Senate recommend the following changes to **Priority Two Registration for Spring 2027 as highlighted in bold.** Also note that **the bold adjustments to Priority Groups 3, 4 and 5** are a result of the proposed changes to Priority Two registration (see link below for full explanation).
    - **Priority 2A – Student Athletes, Learning Communities, International Students (0+ units)**
    - **Priority 2 – 30 to 99.9 units completed**
    - **Priority 3 –** Early Bird/Online Orientation & Ed Plan Workshop **(0 – 29.9 units completed)**
    - **Priority 4 – 15 to 29.9 units completed**
    - **Priority 5 – 0 to 14.9 units completed**

Spring 2027 Proposed Priority Registration Schedule Adjustments One Pager Available here

- The Chair recognized the Consent item.

Consent Item is approved by 26 yes votes, 1 abstention.

M. Anderman	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	M. Papa	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	A. Hsieh	yes	N. Perrone	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	T. Jacobson	yes	S. Rosen	yes
S. Avasthi	yes	D. Lukas	yes	T. Ruiz (proxy Hamilton)	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Lusk	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Bunas	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Stockburger	yes
J. Bush (proxy Ohkubo)	yes	J. Nieto	yes	I. Tircuit	yes
J. Davis	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes	N. Tran	abstain
K. Fortunati	yes	A. Oliver (proxy Nieto)	yes	N. Wheeler	yes

ACTION Items must come from the Discussion agenda of a previous meeting or be carried over from a previous Action agenda.

1. ***The Academic Senate Recommends the following actions:***

   a. *The District, in consultation with the Academic Senate, partners with the **CCC Accessibility Center** and engages with their available resources and support including but not limited to the **Accessibility Capability Maturity Model** and **Trainings**.*

      Note that should Santa Rosa Junior College choose to participate in the **ACMM** ***(see overview here, linked above too)***, training and a baseline assessment could be provided which would include an evaluative assessment on current accessibility maturity across college processes and would help SRJC strategically plan for **ADA Title II compliance**.

   The Chair reviewed that the proposal was brought back to the body following approval of the Consent Item 1. A. on September 16, 2026.

   - A Senator inquired about the reformation of this agenda item from the previous meeting agenda.
     - The proposal was brought back following approval of its first part. This reflects prior discussions about using existing resources that would incur no cost and avoid reliance on external consultants. The proposal would also provide training and a baseline assessment to help support ADA Title II compliance.
   - Senators expressed strong support for the proposal; the ACMM program could help the district address gaps ahead of the April 2027 Title II compliance deadline.

   Senator Lukas made a motion to approve the proposal as written. Seconded. Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

2. **Does the Academic Senate recommend the formation of a Treasurer position (or adding responsibilities to existing position?) on the Academic Senate Executive Committee?** (*10 min) Last year we had several expenses related to Plenary travel and meeting coffee and snacks. The Academic Senate President also engaged in fundraising for Plenary scholarships, and the Administrative Assistant regularly balances the Exchange Bank checking and savings accounts. Note, it is not advised to create a new position due to limitations on available reassigned time. **Related Fiscal Activities currently carried out by the Academic Senate President and Administrative Assistant are listed here.***

   The Chair reviewed the Action item.

   - Senators expressed the need to have another member instead of adding duties to existing members of the Executive Committee.
     - The Chair reviewed the language was developed in recognition, that documented requests were made to add to Executive Committee reassigned time, which has previously been denied.
     - The language was added for the formation of a treasurer position or adding responsibilities to existing positions. Whatever is voted on will be enacted for the next academic year.
   - A Senator asked for clarification from the last Senate meeting; was it to have ASEC come back with options if the body was in favor of moving forward in some capacity with an official treasure position?
     - The Chair noted that the Senate did not empower ASEC to do any work between meetings.
   - Senators are in support of a separate position instead of existing members taking on more work.
   - A Senator noted the treasurer's duties are not reflected anywhere; this would formalize that work and create a record and a documented change.
   - A Senator noted that ASEC has intentionally tried to document, create or formalize the work that is being done for future executive members.
   - A Senator expressed being in favor of making the extent of the work publicly known, including the number of hours and people that it takes to do the work.

