

## Academic Senate President's Report

1 April 2026 // John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back everyone. I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and that you are ready to get back to work. We have three Senate meetings this month - today, April 15th, and April 29th, which is a 5th Wednesday and makes up for the meeting we would have had during Spring Break - and a final meeting on May 6th. I'll start by incorporating the update I provided the Board of Trustees on March 10th with developing updates that have occurred in the meantime.

We currently have four workgroups in place: 16-week Academic Calendar, Resolutions, Site-Specific Faculty Forums (all of which I'm leading), and Honors Program based in Petaluma co-led by faculty. Each represents the voice of the faculty as we consider the pros and cons of a 16 week semester, develop resolutions for statewide consideration at Sp26 ASCCC Plenary, develop proposals for increasing the 10+1 voice of the faculty at Shone Farm, Roseland, and the Public Training Safety Center, and develop ideas for equity-centric honors curriculum for students. Each of these efforts reflects the will and voice of the faculty. We'll hear from the Honor's Workgroup later this semester, and concerning the workgroups I'm leading...

The resolutions workgroup ultimately decided to pursue two resolutions specific to AB1705 advocacy - one local and one statewide resolution already forwarded - and we'll be consulting with colleagues across the state at the upcoming Spring Plenary on Common Course Numbering (CCN) concerns. I'm very grateful to Senators Kremer, Melvin, and Morre for their collegiality and partnership in this work.

The 16-week Academic Calendar workgroup has met twice, and thus far we've previewed the previous work of the Compressed Calendar workgroup (from 2012), created a Teams site for our group, and started developing questions to ask peers at other colleagues regarding the pros and cons of moving from 17.5-18 weeks to 16 weeks.

The site-specific faculty forum workgroup has met once with another meeting coming up this Friday, and it's already clear all three sites - Shone Farm, Public Training Safety Center, and Roseland - have sufficient interest in establishing a site-specific forum on their campus. Our next steps will be to review the bylaws language of the Petaluma Faculty Forum, and how each site wishes to adopt and/or modify the existing language for their specific sites. This is an exciting development in the support of faculty engagement in the 10+1, and I'm hoping we can review proposed language before this semester is over so these new forums can launch in Fall 2026. I'm grateful to all members of both the calendar and forum workgroups and appreciate everyone's time, effort, and collaborations.

As we continue to develop faculty specific requests for amendments to the proposed AP7120A Contract Faculty Hiring procedure, I'm hopeful that the changes we made in Fall lay the foundation for the culmination of this work before the end of the semester. Given how extensively we've discussed this topic this AY alone, it would be nice to bring this long standing item to close this AY2025-26. Don't forget we've been working with the same procedure, in one form or another, since the early nineties.

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I'm also proud we've decided to explore the institutionalization of the student voice on Academic Senate, and I've let the SGA advisor know of the decision. Next steps will include attending an SGA meeting to discuss this development with the SGA leadership, and ask them how I can support their next steps with related Constitution and Bylaw changes to follow as needed.

My work as chair on the Program Review committee continues as does my role in leading the Academic Senate's Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC). On both of those committees we're focused on connecting the charge of the committee with the interlocking and overlapping scope of related committees and entities. For example, Senator Melvin serves as the AFA rep on FPDC enabling us a direct line of input from the Senate to AFA, while on Program Review we consult regularly with department chairs and program reps as we advocate for more resources and better collaboration between strategic planning and enrollment goals specific to ongoing program review needs and responsibilities.

Speaking of interlocking needs and priorities, the GenAI District wide Taskforce is both challenging and invigorating. We have a retreat coming up this Friday, and the recent survey of SRJC members' use of GenAI generated over 600 student responses in the first 24 hours alone. I tri-chair that work in partnership with Dr. Garcia and Classified Senate President Linda Jay, and the three of us also lead College Council. I also co-chair the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan implementation with VPAA Dr. Robert Holcomb, while Vice President T. Jacobson is co-chairing the District Online Committee with L. Beach, and is tri-chairing on my behalf the Planning and Budget Council as well as the Budget Allocation Model Workgroup, of which I am a member. Executive Secretary M. Ohkubo is the Senate designee faculty chair of the Faculty Staffing Committee, and Equity Advocate N. Perrone is a member of SRJC Forward and is co-chairing the Honors workgroup with Matthew Martin. I'm grateful for everyone's contributions and leadership.

