ACADEMIC SENATE

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

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

CALL TO ORDER 3:16 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT – The Land Acknowledgement was read by Senator Bush.

> *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: None

MINUTES

Corrected Minutes of 19 August 2026 (2nd read)
Fall Retreat Minutes of 28 August 2026
Minutes of 2 September 2026

A Senator mentioned the September 2nd minutes did not reflect a request for Banner to be on the agenda as a discussion item. The Chair noted that an audit of the meeting recording will be done.

Senator Lukas made a motion to approve the August 19, 2026, Senate meeting minutes, and the August 28, 2026, Retreat minutes with amendments. Seconded. 26 yes votes, 1 abstain.

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA — Senator Lukas requested both Consent items be moved to Action. The Consent items will be the first two action items.

REPORTS

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

The Chair gave a report on updated information that developed since the posting of the agenda.

- The Chair met with SEIU and the AFA President this morning, the outcome was productive and collegial

with a robust discussion regarding their support of a Senate forum on Banner implementation. SEIU and AFA do not wish to be a Co-Sponsor of a Senate sponsored session regarding Banner implementation. The Chair reminded the Senate that if there were to be a special session, it would need to follow the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order.

- Banner problems: The Chair is advocating for a public list of problems that are being addressed, in partnership with Distance Education and the Department Chairs.
- Elections update for today; we have officer elections for the Academic Senate Executive Committee. This past Monday, the Chair received notice that Senator Wheeler would be dropping out of the race. This is an uncontested election for the two positions, Executive Secretary and Executive Committee Associate. In consultation with ASCCC and Elections Committee, the Senate can hold a roll call vote rather than paper ballots. When the item comes up on the agenda, members of the Election Committee will lead the election and highlight the process.
- The Chair reviewed the need for donations to support the Senate for sending faculty to Plenary, providing snacks and building the bench for future leadership.

INFORMATION

1. **Banner Implementation Update** *(Hyflex; Last Date Attended)* *(Standing Item)* J. Adams, V. Smith

J. Adams updated the body on the following:

- Hyflex and how it works in Banner.
- The field trip request process in SIS allowed faculty to request approval, and it automatically generated student waivers. That process is not available in Banner; paper waivers are being relied on at this point. IT is working on a solution.
- Insights reports, working on getting the ability to run reports to show unduplicated waitlist students.
- Request to receive an email notification every time a student added or dropped is not manageable due to the volume of students and the possibility of overwhelming the automated email system; options are being looked at for a report for this information.
- IT reports that student addresses have been removed from the faculty view.
- Reviewed progress with Course Leaf; open lab hours are offered with the scheduling team.
- CIM is going live on September 24th any curriculum changes that need to be submitted can begin then.
- Hyflex now requires one of two current options: Students can choose either synchronous or asynchronous when registering. If registering for a course that had a time conflict, they would go to the asynchronous version. A proposed workaround to use the comments section to explain how students could enroll in the asynchronous option.
    - A Senator raised concerns about how students would know about the option to move to the asynchronous section. Another Senator requested to know if the issue of students adding the other section and not being automatically enrolled in Canvas had been resolved.
- A Senator raised concerns not having the ability to see student drop dates, particularly where drops affected instructor workload.
    - Administration reported that a report will need to be created.
- Faculty load card in Banner should be available November 1st for spring 2027.
- A Senator raised concerns that students are emailing instructor personal email addresses.
- A Senator reviewed a previous request asking for a clear list of problems, priorities, and timelines.
    - Administration noted this is being analyzed and assessed on how best to provide information that represents priorities and what has been accomplished.
- A Senator requested to be able to view enrollment reports and students' class schedule details without having to look up each course, still unable to see full student schedules.
- A Senator expressed concerns regarding delays in financial aid that are affecting students, and how the District is going to be proactive.

Time expired on this item.

CONSENT Treated collectively as one Action item. Any Senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

Senator Lukas requested both Consent items be moved to Action.

1. ***The Academic Senate Recommends the following actions to the District:***
   A. *That the District conducts structured focus groups with students who qualify for Priority One registration as these students rely directly on specialized access, assistive technology, accommodations, and early planning to navigate their academic pathways. Their insights into what works and where our digital environment fails are essential data points that cannot be replicated within administrative silos.*

   B. *That the District contracts with an outside agency that specializes in accessibility evaluations to perform an accessibility audit and to assist with the remediation needed.*

2. ***Does the Academic Senate wish to sponsor a special joint session of Academic Senate with our union partners (AFA and SEIU) and Classified Senate (if they wish to participate) in support of an Academic Senate Special Joint Session Open Forum for addressing ongoing Banner-related implementation concerns?*** The open forum format would enable speakers to speak for up to three minutes, and we could suspend the rules to allow for more than three speakers on a single topic. This is in direct follow up to a request from AFA and SEIU officials that was sent to members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) on Friday, September 11, 2026.

