



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

Minutes

19 August 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, L. Brannen-Ahumada, K. Bunas, J. Davis, K. Fortunati, V. Hamilton (Petaluma), A. Hsieh, T. Jacobson (Petaluma), D. Lukas, T. Melvin, J. Nieto, A. Oliver, M. Ohkubo, MJ Papa, N. Perrone, S. Rosen (remote), T. Ruiz, E. Schmidt, I. Stockburger, I. Tircuit, N. Tran, N. Wheeler

CALL TO ORDER 3:15 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT - The Land Acknowledgement was read by Senator D. Lukas.

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.

President Stover requested to suspend the 3-minute rule of 3 minutes and 3 speakers for Open Forum due to having four faculty members who would like to speak to the topic of Banner.

Senator Schmidt moved to suspend the 3-minute rule of 3 minutes and 3 speakers for Open Forum. Seconded. President Stover asked if anyone was opposed, and no opposition was expressed. Motion passed.

OPEN FORUM:

1. T. Melvin – Faculty, Math Department
[Melvin.pdf](#)

[Open Forum Comments - T](#)

T. Melvin requested that the Senate revisit the waitlist policy. Many students are on waitlists; over the summer students received notification via email that they could add the class, but were unable to respond within the 24-hour response period. T. Melvin proposed students should be given more time and suggested a 72-hour response period.

2. A. Oliver – Chair, English for Multilingual Students Dept. [Open Forum Comments April Oliver.pdf](#)

A. Oliver requested the Academic Senate to push for greater accountability around how our enrollment plans are implemented. During Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP) meetings, departments identified enrollment opportunities and requested support. Non-credit career development and college preparation were identified as potential areas for growth; more than 20 sections in these areas were cancelled this fall due to low enrollment.

The transition to Banner created additional barriers for students. A. Oliver acknowledged the substantial efforts of faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and staff across areas including Adult Education, Admissions & Records, Scheduling, IT, and Distance Education and requested the Senate advocate for a coordinated enrollment support plan.

3. A. Donegan – History Faculty, President of AFA [Open Forum Comments - Anne Donegan.pdf](#)

A. Donegan reported that a July faculty survey received more than 100 responses regarding the Banner implementation. Respondents raised concerns about working conditions and unpaid summer work, with compensation discussions underway. The survey also identified concerns related to student success, budgeting, and governance. Faculty reported student difficulties with registration, prerequisites, class enrollment, email access, class cancellations, and financial aid. Questions were also raised about the

outcomes and costs of the implementation and the extent of faculty participation in shared governance.

4. S. McGregor-Gordon - Associate Faculty, English for Multilingual Students Department

[Open Forum Comments - S. McGregor-Gordon.pdf](#)

S. McGregor-Gordon reported concerns about the impact of the Banner transition on the District. The concerns included student success, shared governance, transparency, institutional trust, and workload. Questions were also raised about the extent to which faculty and staff input was incorporated into the implementation process. S. McGregor-Gordon noted faculty had expressed concerns prior to implementation. Faculty participating in the SIS Faculty Portal Workgroup had limited time to provide input on the portal mapping.

5. Kim Kinahan – Chair, Work Experience Education Dept. [Open Forum Comment - K. Kinahan.pdf](#)

K. Kinahan reported that the Work Experience SIS integration was not completed as planned, requiring manual processes for placements, instructor assignments, and payroll. K. Kinahan recommended reviewing the project and improving planning for specialized program needs in future Banner implementations.

6. Jessy Paisley – Counselor, Counseling Dept. [Open Forum Comment - J. Paisley.pdf](#)

J. Paisley requested that the Senate address urgent Banner-related issues within its 10+1 purview, including enrollment, financial aid, class cancellations, enrollment errors, and increased counseling demand. J. Paisley also requested continued on-site support from Ellucian and SIG consultants until system issues are resolved.

The Chair requested Just Cause remote participation for Senator A. Atilgan Reylea and Senator S. Rosen. No opposition to allowing remote participation.

MINUTES

May 6, 2026

Senator Lukas addressed to correct with the addition of new Senators' first initial of their first name when listed in the minutes.

Senator Lukas moved to approve the minutes with the suggested edits. Seconded. Approved by 21 yes, 4 abstentions.

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

REPORTS

1. President's Report – J. Stover

President's Report

The Chair welcomed everyone back to the Fall semester and reported some additional information that has come forward since the publication of the original report that all Senators have received.

- Senator Jurgen Kremer has tendered his resignation with the Academic Senate for personal reasons. We wish him well, and we thank him for all of his service and all of his support on the Senate over the years.
- We have a streamlined Academic Senate Executive Committee team. The Chair thanked our executive team for covering multiple roles, including the Academic Senate Executive Secretary role, which is currently up for election. Thank you to Senator Aspinall, Senator Ohkubo and Senator Perrone for all the work that they are doing to support the meeting.

