



# ACADEMIC SENATE

The primary voice of the faculty in academic and professional matters at Santa Rosa Junior College.

## MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 21, 2024  
TIME: 3:15 p.m.  
LOCATION: Bertolini Senate Chambers,  
Room 4638  
Petaluma: Room 690, Richard Call Bldg.  
ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808  
<https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/95846273808>

**PRESENT:** M. Anderman, S. Avasthi, C. Cullen, W. Downey, M. Ferguson, G. Garcia, M. Gonzalez-Jordan, D. Harden, T. Johnson (remote), J. Kremer, D. Lemmer, D. McCall, G. Morre, M. Ohkubo, P. Ozbirinci, J. Perez, N. Perrone, N. Persons, S. Rosen, O. Raola, E. Schmidt, N. Slovak, J. Stover, P. Usina

**ABSENT:** L. Aspinall (proxy S. Avasthi), A. Atilgan-Relyea (proxy J. Stover), T. Jacobson (proxy M. Ohkubo)

**GUESTS:** Alexa Forrester and Ann Foster

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Persons.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

The Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by Senator Stover  
[Full statement is available here.](#)

### OPEN FORUM:

- Senator Stover ceded time to Senator Ohkubo, who read a statement on behalf of QRC colleagues. Statement recalled discussion on Resolution in Support of Trans Students at last Senate meeting and made three requests for Academic Senate:
  - 1) Include/require as part of all Senator's orientation professional development that centers LGBTQ+ and other marginalized identities
  - 2) Bring BSU demands back to Senate agenda and revisit all unmet demands
  - 3) Share QRC's revised resolution with Senators

#### Revised Resolution:

Whereas Santa Rosa Junior College has no current policy regarding transgender students and has received a score of 2 out of 5 on the Pride Index, a national benchmarking tool that identifies eight factors that can be modified to create a safer environment for LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff;

Whereas the QRC was recently targeted in an attack by a local hate group, and while there has been an increase in anti-trans rhetoric and violence throughout California and locally in Sonoma County causing trans students at SRJC to report being isolated, targeted and disrespected by faculty and staff, being unsafe in dorms and criminalized when in crisis, and having no effective

process to address discrimination complaints;

Whereas trans students face additional burdens such as being responsible for educating staff and faculty around gender pronouns, having to search for limited gender neutral bathrooms, and dealing with current California Community College Athletic Association participation policies which require trans student-athletes to self-identity and undergo invasive processes that can reproduce trauma;

Whereas SRJC's Queer Resource Center (QRC) is being denied access to the local data needed to provide outreach and support to students who identify as LGBTQ+;

RESOLVED that the Board develop policies and procedures that support trans students, such as requiring LGBTQ+-specific training for Resident Assistants (RAs) in dorms; requiring professional development for faculty and staff that supports the design of equity-centered and trans-affirming classrooms and pedagogies; revising the student complaint and grievance process; developing a Gender and Sexualities Studies program; and implementing non-carceral forms of crisis intervention in which no student shall be forced to endure the 5150 hold process without consent, nor be placed in any facility in which they may experience violence due to their identity;

RESOLVED that the Board provide QRC leadership with data needed to support LGBTQ students;

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate supports the SRJC Athletics opt-out of implementing harmful trans student-athlete policies and their commitment to working with the QRC leadership to assist trans student-athletes with safe and full participation in competitive athletics as part of broader campus-wide interventions and initiatives that will grant queer and gender-expansive students the resources to thrive and succeed at SRJC.

- L. Larqué spoke in support of Resolution in Support of Trans Students, calling for greater acceptance of non-Eurocentric and non-heterosexual viewpoints and identities; for establishment of safe space for LGBTQ+ students, staff, and faculty; and for passage of Resolution in Support of Trans Students.

## MINUTES:

### [DRAFT Minutes of February 7, 2024 Meeting](#)

- A senator suggested adding "on the women's team" to notes on Resolution in Support of Trans Students.
- A senator pointed out that February 7 minutes reference "Senator XXX" and asked for that person to be identified in minutes. President Persons stated that the video of the meeting would be consulted and that person's name added to amended minutes.
- Senator Ohkubo moved to approve amended minutes, including above suggestions, from February 7, 2024. Motion seconded. Motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 abstention.

M. Anderman - Y	D. Harden - Y	J. Perez
L. Aspinall (proxy Avasthi) - Y	J. Kremer - Y	N. Perrone - Y
A. Baris Atilgan Relyea (proxy Stover) - Y	T. Jacobson (proxy Ohkubo) - Y	O. Raola - Y
S. Avasthi - Y	T. Johnson - Y	S. Rosen - Y
C. Cullen Y	D. Lemmer - Y	E. Schmidt - Y
W. Downey - Y	D. McCall - Y	N. Slovak -
M. Ferguson - abstain	G. Morre - Y	J. Stover - Y
G. Garcia - Y	M. Ohkubo - Y	P. Usina - Y
M. Gonzalez Jordan - Y	P. Ozbirinci - Y	

### ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Resolution in Support of Trans Students (action item 2) removed from agenda due to receipt of updated Resolution from QRC on February 21, 2024. Postponed until March 6 meeting to allow for Senate and other stakeholders' review in accordance with Brown Act.

### REPORTS:

#### 1. President's Report — N. Persons

- Read the full Academic Senate Presidents' Report [here](#)
- President Persons shared a reflection on inflammatory rhetoric recently shared widely at the college; expressed gratitude to those who have joined in on conversations around the use of such rhetoric; stated that comments which call into question validity of trans identity and experience will not be tolerated at future meetings.
- President Persons also shared a reminder about upcoming PRPP process, and shared details about a free webinar offered by ASCCC and held on February 29, 2024 on the topic of peer online course review. Link available at ASCCC.org.

