



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2025, 3:15 p.m. Santa Rosa:
Senate Chambers, Doyle Library 145
Petaluma: Room 690
Richard Call Bldg.
ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808

PRESENT M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea, L. Branen-Ahumada, K. Bunas, J. Davis, K. Frindell Teuscher, G. Garcia, V. Hamilton (Petaluma), T. Jacobson, D. Lemmer, L. D. Lukas, S. McGregor-Gordon, T. Melvin, J. Nieto, M. Ohkubo, A. Oliver, M. Papa, N. Perrone, N. Persons, S. Rosen, E. Schmidt, I. Tircuit

ABSENT J. Kremer, S. Avasthi (proxy A. Oliver), J. Bush (proxy L. Aspinall), K. Fortunati (proxy V. Hamilton), J. Stover

GUESTS S. Laggos

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by presiding Vice President T. Jacobson at 3:15 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT The land acknowledgement statement was read by Senator M. Papa.
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. C. Cullen:** M Hale read a statement from C. Cullen supporting AB 1705, noted developmental courses have historically disadvantaged underrepresented and working students; cited data showing statewide gains in transfer-level completion and stated that student failure reflects course design, not readiness; and urged continued investment in redesign and training rather than reverting to pre-AB 1705 models.
- 2. M. Hale:** referenced a FACCC March 15 email that the proposal to reintroduce remedial courses did not advance to the legislative agenda, leaving no current path for reinstatement; stated while AB705 does not prohibit remedial courses, it requires colleges to prove those classes yield better outcomes than direct transfer-level placement—standards SRJC did not meet; mentioned that SRJC was not granted an exemption to continue offering remedial courses; and suggested implementing the existing Student Equity Plan (3.0) and enacting prior collaborative recommendations to better support first-year students.
- 3. K. Lane:** Senator M. Ohkubo read a statement from K. Lane, associate faculty in Health Sciences, expressing concern about shortening the academic calendar from 18 to 16 weeks, as it may reduce instructional quality; emphasizing the Associate Degree Nursing program requires extensive training to ensure safe and competent nurses; and urging decision-makers to maintain current standards to protect program quality, reputation, and student success.
- 4. I. Tircuit:** Invited everyone to Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC) local presentation on Tuesday, November 12th from 3:15 to 5 p.m. in Doyle 146 with speaker Wendy Brill-Wynkoop who will discuss the importance of a unified faculty voice in support of students, the state budget and its impact on community colleges, protecting academic programs, and responding to AB 1705 (Flex credit approved).
- 5. J. Carlin-Goldberg:** Senator J. Davis read a statement from J. Carlin-Goldberg, Mathematics Faculty and Department Chair supporting the AB 1705 Reform Resolution; noting that despite higher transfer-level completion rates, equity gaps—especially in Math—persist; arguing that the Chancellor's Office's top-down approach disadvantages students needing more foundational support; and calling for a balanced approach that preserves support and pre-transfer options while promoting student choice and success.

[The full text of all available open forum statements can be viewed here.](#)

MINUTES Correction/Adoption.

1. [Minutes of October 1, 2025](#) D. Lukas moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 2025. Seconded. The motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	yes
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA Any Senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

None

REPORTS

None

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

None

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

1. **What recommendations does the Academic Senate have regarding curriculum needs specific to Generative Artificial Intelligence?** [The attached support document](#) highlights Senators' previously discussed ideas from our [September 17th](#) and [October 1st](#) meetings.

- Discussion focused on two recurring ideas: creating discipline-specific AI courses tailored to each department's needs and developing a general education AI literacy course to teach ethical and responsible use of AI.
- Point of clarification sought: Is there is going to be a collaboration with Generative AI Task Force and Senate? It was noted that any action or decision made today would be forwarded to the faculty on the Generative AI Task Force for consideration.
- Suggestions for additions to the existing list on the support document:
 - Mental and psychological effects of AI use, especially on students
 - Request to frame the suggestions as general guidance to help disciplines navigate AI use
 - AI effect on students

Senator Anderman made a motion to extend time by 5 minutes. Seconded. A Senator opposed the time extension, so a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 20 yes votes, 5 no votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	no
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	no
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	no	S. McGregor-Gordon	no	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	no	I. Tircuit	yes

Senator Lukas moved to bring this action item back framing the recommendations as a guideline for disciplines with the additions of mental and psychological evidence-based implications on faculty and students, and the effect of AI on students. Seconded. The motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Brannen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	yes
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

2. **Is the body in support of creating a resolution re: AB1705 Reform?** *Should the body vote in support of this item, the practices and guidelines for forming a Senate workgroup can be implemented in support of resolution development.*

- Discussion began with clarification that the document shared with the Senate is a template a workgroup would consider when creating a local resolution
- Some data was reviewed and suggestions were made that the current implementation of AB 1705 may have led to increased failure and withdrawal rates.
- Support was expressed for reforming the law to give students more agency in course selection, including the option to take pre-transfer level classes with guidance from faculty and counselors.
- Suggestions were made to examine local SRJC data, ensure disproportionately impacted students' voices are included, avoid reinstating past barriers, and maintain equity and access in academic pathways.