- There are updated provisions on remote participation that were emailed before the meeting. A summary of the updates will be emailed. To give a preview in the past, there was a limit on remote participation, one meeting per semester, and two meetings per academic year. This has increased. The new limit on remote Just Cause participation is 5 meetings per academic year.
- Banner Update – The Chair recognized how difficult this has been for everyone and thanked faculty, particularly the counselors, disability resource specialists, work experience folks, everybody who is dealing with the many issues. The Chair reported sitting with Department Chair Amanda Greene last week and seeing firsthand the work that is being done.
- He is working to hold the District accountable and to support the District in their advocacy with Ellucian and other stakeholders across the state who are experiencing similar issues.
- We will continue to recruit for the vacancies that we have on the Senate. We have 3, 4 vacancies
- Welcomed back to Senators, N. Wheeler, A. Hsieh, and K. Bunas as well as I. Stockburger and N. Trans who are here for the first time.

2. Petaluma Faculty Forum Report – A.C. Panella

[Petaluma Faculty Forum Report](#)

A.C. Panella teaches in the Communication Department in Petaluma and is the Chair of the Petaluma Faculty Forum. A.C. Panella gave a report and reviewed the work of the PFF:

- PFF has been continuing to work to build community, strengthen connections between academic and student affairs
- Working on We the Future Conference
- Over the next semester they will be hosting book club meetings with a reading “happy hour”. This is a silent reading situation where you can come by you don't need to talk, you just need to have a chance to read.
- Scheduling Lunch and Learns for faculty to connect.

INFORMATION

1. Welcoming Remarks from our President/Superintendent - A. Garcia

President Garcia welcomed everyone back to the 26-27 academic year. As of this morning 21,291 students enrolled in courses throughout all of the campuses.

Classified Senate and Outreach teams provided support to new and returning students.

Thank you to the Academic Senate Executive Committee for working this summer in preparation for the coming year.

Thank you to Alexa Forrester and Tim Melvin for including the executive team as part of the new faculty orientation session last week.

Collaboration between Classified Senate, Academic Senate and the President's office to hold monthly employee gatherings for community building.

Reviewed several key updates:

- Visit datahub.santarosa.edu to access data dashboard. The dashboards provide multiple levels of data from the SRJC at a glance to student demographics, enrollment, program distribution, grade achievements, and indicators of effective outcomes.
- The IERP team will be holding data office hours beginning this year, to be announced soon.
- This fall, many low enrolled courses risking cancellation, with the collaboration and information of department chairs and deans, will be moved to late start classes to support student enrollment.
- This Friday, College Council will hold the second annual committee chair training.

Time expired for this information item.

Senator Schmidt moved to extend time for 5 minutes. Seconded. No opposition.

Banner updates:

- Focused on the response to the Academic Senate report submitted to the Board of Trustees and to this body, which includes the support for the counseling department's demands.

- Reviewed the request for a full accounting of bond and post-pandemic recovery funds spent on the implementation of Banner, including SIG consulting fees, and to review what was paid for work not delivered.
- Looking forward to meeting with the counseling department about these allegations of fraud and reviewing the evidence to support the determination of the appropriate steps.
- Continue to communicate and work with President Stover.
- Appreciate the experiences, feedback, and technical critiques that have been shared. Asking for an opportunity to work collaboratively to find a path forward while respecting the work within the 10+1. The goal is to refocus our efforts on students, their access, success, and completion while recognizing that there are concerns, communication challenges, and differing perspectives that need to be addressed.

2. Banner Implementation Update – J. Adams, L. Beach, R. Holcomb

R. Holcomb – VP of Academic Affairs

An on-campus meeting will be held this week with Ellucian officials. A clear prioritized list will be reviewed with them. The list includes prerequisite wait lists, prerequisite transfer, grade validation failures, prerequisite reporting, load reports, timekeeper for positive attendance, schedule of classes accessibility, and work experience. Faculty training will continue and move forward with the integration of course leaf applications.

L. Beach – Director of Distance Education

Introduction of the Distance Education team, Paul DeMartini, Lauren Mitchell Nahas, Tala Masri, and Dallas Pardoe.

A PDA session is now recorded and available on the SIS website. There will be drop-in hours through the end of this week. A self-paced Canvas course is available to enroll in that has step-by-step instructions. The faculty FAQs are updated regularly with new information. Individual FAQ answers can be shared using their direct links. Faculty and staff can also submit questions through the online form; questions will either be answered directly or routed to the appropriate department.

It is also important to recognize that the team does not control or manage the Banner system but are working to provide information and support.

J. Adams, Dean of Academic Affairs

Curriculum Scheduling Office perspective: Banner does not do everything SIS did- they have purchased products from a company called Course Leaf, and Course Leaf is going to help bring functionality that does not exist in Banner.

