

Academic Senate President's Report
19 August 2026 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer as best as possible.

This summer the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) including Vice President Ohkubo, Equity Advocate N. Perrone, and At-Large Representative L. Aspinall met to discuss and plan various topics and concerns. One item that continues to haunt us all is the implementation of Banner. [As a 10+1 matter specific to #5 Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success](#), the Banner roll out has negatively impacted students' enrollment and retention, and created many hours of frustration for students and faculty across many departments. I spent a couple hours shadowing the Counseling Department Faculty Chair last Wednesday morning (12 August 2026) and want to extend my personal thanks to all Counseling and Disability Resource faculty for their ingenuity in creating the many work around systems they have devised to serve students and get them what they need. And, it's unfortunate, to say the least, that these workaround systems are necessary. [You can read the Counseling Department's statement to the Board of Trustees here](#), and here are their demands:

- An immediate independent audit of Banner and SIG
- Protection for departments facing forced class cancellations
- Direct legal action for breach of contract and misrepresentation

I hope that the District takes the experiences of our Counseling faculty seriously in their considerations of how to resolve the ongoing problems they have documented. I also appreciate the messaging we've received in recent weeks from our Superintendent/President, as well as the updates from our Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Affairs. With that said, I implore the District to do better going forward in improving the accessibility and functionality of Banner.

Also during our ASEC summer planning meetings we discussed the following (non-exhaustive) needs:

- Consultation with the VPAA on the forthcoming reorganization of Academic Affairs.
- Supporting universal design and accessibility requirements as per the ADA Title II update implemented in 2024 which required proactive digital accessibility for all web, mobile apps, and digital services for students, employees, and the public.
- Improving faculty input into curriculum and course related software needs; and improve processes and policies related to our Program Review, Evaluation, Revitalization and Discontinuance Academic Senate Sub-committee.
- Establishing stronger internal planning mechanisms and resources for Senators and committee members re: communication, attendance, presentation, and engagement.
- Constitution and Bylaws updates, as well as the possibility of establishing an ad hoc Taskforce for writing Resolutions.

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- Future planning for Senate Leadership and recruitment this Fall for a new Associate Senator in Area 13, and a new Associate Representative and Executive Secretary for our ASEC team.
- First agendas (today's Senate meeting and our Fall Retreat of August 28th)
- We also developed [new presentation guidelines \(linked here\)](#), and [updated instructions for submitting a notification of absence from senate meetings \(also linked here\)](#).

Our Administrative Assistant K. Lamb was instrumental in supporting many of these projects, both for our retreats and in partnership with me this summer. Kudos to her and the District for this important support.

In terms of the year ahead for the Academic Senate as a body, we plan on having standing items/reports specific to the budget deficit, college reorganization, and banner implementation on most agendas and as needed. I consulted with a member of the [ASCCC Executive Committee](#) this summer, and confirmed that [any 10+1 matters](#) specifically impacted by any of the aforementioned topics require formal Academic Senate input. I will be working closely with the ASEC team, our Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Affairs, and key members of the President's Cabinet including our Chief Financial Officer and our Superintendent / President to assure that our faculty voice is present where it is legally required.

Concerning our election needs this Fall. We have an Associate Senator vacancy in Area 13 and the Associate ASEC Representative is also available. We are seeking an Executive Secretary for ASEC as well. The Associate Rep and Executive Secretary leadership positions must be filled by current Senators, and we will run those elections in a forthcoming September meeting once nominations are secured.

Also, as a note concerning the inclusion of Lifelong Learning faculty in Area 13. While we are happy to have finally recognized our lifelong learning faculty members in our body composition formally as of last AY25-26, it was brought to our attention after the fact that due to the nature of Lifelong Learning faculty being represented by a different bargaining agent (Unit B faculty versus Unit A faculty in AFA), we will need to take up the issue of Lifelong Learning representation again before we run the elections for the Area 13 Senator. So in our next meeting, we'll bring forward some ideas for how to resolve this issue.

We are also welcoming back to the Academic Senate this year Senators N. Wheeler, A. Hsieh, and K. Bunas (all of whom have served in the Senate before) and welcoming for the first time Senators N. Tran and I. Stockburger. Welcome back, everyone!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all.