Senator Schmidt moved to extend time by 6 minutes. Seconded. A Senator opposed the time extension, so a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 11 no votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	no	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	no
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	no	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Brannen-Ahumada	no	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	no
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	no	N. Persons	no
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	no	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	no
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	no	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	no	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

Discussion continued with concerns expressed about AB 1705 and its impact on:

- student success, particularly regarding course placement and equity;
- the reliability of "highly likely to fail" data;
- and Students' ability to get their needs met under the current one-size-fits-all approach

Suggestions were made to:

- separate English and Math considerations
- review local data
- examine the structure of support and remedial courses
- address the needs to balance student choice and equity, address systemic issues such as racism and K–12 preparation gaps, and develop flexible, individualized solutions rather than reverting to lengthy remedial pathways.

Senator Persons moved to suspend the rules to allow for a motion to request the body to change the order of items remaining on the agenda. Seconded. The motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Brannen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	yes
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

Senator Persons made a motion to move Discussion item 2 to the end of the agenda. Seconded. The motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	yes
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

DISCUSSION

1. **AP7120A: Options for Student Involvement, Outside Faculty Member & Ranking** – M. Ohkubo, presenter.

[Link to Current AP7120A Draft](#) and [Link to 4.3.2P document approved by Academic Senate in 2020](#)

As much language as possible was used from the 4.3.2P 2023 draft the Academic Senate sent to the President in 2020.

[The following options](#) were created using content from Academic Senate discussions on contract faculty hiring and the AP 2410 process.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

1. MANDATORY STUDENT ON INTERVIEW COMMITTEE AS VOTING MEMBER (CURRENT AP 7120A DRAFT)
2. MANDATORY STUDENT ON INTERVIEW COMMITTEE AS VOTING OR NON- VOTING MEMBER- STUDENT INTERACTION DEMONSTRATION ENCOURAGED
3. MANDATORY STUDENT INTERACTION DEMONSTRATION- STUDENT ON INTERVIEW COMMITTEE OPTIONAL

OUTSIDE FACULTY MEMBER

1. MANDATORY OUTSIDE VOTING FACULTY MEMBER (CURRENT AP7120A DRAFT)
2. MANDATORY OUTSIDE FACULTY MEMBER AS VOTING OR NON-VOTING MEMBER
3. OPTIONAL OUTSIDE FACULTY MEMBER AS VOTING OR NON-VOTING MEMBER

RANKING

1. NO RANKING (CURRENT AP 7120A DRAFT)
2. RANKING AS AN OPTION

- Vice President Jacobson clarified that the AP 7120A item was mistakenly listed as a Discussion topic instead of an Action item. Because the error was discovered after the 72-hour Brown Act posting deadline, it could not be corrected for the current meeting. The item will return at the next meeting as an Action item, as previously approved.
- Senator Ohkubo introduced the item with ASEC outlined options for contract faculty hiring procedures as based on prior Senate discussions and District feedback via the AP2410 process; notes the document includes three sets of options related to student involvement on hiring committees, inclusion of outside faculty members, and the option of candidate ranking; and reminded the body District representatives were invited to provide input and address questions, particularly concerning reference check procedures.
- A. Dunphy, Vice President of Human Resources, clarified that e-references for reference checks provides three benefits in that it is more efficient, ensures consistency in the questions asked across candidates, and creates a reliable written record the District can reference.
- Some senators expressed general support for student involvement and raised concerns about mandatory teaching demonstrations that include students. One senator highlighted that in certain disciplines associate faculty applicants may already have relationships with students, which can create inequities in the evaluation process, and emphasized the need to provide equivalent teaching demonstration opportunities for all candidates.
- Some senators favored a flexible approach, such as including optional student interaction demonstrations.
- Other senators noted that the discussion has been thorough and suggested moving forward rather than continuing extended debate on positions.

Senator Lukas, point of order followed by move to reduce allotted 30 minutes time to 10 minutes. Seconded. The motion passed with 22 yes votes, 2 no votes, 1 abstain and 1 absence.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	abstain	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	yes	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	no
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	no
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

Senator Ohkubo stated there are operational changes occurring in Human Resources that may address concerns about student selection and participation procedures in contact demonstrations, and clarified that District input will be sought on these matters.

