

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



***Prelude.** Before we begin and as I write on this early September morning, [I want to share with you all this tribute to Dolly Parton from CBS Sunday morning](#), just one in the many thousands of tributes out there. Dolly Parton embodied the best of humanity. Her kindness, generosity, talent, and glamour remind us that we can always lead with our heart, share generously our gifts, and look good doing so. [You can donate to her Imagination Library here.](#)*

***Welcome to September, friends.** We're in full swing of the semester this week, and here's to working together as we continue to address the many issues we're facing.*

Last Friday (28 August 2026) we held our [Fall Senate Retreat \(slide deck here\)](#), and spent time continuing to discuss Banner implementation problems, of which there are many. [As a 10+1 matter specific to #5 Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success](#), Banner implementation continues to negatively impact students' enrollment and retention as well as frustrate faculty and staff. In follow up to the meeting with Ellucian officials, [I emailed faculty on August 21st, the Superintendent / President emailed everyone on August 26th](#), and Senators in our retreat on August 28th pointed out the need for concrete plans and schedules that reflect faculty consultation and investment in building student-centered and accessibility-forward standards going forward. In other words, we will continue to advocate for the accessibility and functionality of Banner in coordination and communication with the District, AFA, students, and Ellucian officials, and [as appropriate to our 10+1 role specific to student preparation and success.](#)

Also at our retreat ([slide deck linked again here](#), minutes forthcoming) we also discussed future agenda items, good meeting practices, and the senate's role in reorganization and budget reductions. In quick review, we have many good ideas for future discussion items; it's always important we hear from our constituents before meetings and from as many Senators as possible during meetings, and; as matters related to "upon mutual agreement" we have a recommending role in matters of budget and reorganization that we are starting to fulfill with today's update from the Vice President of Academic Affairs. We'll also hear an update on the reorganization of Student Services after the Vice President of Student Services in early October.

***Concerning our action item regarding low textbook cost thresholds:*** [there is an updated one pager that helps explain how we got to this point in the discussion](#), and I encourage us as faculty to center our students in these discussions going forward. What is best for our students and their needs? What reflects our efforts to serve them where they are, as they are? Consultation was sought between meetings with Michelle Pilati, Project Director of the Open Educational Resources for the ASCCC ([and Past ASCCC President, too](#)). Her feedback is reflected [in the one pager](#), which I hope everyone has read. Let's elevate today's discussion [in reflection of our mission, vision, and values as a college](#) as we once again consider adjusting our local designation to \$30.

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**Concerning our urgent discussion item from the Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC):** as recently evidenced by our Banner struggles, beta testing and creating FAQs before new systems are debuted are helpful implementation steps for end users. To that effect, the FPDC would like to do some preliminary work in testing and interacting with the Vision Resource Center (VRC) before it's made available to all faculty. The Faculty Professional Development Coordinators did not gain access to the VRC until early August (*and despite efforts to gain access over the summer*), and the FPDC committee is hoping to create an FAQ and other related support documents and mechanisms before the program goes live for SRJC faculty (*SRJC classified already have access*). Because the Academic Senate voted in favor of supporting the implementation of the VRC ([see May 6, 2026 minutes](#) here as well as [Spring 2026 implementation recommendations from FPDC here](#)), **we are now seeking additional endorsement of a pilot program to be run by FPDC committee members in our forthcoming September meetings.** [You can view the recording of the FPDC committee meeting of August 27th here.](#)

We have candidates for the Executive Secretary and Associate Rep roles on ASEC; the nomination period is open until Tuesday, September 8th, and; we'll hold officer elections in our next senate meeting on Wednesday, September 16th. We also welcome back full-time contract faculty Jessica Bush, who is representing Area One this Fall 2026, and continue to seek an Area Seven Senator for a one year appointment.

An administrative reminder we have [new presentation guidelines \(linked here\)](#), and [updated instructions for submitting a notification of absence from senate meetings \(also linked here\)](#). The Academic Senate Office will work on creating a formstack for tracking notifications of absence and remote participation as well.

Next, a fundraising reminder: [if every faculty member signed up and donated \\$1 to our Academic Senate Committee Fund](#), we would quickly have 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 \(see slides #18 & 19\)](#). Thank you.

And a direct message to our Lifelong Learning faculty in Area 13: Associate Senator L. Dawn Lukas is actively representing all associate faculty in Area 13, and will continue to do so. I will also continue to consult with invested individuals and bring back suggestions for proceeding with representation taking into account the various factors related to 10+1 and, where/if applicable, bargaining agent-related matters.

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