

Academic Senate President's Report
16 September 2026 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. Today Senators will vote for a new Executive Secretary and Associate Representative on the Academic Senate Executive Committee, and we'll try to cover everything on our agenda today as best we are able, including photo updates (*both individual and group oriented so dress sharp!*).

As I shared with the Board of Trustees last Tuesday and while I appreciate the steps that have been taken recently to address the many challenges of Banner implementation, it is important to return to the issue of accessibility and functionality. Anyone who has used Canvas knows first hand that Banner as it has been experienced locally is not intuitive, is not easy to navigate, and does not meet the basic needs or requirements of the most resourced student, to say nothing of our students with disabilities, with visual impairments, with learning challenges, and those without bearcub email addresses. We continue to ask the District to push for a full accounting of that lack of accessibility and functionality. Today's first consent item is an important step in supporting these goals, and I hope we can send a strong message to the District and Ellucian in hopefully making these recommendations as brought forward by the Disability Resources Department (DRD) and faculty at our last meeting.

[The Senate's purview includes standards or policies regarding student preparation and success \(#5 in the 10+1\)](#) and is a matter of primary reliance. In other words, the District and Board must agree with the Senate on any recommendations brought forward, or explain in writing why the recommendation is not acceptable. I urged members of the Board and the community to attend our Senate meeting today and watch how our meeting progresses as we consider forwarding these urgent recommendations.

Speaking of Banner and Ellucian, a request came through last Friday (9/11/26) from our SRJC union colleagues ([AFA](#) and [SEIU](#)) asking for a joint session of our bodies so questions and answers could be sought from District and Ellucian officials. It's important to remember we focus on issues, not people, in the Academic Senate, valuing constructive criticism and honest feedback delivered professionally and respectfully using [Robert's Rules of Orders](#) and [Brown Act principles of public facing meetings \(including recent legislative impacts\)](#); and any special joint Open Forum session would require the same embodiment of these standards and principles.

After consultation with the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC), we placed the second consent item on today's agenda 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 approach would have the advantage of creating a schedule ahead of time ([as all speakers in an open forum have to submit their intent to speak before the meeting](#)), and enable the documentation of all questions/concerns raised via meeting minutes to be shared with District and Ellucian officials for follow up.

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Note, too, that any issues related to wages and working conditions raised during the special session will be forwarded to [AFA](#) and [SEIU](#) for direct follow up and in alignment with their purviews over such matters.

Some additional matters to keep in mind as you consider this item. [First, as a matter of student success and preparation](#), any discussion on Banner challenges will be focused on systems and technologies, not people or individuals. Second, directions would be provided to the community stressing the importance of collegiality and professionalism in such a situation. Also, should the body wish to proceed with a special session, all members of the SRJC community including District and Ellucian officials, will be invited, not required, to attend.

I understand how frustrated and disappointed everyone is feeling these days, and I share in that disappointment and frustration. It's important we remember why we are here - our students - and stay focused on solutions for their benefit. Should the body wish to proceed on this item, the opportunity for hosting a productive, structured, and supportive environment for all participants would be of primary focus as we seek continuous improvements to the accessibility and functionality of Banner for students', faculty, and staff.

I very much appreciate everyone who has, thus far, [signed up and donated \\$1 \(or more!\) to our Academic Senate Committee Fund](#). A dollar a month from all faculty alone would mean over \$1k a month, and over \$10k total on an annual basis to regularly send faculty to [statewide ASCCC Plenaries](#), increase the budget for food and beverages for meetings and retreats, and more actively build community and future leadership tracks for all of our faculty. [Please consider stepping up and filling out the form today](#) in support of our work and [advocacy on the 10+1](#) and [Title V related matters \(see slides #18 & 19\)](#). Right now we collect just over \$100 a month, or \$1,000 total, to support all of the above. Please consider signing up today so we can increase our financial base and more robustly support [our 10+1 work and purview](#). Thank you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you all, and let's have a great meeting, today and always.