BREAK

3. Does the Academic Senate have any voting recommendations concerning [the ASCCC Fall 2025 Plenary Resolutions Packet \(For Discussion Between the Dates of October 31, 2025 to November 07, 2025\)](#)? (10 min) *President Stover and Senators Bush and Fortunati are on their way to Plenary, and will carry forward any recommendations the Senate has to offer. President Stover will also email out the updated resolutions packet from Plenary on Saturday, November 8, 2025.*

- Support was expressed for the following 2025 Fall Plenary Session Resolutions (*all of which were approved by state delegates, including President Stover, on Saturday, November 8, 2025*)
 - 102.04 Support for AI literacy Integration in General Education and Workforce Programs
 - 110.01 Encourage the Development of Protocols for Faculty Experiencing Threats of Workplace Violence or Threats on Social Media
 - 113.01 Opposition to the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” or any related federal mandates that restrict institutional commitment to academic freedom, free speech, and IDEAA principles
 - 114.01 Ensuring the Consultative Process and Transparency in Technology Procurement Processes (*approved by acclimation*)
- Senators were reminded that plenary packets can change overnight, and encouraged timely communication with President Stover to reflect the most current information.

INFORMATION

1. [A short presentation by the SRJC Foundation concerning their five year \(2025—30\) Philanthropic Plan](#)

Guest presenter: Sarah Laggos, Executive Director, [SRJC Foundation](#) & District External Relations

The Senate is being asked to provide answers to the following question prompts (which will be on discussion on November 19th agenda):

What are the top two to three (2–3) priorities [in the Senate’s 10+1 purview](#) that are most critical to advancing [Santa Rosa Junior College’s 2025—30 Strategic Plan](#)?

Where do you see the biggest opportunities to impact student success in the next three to five (3–5) years?

What types of initiatives in the Senate’s area/purview could philanthropy uniquely advance?

- S. Laggos, Executive Director of the SRJC Foundation, highlighted the development of a philanthropic plan as aligned with and in support of the District’s Strategic Plan and stressed the importance of identifying funding opportunities, aligning the Foundation’s efforts with District goals, assessing organizational capacity, engaging donors, and establishing metrics for evaluation. Emphasized the desire for broad, high-level goal suggestions from the Senate.
- Senate members were invited to provide feedback to President Stover, who will participate in a philanthropic plan committee meeting on December 8, and in responding to three guiding questions:
 1. The Foundation’s role in advancing the college’s mission.
 2. The top 2–3 faculty priorities from the Strategic Plan.

3. High-impact philanthropic priorities for donor support.
- Senators asked which constituent groups would provide input and was clarified that Academic Senate, Classified Senate, and Student Government leaders were invited.
- It was noted that most current donations are donor-designated, and the philanthropic plan aims to create greater flexibility to address urgent and emerging program needs.

DISCUSSION (*Item 2 moved by vote to the end of the agenda*)

2. Does the Senate wish to explore the adoption of a standard 16-week academic calendar, and if so, [do we wish to establish a Senate workgroup to begin the necessary effort required?](#) [The Mira Costa Calendar Project](#) serves as model for how one District moved from 18 weeks to 16 weeks.

- Discussion topics included:
 - Program-specific needs: Certain programs, such as athletics, nursing, and arts, have fixed schedules, space constraints, or performance requirements that could complicate a shortened calendar.
 - Interdisciplinary impacts: The need to consider implications across departments, including effects on student workload, psychology, and burnout.
 - Contractual concerns: Any change would involve collaboration with the faculty union to ensure no loss of contractual rights or compensation.
 - Past experiences: Previous attempts to shorten the calendar had been divisive, but current circumstances—including online learning, post-COVID shifts, and calendar variability across the state—suggest a renewed exploration may be timely.
 - Some Senators felt it was too early to take action, citing concerns about the feasibility of teaching certain courses, like Calculus 1, in a shorter semester.

Senator Ohkubo made a motion to move Discussion item action 2 as written to the Action agenda for next meeting. Seconded. Motion passed with 24 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 absent.

M. Anderman	yes	K. Frindell-Teuscher	yes	J. Nieto	yes
L. Aspinall	yes	G. Garcia	yes	M. Ohkubo	yes
A. Atilgan Relyea	yes	V. Hamilton	yes	A. Oliver	yes
S. Avasthi (proxy Oliver)	yes	T. Jacobson	--	M. Papa	yes
L. Branen-Ahumada	yes	J. Kremer	absent	N. Perrone	yes
K. Bunas	no	D. Lemmer	yes	N. Persons	yes
J. Bush (proxy Aspinall)	yes	D. Lukas	yes	S. Rosen	yes
J. Davis	yes	S. McGregor-Gordon	yes	E. Schmidt	yes
K. Fortunati (proxy Hamilton)	yes	T. Melvin	yes	I. Tircuit	yes

ADJOURNMENT 5:00 pm.

[LINK TO ZOOM RECORDING](#)

[LINK TO MEETING TRANSCRIPT](#)