The results of the Area Senate elections were recently concluded and announced, and the nomination period for At-Large Senate elections in Contract (Areas 3 and 11) and Associate Area 14 are open until Tuesday, April 7th. I encourage folks from those areas to run as we prioritize the assignment of folks from the areas whenever possible. We will also have an officer election in our final Senate meeting for the office of the Vice President. Current Vice President T. Jacobson notified the Academic Senate Executive Committee (11 March 2026) that her increased workload within the KAD Department prohibits her from continuing as Vice President, although she does intend to continue as a Senator from Area 10 thru her current term (which runs AYs2025–27). I want to thank Senator and Vice President T. Jacobson for all she does for the college!

The Academic Senate fosters collaboration between faculty and the District. Our 10+1 purview impacts areas such as curriculum (see Curriculum Review Committee), equivalency review (which is strengthen the processes by which faculty diversity and experience is recognized), and faculty professional development (the revitalized FPDC is engaged and productive in the many recommendations already coming forward to this body), to mention just a few.

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There are also many areas of improvement still needed in our ongoing consultation and recommendations. For instance, the challenges brought forward to date associated with Banner implementation have demonstrated the need for stronger engagement of the senate's 10+1 in student services, and I'm working with VPSS M. Senecal to address those challenges. With the upcoming challenges associated with the district's budget deficit and college-wide reorganization our purview will be as important as ever, and I will continue to carry forward the voice of the faculty in these and all matters as impacting our role in participatory governance.

So going forward you'll hear more reports and contributions from faculty across ASEC and Senate as I work to lift up your voices. For instance, today's new standing report on the AP2140 process – which connects a lead faculty with a lead administrator in the collaboration on BPs and APs impacting 10+1 – will start with a report on how Senate recommendations on AP7120A are being carried back to the District and then brought back to the senate as we reach mutual collaboration on faculty hiring, as per Title V standards. This is complicated, collaborative work, one which I take seriously and demands the best of our cooperation and consideration. We are a recommending body, and whether the district has to “reply primarily upon” (matters 1,2,3, 5, 7, 8) or “reach mutual agreement” (4, 6, 9, 10, 10+1) with us, we are here to contribute, not control.

Looking forward to our final three meetings, we'll hear from our consultation committees, workgroups, district wide taskforces, and other committees working in relation to the Academic Senate. We also have the ASCCC Spring Plenary coming up next week right here in Santa Rosa, and I'm so pleased that 19 current and future senators will be attending plenary with me as made possible by the generous support of so many folks across the district (thank you notes are forthcoming!). You can view the [Resolutions Packets For Discussion March 14, 2026 to March 27, 2026 here](#), and I'll be sure to share more news about resolutions as the final Plenary packets are released next week. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [jstover@santarosa.edu](mailto:jstover@santarosa.edu) if you have suggestions on how I should vote on each of the resolutions. I am sorry we didn't have the time available to review the resolutions in our meeting today, but we're fortunate to have a large group of Senators going to Plenary this year, so there will be lots of ongoing opportunities for me to hear from you all as I develop the best approach to represent your interests. The Area B meeting at Spring Plenary will also be educational and insightful for all of us attending Plenary from SRJC as we meet and confer with our statewide colleagues!

New senators will join us in the final meeting on May 6th, and we'll recognize those who are leaving and/or retiring at that time too. I also encourage folks to consider [contributing to our Senate voluntary fund today](#) as we are trending downward in our monthly intake as the result of recent and upcoming retirements. Our ability to serve coffee, have food at retreats and snacks at the Senate, and sometimes even send folks to Plenary, depends on the ongoing, robust contributions of everyone who is willing to step up. Consider joining us today.

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Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Season of new beginnings, fresh starts, and new growth ahead.

