

Academic Senate President's Report

07 October / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. Let's start with some good news.

As reported by our [VPAA on 1 October 2026](#), progress continues to be made on the much needed functionality and accessibility of the Banner platform, and more detailed accounting has been made available both through our VPAA (see link above) and our [College President \(2 October 2026\)](#). This is a reflection of the commitment of the District to follow through and make visible the work being conducted, and I want to thank everyone who has contributed to these efforts and provided strong advocacy in support of student preparation and success. We're all here because we love teaching, we love our students, and we love our disciplines. Our love of education is what motivates us each and every day - the sound of learning, the ways in which students engage with one another, and the moments that happen in the classroom when you know - you really know - students are learning and growing. Let's keep doing what's right and best for our students and in support of their educational goals.

To that end, today on the agenda we have a consent item that directly supports changes to the Priority Registration categories that will ensure that students are able to register when needed. [As Senator V. Hamilton writes in the one page support document](#), *"In the SIS registration system, students earned Priority 2 once they achieved 42 units through a combination of completed & in-progress units."* **In-progress units are not recognized in Banner, however, so the recommendation** from the Counseling Department in consultation with Admissions & Records and other partner Student Services programs **is to adjust priority two registration to 30 units completed, which Banner recognizes.** Also and in order to ensure that Priority 2 special population students have the full benefit of their advanced priority status, **Counseling recommends dividing Priority 2 Registration into two consecutive subgroups:** Priority 2A (*Student Athletes, International Students, and Learning Communities*) and Priority 2 (*all other general students at 30 – 99.9 units completed*). The consent item also indicates the necessary changes to units completed in groups 3, 4, and 5:

Given that Banner does not recognize in progress units...

Does the Academic Senate recommend the following changes to **Priority Two Registration for Spring 2027 as highlighted in bold**. Also note that **the bold adjustments to Priority Groups 3, 4 and 5** are a result of the proposed changes to Priority Two registration...

- **Priority 2A – Student Athletes, Learning Communities, International Students (0+ units)**
- **Priority 2 – 30 to 99.9 units completed**
- **Priority 3 – Early Bird/Online Orientation & Ed Plan Workshop (0 – 29.9 units completed)**
- **Priority 4 – 15 to 29.9 units completed**
- **Priority 5 – 0 to 14.9 units completed**

Thank you for considering your support for this consent item today, Senators.

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Also on the agenda is an urgent discussion item regarding the formation of a Priority Registration Academic Senate Consultation Committee. In the past few semesters, many concerns have been raised about the Senate's lack of official consultation in this area of [student preparation and success \(#5 of the 10+1](#) and a matter of local primary reliance upon) so we take this matter up today formally. In the interim, V. President Ohkubo has been added to the current priority registration workgroup to ensure that matters of student success are taken into account, and I want to thank her for her already significant contributions in this area.

We will also take up the recommendation to adjust Associate Areas 12, 13, and 14 in support of more even distribution across all three. Since we update these area distribution lists twice a year now (post Sept. 10th and post Feb. 10th) should the need rise again in Spring 2027, we'll consider new language for our Bylaws in support of equitable distribution practices and standards.

Finally, I want to remind everyone of one important aspect of participatory governance. The decisions of the Academic Senate, like many of our Councils and committees, are recommendations to the District / Board of Trustees. Our recommendations have significant weight as per the state legislature, and every council, and committee making recommendations to the District is doing important, critical work in advancing matters of student success and preparation writ large. We're here to contribute, not control, and I stated at the beginning of this report, the changes that we are seeing in Banner improvements is a direct result of the many recommendations made from faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Let's continue to work together, remembering that we each have roles and responsibilities to carry out as we contribute to the success of our students and our continued abilities to serve them.

Thanks for letting me be of service, and Happy Autumnal Activities ahead.