ELECTION of ASEC OFFICERS

Executive Secretary Candidate Statements (alphabetical)

- **Senator A. Oliver**
- **Senator N. Wheeler**

Associate Representative Candidate Statements

- **L. Dawn Lukas**

The Elections Committee reported there was one candidate for each available Academic Senate Executive Committee position. Senator Melvin moved to elect Senator Oliver as Executive Secretary and Senator Lucas as Associate Representative. Seconded. Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

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 to the District:***
   A. *That the District conducts structured focus groups with students who qualify for Priority One registration as these students rely directly on specialized access, assistive technology, accommodations, and early planning to navigate their academic pathways. Their insights into what works and where our digital environment fails are essential data points that cannot be replicated within administrative silos.*

   B. *That the District contracts with an outside agency that specializes in accessibility evaluations to perform an accessibility audit and to assist with the remediation needed.*

The Chair introduced the Consent items:

- A Senator raised concerns on the following issues:
  - The proposal was too vague.
  - The District's technology vendor is contractually responsible for accessibility compliance and should fix its own issues rather than requiring the District to spend additional money.
  - Registration issues are affecting all areas and certain student populations may also need to be included in focus groups.
- A Senator expressed concerns with upcoming Title II accessibility requirements and the district's lack of a comprehensive plan.
  - Outside vendors' review and possibility, it would be limited to its own products.
  - Friendly amendment to add digital accessibility to "B".
  - Reviewed rationale for starting with Priority 1 for students to other groups experiencing difficulties with registration.

- A Senator showed support for a potential outside consultant.

Senator Ohkubo made a motion to approve the Consent item as written and add to "B" digital accessibility.

- A Senator raised the question about whether accessibility audits should become a regular, recurring practice.
- A Senator commented that it makes sense to force Banner to get the District into compliance.
- Senators had concerns about the vague wording and past experiences with outside consultants.
- A Senator provided Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM) standards from the Accessibility Center from the California Community Colleges as a possible framework.
- A Senator reviewed that there are parliamentary procedures to pursue if the body would want to vote on items A and B separately.

The Chair reported that time has expired on this item.

Senator Aspinall made a motion to extend time on the item by 10 minutes. Seconded. No opposition.

- A Senator expressed concerns about making the right choice for a contractor and including faculty assistance.

Senator Ohkubo moved to approve Consent item 1 A as written on the agenda. Seconded. Approved unanimously by 27 yes votes.

Senator Ohkubo moved to approve 1 B with the following changes, that the district, in consultation with the Academic Senate, contracts with an outside agency that specializes in digital accessibility evaluations to perform an accessibility audit and to assist with the remediation needed. Seconded but not repeated by the Chair.

- A Senator expressed concern regarding the cost.
- Senators expressed concerns that the District should be preparing to meet the Title II guidelines and the seriousness of not complying.
- Senators expressed concerns with the language on using an outside agency and not explicitly naming digital accessibility as part of the audit.
- A Senator raised concerns about the timing with so many upcoming changes.
- D. Pardoe indicated that Distance Education had applied to join the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM) in 2021 and leadership declined to join, but efforts are being renewed.

The Chair reported that time expired on this item. Senator Jacobson will be in the queue when this item is brought back to the Senate.

BREAK

2. ***Does the Academic Senate wish to sponsor a special joint session of Academic Senate with our union partners (AFA and SEIU) and Classified Senate (if they wish to participate) in support of an Academic Senate Special Joint Session Open Forum for addressing ongoing Banner-related implementation concerns?*** The open forum format would enable speakers to speak for up to three minutes, and we could suspend the rules to allow for more than three speakers on a single topic. This is in direct follow up to a request from AFA and SEIU officials that was sent to members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) on Friday, September 11, 2026.

The Chair reviewed that AFA and SEIU are not interested in co-sponsoring a Senate-led meeting. If the Senate was going to proceed with this, the item would need to be heavily amended. Clarified that if no action was taken item would not return. No motion was made on this item.

3. **Does the Academic Senate recommend the formation of a Resolutions Taskforce in our Bylaws?** *In order to avoid having to "reinvent the wheel" each time we seek to create a resolution, do we wish to establish a Resolutions Taskforce in our Bylaws as similar to the structure of our Elections Committee (**see Bylaws Article III, Section 3** for reference). **You can also view the Practices and Guidelines for Forming Academic Senate Work Groups here.***

The Chair reviewed the recommendation to form a Resolution Task Force.

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

4. **Does the Academic Senate recommend the formation of a Treasurer position (or adding responsibilities to existing position?) on the Academic Senate Executive Committee?** *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 reassign time.
Related Fiscal Activities currently carried out by the Academic Senate President and Administrative Assistant are listed here.

The Chair reviewed the recommendation to form a Treasurer position, adding additional responsibilities to an existing position.

- A Senator appreciated that the work that is being done is documented.
- Senators spoke in favor of freeing up the President's workload.
- A Senator expressed the need for a separate Treasurer position.
- A Senator suggested adding the duties to an existing position, including to Senator at Large or Executive Secretary.

The Chair reported time expired on the item.

Senator Melvin made a motion to extend the time on this item by 5 minutes. Seconded.

- Senator opposed due to the Academic Affairs reorganization update on the agenda.
- Senator Melvin withdrew the motion to extend the time by 5 minutes.

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

1. **Academic Affairs Reorganization Update** *(15 min)* ***Please note: in follow up to the Senate's feedback at the last meeting, the VPAA is also seeking feedback on this proposed reorganization draft.***

   - A Senator asked if this item would continue to come back to the Senate with different drafts.
   - The Chair reviewed Academic Affairs and Student Services will bring their final proposal to the Senate, and a vote will take place.

   R. Holcomb reviewed the updated version of the Academic Affairs reorganization.

   - Senators expressed gratitude for listening to suggestions and advice.
   - Senators reviewed that the SRJC Forward group has been diligently working on a student-facing system and encouraged the District to look at the updated revised recommendations.
   - A Senator requested a cost analysis requesting a comparison showing the financial savings of the proposed reorganization versus the current structure.

   The Chair reported that time expired on the item.

ADJOURNMENT 5:00 p.m.