- CAT, is replacing the college catalog; it is also replacing the curriculum pages that were used to look at certificates, majors, and the course outlines of record.
- Course Leaf CIM, is the curriculum inventory management software this is replacing SIS.
- CIM is a friendly web page, you'll go to a web form, fill it out, and make your changes.
 - Going live next week, there are two full-day trainings available to department chairs, coordinators, and administrative assistants, or anybody that does schedule development.
- Planning to purchase and implement PATH, Course Leaf will replace the schedule of classes; this will be tied to Degree Works. Students' education plans will feed directly when they register and give information on what classes to take and a proposed set of schedules.

The following questions were addressed:

- What will be the faculty and classified, representation at the meeting with Ellucian and the rationale for who is attending?
- Suggested that it would go a long way with restoring some trust to have classified and faculty representation at that meeting.

- The District is ultimately responsible for the outcome and implementation of Banner. The input from faculty has been provided to the District and this will be relayed to Ellucian.
- When will the new, schedule of classes be available to students?
 - TBD, the soonest would be in about a year, and it might be a year and a half.

The Chair reported time expired on this item and reviewed this will be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

3. SRJC Forward & Career and Academic Pathways (CAPS) - M. Hale

M. Hale – English Department and M. Galindo - Counselor reviewed the following:

- Pass to Completion Update
- Career and Academic Pathways
- The New Student Experience

M. Galindo – Counselor reviewed the following:

- The new catalog, SRJC Forward aims to provide clarity for students by redeveloping sequences. This includes general education, major courses, and electives.
- Paths to completion provide milestones and important student success to-do items that help students stay on track.
- Important career information related to each major or certificate will be included, so students can start considering their full pathway right from the start.
- Career and Academic Pathways. These are essentially the groupings of majors and certificates related to student interests.
- Program Explorer – helps students understand what interests them and connects them to SRJC programs

Michael Hale reviewed the following:

- New Student Onboarding
- Framework Behind Every Intervention
- Designed for Disproportionately impacted students
- Responding with orientations sequence, peer mentor networks, welcome surveys early alert systems
- Reviewed the Interventions Across the First Year
- Design principles
- Checkpoints
- Where We Are and Next steps

CONSENT (none) Treated collectively as one Action item. Any Senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

BREAK

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

The Chair reviewed this is a carryover item from the last Senate meeting.

1. **Does the Academic Senate wish to recommend \$30 as a “low textbook cost” standard as per new guidelines from the state. Support Documents Include:**
 - [Resolution 21 April 2021: Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options in the SRJC Online Schedule of Classes](#)
 - [April 21, 2021 Academic Senate minutes](#)
 - [XB12 Instructional Materials Cost Document](#)

A Senator reviewed the issue of what the dollar amount is going to be, \$30 is stated in the action item, consider revising it upwards to \$50.

Support documents refer to \$50; that was the number that the textbook and Instruction Resources Committee came up with that would potentially be covered by financial aid.

- \$30 is the direction that the state is taking; two options the Senate can vote yes or no on the \$30 option. They're not recognizing it at \$50 or under; they're recognizing it at \$30 or under.

A Senator spoke in favor of having the \$30 threshold, the push and the funding around ZTC that we have been trying to implement, this is part of a state initiative to drive down costs for students.

A Senator appreciated the idea of using ZTC OER resources; those are not available for all disciplines.

A Senator reviewed that Community Colleges were encouraged to adopt the \$30 threshold, but the dollar amount could be determined locally.

Time expired on this item. This will be brought back to the next meeting with Senator Ohkubo in the queue.

2. Establishing an Honors Transfer Program at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC). *Does the Academic Senate wish to endorse the two recommendations of the workgroup as previously presented:*

- a. Recommend that SRJC move forward with the creation of an Honors Transfer Program (HTP).
- b. Recommend an SRJC HTP meet the requirements of the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC) and UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (UCLA TAP)

Support Documents Include:

- i. [Honor's Program Workgroup Report](#)
- ii. [Honor's Program Workgroup Slide Deck](#)
- iii. [Honor's Program Full Research Report](#)

A Senator inquired about the extra work that this would create.

- Compensation is not part of this body's purview. If a recommendation is made to the District then those matters would be taken up with the District and AFA.

A Senator noted the program could provide students with opportunities for original research, stronger preparation for graduate study, and transfer opportunities through established university partnerships.

A Senator raised concerns about potential costs, particularly given current budget reductions and course cuts.

- It was explained that the program's eventual scope and costs have not yet been determined, and that approving the concept would allow staff to explore grants and other outside funding sources.

Potential student benefits could outweigh the costs, noting that some aspects of the program would require little or no funding.

Approved by 22 yes, 2 abstention, 1 absent.

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

Time expired for the meeting. The discussion items that were not addressed will be brought back to the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 5 pm.

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

1. **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).*
2. **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. Do we wish to create treasurer responsibilities on the Executive Committee by adding responsibilities to current members in support of more robust accounting and fundraising efforts going forward? Note, it is not advised to create a new position due to limitations on available reassign time.*