Senator Lukas proposed that the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) provide options to the Senate for adding the Treasurer responsibilities into ASEC. Seconded. Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

BREAK

DISCUSSION *note: items marked **[urgent*]** can be moved to Action and voted on in the same meeting*

1. ***Does the Senate wish to recommend the formation of a Priority Registration Academic Senate Consultation Committee?*** Concerns have been raised over the last two academic years by Counseling, Disability Resources, and Athletics regarding 10+1 matters specific to setting registration priorities and given there is a Priority Registration Committee that is not part of participatory governance. Priority registration falls directly under **"Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success," #5 of the 10+1.**

   The Chair introduced Senator Aspinall to introduce the item.

   Senator Aspinall reviewed that several departments, including Counseling, Disability Resources, and Athletics, discussed the lack of consultation around the establishment of registration priorities and the establishment of the priority registration calendar. The short time between the release of scheduled classes and the start of Priority 1 registration highlighted the impact on student advising. Faculty representation across Priority 1 and Priority 2 groups could be expanded. The committee would provide faculty with an opportunity to participate earlier in the process and develop recommendations collaboratively with the District. If supported by the Senate, the recommendation would proceed to College Council for consideration of the committee's charge, membership, and meeting schedule within participatory governance.

   Senator Bunas requested to move this item from Discussion to Action for this meeting.

- A Senator expressed concerns that priority registration is in fact, working conditions that should be forwarded appropriately.
    - Senator Aspinall agreed; that is a conversation that happened. This is step 1 before moving forward.
- A Senator inquired if this charge could influence the timeline of priority management.
    - The hope is for a transparent conversation with Senate input.

   Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes. The Chair noted that this is now an Action item.

   Senator Melvin made a motion that the Senate recommend the formation of a Priority Registration Academic Senate Consultation Committee. Seconded.

- A Senator confirmed that the next step is that this will be recommended to College Council.
- A Senator addressed who will be the representatives from the Senate.
    - There are Senators are on College Council including the Senate President to represent and bring forward the will of the Senate.

   Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

2. ***Proposed Change to Associate Area Representation and Distribution.*** Does the Academic Senate support the following change to Associate Representation in support of more equitable distribution? *(15 min)*

   Area 12 (Areas 1, 4, 6, & 10) = 187 faculty members
   Area 13 (Areas 2, 3, 7, 9, & Lifelong Learning) = ~~122~~ 179 faculty members
   Area 14 (Associate: Areas 5, ~~7,~~ 8, ~~9,~~ 11) = ~~294~~ 237 faculty members

*Please note that the election for the open Associate Senator seat in Area 13 will be run **after** this topic is addressed by the body.*

The Chair reviewed the proposal.

- A Senator questioned if the Area numbers changed significantly since last year.
    - Yes, there have been significant changes since last year. If there are radical changes again next semester, Bylaw changes would be considered that would enable the Senate to be more flexible.
- A Senator inquired if there will be a mechanism to ensure a smooth transition to communicate with faculty members who have been moved from one Area to another.
- A Senator for the Area was intending to notify the change by email.
    - The Chair noted that if the body wishes to make changes, the Chair and Administrative Assistant will update the distribution lists.
- Senators are concerned with redistricting every semester or year and effective communication.
- A Senator expressed that it could be done differently with an alternate model where Full-time and Associate Senators represent associate faculty, and that the Constitution and Bylaws would need to be amended.
    - The Chair mentioned that a model like that would mean associate faculty would be represented by more than one Senator, which is not equitable.
- A Senator asked how associate faculty are represented in Senate.
    - The Chair responded that it is associate faculty who are teaching or who have offer rights.
- A Senator noted that this would be an excellent topic for the Spring Senate Retreat.

  Senator Lukas made a motion to move this item to Action for the next meeting. Seconded. Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

ADJOURNMENT 5:00 PM