

# Candidate Statements for Vice President

*(listed alphabetically by last name) // 6 May 2026*

## ☐ L. Dawn Lukas

I am running for Vice President of the Academic Senate because I believe my experience, institutional knowledge, and commitment to faculty advocacy make me a strong candidate for this important position at a critical moment in time for SRJC.

I have been an active member of the Academic Senate for the past several years, consistently participating in discussions, bringing forward ideas, and making motions that help move our work forward. My approach has always been collaborative but engaged; I believe shared governance works best when faculty voices are not only present, but actively shaping decisions.

In addition to my Senate service, I have contributed to key governance work through committee service, including Curriculum Review, which is central to the responsibilities of the Vice President. I have also served on subcommittees such as the group that developed recommendations for online teaching requirements, and have been quite active in shared governance, giving me additional experience and connections that could be of value to a role as Senate VP. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of both the technical and philosophical dimensions of curriculum, modality, and academic standards.

I bring over 20 years of experience at SRJC, along with deep expertise in online instruction. I have been teaching online since 2007, well before it became a widespread modality. This long-term engagement has given me insight into both effective practices and the evolving challenges faculty face in digital learning environments. This is a perspective that remains highly relevant as we continue to refine our approach to online education.

As a long-time associate faculty member and the associate faculty representative to AFA, I am especially committed to ensuring that all faculty voices are represented and supported. My work with the union reflects my broader commitment to equity, inclusion, and advocacy within our institution. I understand the unique challenges part-time faculty face, and I believe those perspectives must remain central in our decision-making. While I am an associate faculty member, I believe that both associate and contract faculty are essential and we have the same goals for our students and our institution. Now is not the time to be divided!

I am known for being engaged, direct, and willing to speak up when it matters. I see this not as a limitation, but as a strength, especially in a leadership role that requires clarity, responsiveness, and the ability to represent faculty concerns effectively.

We are operating in a time of significant challenges: budget constraints, shifting institutional priorities, and broader cultural pressures that often devalue education, critical thinking, and empathy. In this context, strong faculty leadership is essential. The Academic Senate must continue to advocate for academic integrity, thoughtful policy, and the central role of faculty expertise in institutional decisions, protecting our 10+1 rights.

If elected, I will bring energy, experience, and a deep commitment to shared governance. I will work to support meaningful discussions and actions, and will do my best to ensure faculty voices are not only heard but also respected.



## □ Jesus Nieto

I am seeking your support for the Vice President position because I value the role the Academic Senate plays in shaping decisions that directly impact our faculty and students. Being part of the Senate helped me create more connections with faculty inside and outside my department, and I look forward to continuing to build on this.

My experience this past year as an at-large Senator has helped me learn about policies and procedures, understand the needs of other areas outside my discipline, and deepen my understanding of shared governance as a faculty member while collaborating with the administration. This opportunity has strengthened my commitment to contributing in a more active leadership role.



In my work on campus as an instructor and coordinator of the Pharmacy Technician program, which offers both a certificate and an associate degree. I have taken on projects that require focus, collaboration, and follow-through. Restarting the program by reviewing and completing all the courses within a short timeframe reinforced for me the level of dedication and coordination that the faculty contributes, from the submitter to the curriculum committee members. We also expanded the program by bringing in associate faculty, whose contributions I deeply value. I bring that same collaborative approach to service and leadership.

My previous experience as Vice President and Interim President of the Latinx Faculty & Staff Association has prepared me well for this role. I have supported executive leadership, guided discussions, and stepped in during leadership transitions. These experiences align closely with the Vice President's responsibility to assist the President and ensure continuity when needed.

Through my service, which includes district-wide committees such as Program Review, Evaluation, Revitalization, and Discontinuance (PRERD), Hispanic Serving Institute Advisory, EEOAC, CREJ, CE, and hiring committees for different programs. I have developed a strong foundation in collaborative decision-making and also in voicing concerns. These experiences will allow me to continue contributing to committee assignments and support key areas such as Curriculum and PRERD.

I approach leadership with a focus on communication, trust, and continuous learning. I will continue to listen, seek input, and bring forward diverse perspectives, including those of associates and full-time faculty, when making decisions. My goal is to support the President and the Senate effectively while strengthening engagement across committees in ways that benefit all faculty and students.

I also want to take the time to acknowledge that we are in a period of constant change with the implementation of new systems and budget challenges. Despite these challenges and anything else that might be thrown our way, I have confidence that we will continue to make a positive impact.

If elected, I will work to be a reliable partner in leadership and a consistent advocate for collaborative, informed decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration.