### CONSENT:

None

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. Strategic Plan Objectives to Strategy 1 Goal

*At its meeting of May 17, the Academic Senate voted to recommend a revision of Strategic Plan Objective 1 to the Strategy 1 Goal, which was rejected by the District. Shall the Academic Senate recommend the District bring a new proposal back to the Senate, or shall the Academic Senate choose to take no further action?*

[Minutes of May 17, 2023 \(see Action Item 2, which begins mid-page 3\)](#)

[Dr. Chong email response May 22, 2023](#)

- Senator questions focused on goal of resubmitting recommendations that were previously rejected. A senator pointed out that previous submission was to a former college president and administration, and that resubmitting may yield different response from new president Dr. Garcia.
- Senator Slovak moved to resubmit recommendations of May 17, 2023 regarding Strategic Plan Goal 1 Objective 1 to new President Dr. Garcia. Motion seconded. Motion passed with 25 yes votes and 1 abstention.

M. Anderman - Y	D. Harden - Y	J. Perez
L. Aspinall (proxy Avasthi) - Y	J. Kremer - Y	N. Perrone - Y
A. Baris Atilgan Relyea (proxy Stover) - Y	T. Jacobson (proxy Ohkubo) - Y	O. Raola - Y
S. Avasthi - Y	T. Johnson - Y	S. Rosen - Y
C. Cullen Y	D. Lemmer - Y	E. Schmidt - Y
W. Downey - Y	D. McCall - abstain	N. Slovak -
M. Ferguson - Y	G. Morre - Y	J. Stover - Y
G. Garcia - Y	M. Ohkubo - Y	P. Usina - Y
M. Gonzalez Jordan - Y	P. Ozbirinci - Y	

## 2. Resolution in Support of Trans Students – S. Avasthi

Moved to March 6, 2024 meeting agenda (see Adjustments)

## 3. Task Force Standard Language

*The Academic Senate has been making effective use of workgroups (task forces) to bring draft proposals to the body. During discussions, time has routinely been needed to determine guidelines for size, membership, and selection. Senators are asked to consider the draft guidelines below and whether some version of this could be used regularly when formation of workgroups is called for.*

### [Draft Workgroup Guidelines v.4](#)

- Senators reviewed revisions to guidelines made based on discussion at last meeting, and asked what the guidelines will be used for once finalized. President Persons explained that the goal is to make them available on the Academic Senate website for reference when creating new workgroups.
- Senator Usina moved to adopt Academic Senate workgroup guidelines and that they be housed on the Senator Resources tab of Academic Senate website for use during discussions of work group/task force formation. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

## 1. Annual Professional Development Funding for Faculty Discipline Expertise- A. Atilgan Relyea and N. Slovak

*Senators are asked to consider supporting a resolution advocating for establishment of a process for District provision of regular funding for faculty professional development in their area of discipline expertise.*

### [Resolution in Support of Annual Professional Development Funding for Faculty Disciplinary Expertise v.2](#)

- Senator Ohkubo read introductory remark from Sen. Atilgan Relyea. Remark described faculty need for PD funding, prior availability of PD funding for faculty, and perspectives and ongoing efforts of current faculty.
- Senators questioned who would be responsible for managing/dispersing PD funds, with some pointing to Faculty Fund for Advanced Studies as a useful model. A Senator shared testimony about high cost of maintaining certifications, professional memberships, and up-to-date instruction necessary for employment in some disciplines.
- A senator shared a suggestion for a different Resolved statement that reads as follows: 'Resolved, That the Academic Senate for Santa Rosa Junior College urges funding for 4-6 invited discipline experts to speak about related DEIAA themes and student success themes on both Fall and Spring Professional Development Days; and by doing so supports redesigning the Fall/Spring Professional Development Day schedule to support afternoon workshops with invited guest speakers.'
- Sen. Stover moved to extend discussion time by 7 minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed with none opposed.
- Sen. Stover moved to move this item to next meeting's action agenda. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Sen. Perrone moved to suspend rules in order to adjust this meeting's agenda. Motion retracted.

## 2. Faculty Professional Ethics Committee

*On May 17, 2023, the Academic Senate voted to approve all revisions to the Bylaws. During this revision, the body elected to remove the Faculty Professional Ethics Committee from the list of Senate subcommittees. What shall be the recommendation of the Academic Senate regarding the disposition of this subcommittee?*

- Senators commented either in support of keeping or dispensing with this committee. Senators in support cited need for meaningful intervention in instances of harm to faculty. Reasons against included consideration of HR purview & AFA policy to not grieve its members.
- Human Resources VP Richmond pointed to other colleges' use of an ombudsperson to serve as "conduit" for such issues and recommended Senate do away with this committee.
- Time expired on this topic, and it will be brought back as a discussion item at next meeting.

### **3. Inclusion of Department Meetings as PDA Day Activity- A. Foster, A. Forrester**

*On behalf of the District Professional Development Committee, our Faculty Professional Development Coordinators have asked the Academic Senate to provide input regarding whether to include department meetings as an optional activity on Professional Development Activity days. what shall be the recommendation of the Academic Senate?*

#### Questions for Academic Senate about PDA Day

- Professional Development Coordinators A. Forrester and A. Foster shared questions for the Senate about development of future PDA day schedules. A. Forrester shared pro/con lists for different configurations of PDA day programming and modalities.
- President Persons clarified that Senate might also make recommendation to district for additional department-specific PDA days.
- A senator asked for more information on past attendance rates of online PDA day sessions. Another senator shared a concern that the campus community is less unified when attending PDA online, and suggested an online gathering space between sessions like a “lunch Zoom room.”
- In closing, A. Forrester noted that current PDA day planning practices will remain in effect until further notice.

#### **Information:**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

5:05 p.m.