## □ Monica Ohkubo

I am honored to seek your support for election as Academic Senate Vice President. Having served for several years as a Senator, proudly representing Area 10, as Past Vice President, and currently as Executive Secretary, I bring deep institutional knowledge, continuity, and an unwavering commitment to shared governance. These leadership experiences have strengthened my dedication to representing faculty voices across all areas of the Senate's 10 + 1 purview with integrity, transparency, and purpose. I am committed to building on this foundation to support the Senate's work in advancing effective governance, clear processes, and meaningful faculty engagement across the District.



A central focus of my work has been advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am committed to ensuring that our Senate efforts reflect our collective responsibility to create equitable opportunities for both faculty and students. My service on the Program Review Committee, Planning and Budget Council, and the Budget Allocation Model Workgroup has provided me with valuable insight into institutional priorities, resource allocation, and long-term planning. These experiences have reinforced my understanding of how policy, planning, and budget decisions intersect and impact our academic programs and student success.

In my current role as co-chair of the Faculty Staffing Committee, I have been actively engaged in improving faculty hiring processes through greater transparency, efficiency, and data-informed practices. Additionally, I spent more than a decade contributing to the revision of AP 7120A, the contract faculty hiring procedure. This work reflects my long-term commitment to strengthening equitable and faculty-centered hiring practices.

My main faculty role is serving as Head Athletic Trainer, overseeing the medical care of more than 500 student-athletes, and as director of the Kinesiology: Sports Medicine Preparation Career Education program. These opportunities keep me grounded in a deeply student-centered approach to decision-making. Working with one of the most diverse student populations on campus has allowed me to engage with students across disciplines and better understand the broad range of academic and support needs within our District.

Over the past 20 years at SRJC, I have remained dedicated to promoting student success and developing innovative, student-centered programs. My work has included creating and advancing a concussion management program that has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally, and an innovative mental health program for student-athletes. Through these, and other initiatives, I have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, collaboration, and continuous improvement—qualities I will continue to bring to the Vice President role.

My leadership extends across local, state, and national levels, serving as founder of the Sonoma County Athletic Trainers' Association and Co-Chair of the California Community College Athletic Trainers' Association Medical Advisory Board. Equity-focused leadership is a cornerstone of my work; as founder and past chair of the CATA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and former Tri-Chair for the FWATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee, I have addressed systemic inequities and fostered inclusive practices. These roles, including my board service for North Coast Concussion Management, have allowed me to lead and collaborate within complex, interdisciplinary environments, developing skills I can directly apply to Academic Senate work.

My scholarly work further informs my approach to leadership. My doctoral research focused on

student success within the California Community College system, specifically examining pre-sports medicine students and highlighting the importance of mentorship, networking, and foundational skill development. My graduate research explored gender stereotypes and their impact on female athletic trainers, and I continue to engage in scholarship related to female athletic trainers, quality of life for athletes, and perspectives of student-athletes from diverse backgrounds. This work reinforces my commitment to evidence-based decision-making and equity-minded practices.

As someone whose lived experiences include navigating higher education and professional spaces as a woman, a person of color, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I bring a perspective shaped by resilience and an understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized groups. These experiences inform my ability to advocate effectively and to approach leadership with empathy, awareness, and purpose.

I am organized, collaborative, and deeply committed to shared governance. I bring the ability to balance analytical and holistic thinking, manage complex responsibilities, and engage thoughtfully with colleagues across the District. As Academic Senate Vice President, I will continue to support clear communication, inclusive processes, and a strong alignment between Senate work and the needs of our faculty and students.

I respectfully ask for your support and the opportunity to serve the Academic Senate and SRJC in this role.

#### **Ivan Tircuit**

Colleagues, It is my privilege to run for your Academic Senate Vice President.

I have been a community college instructor for over ten years now. In that time (at four community colleges [including SRJC]) I have been involved in countless interactions with students and colleagues that have all been geared towards one ultimate goal: building relationships with our students so that we can understand where they are and how we can best be of service to them on their journey.



More strongly than any belief that I may hold about any number of 10+1 issues, I believe that we ought to continually strive to exhibit the utmost professionalism in our interactions with each other as colleagues. This contributes much to maintaining a healthy work environment, which in turn creates the best learning conditions for our students. One thing that helps me to continually strive for this is reminding myself that it is a privilege for me and us to hold positions as college instructors whether that be full or part time.

As your Academic Senate Vice President, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you in a thoughtful, professional, respectful, and congenial manner to promote the highest quality, and most meaningful, academic success for ALL our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Write In \_\_\_\_\_**