



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 03, 2025, 3:15 p.m.

Santa Rosa: (New) Senate Chambers,
Doyle Library 145

Petaluma: Room 690

Richard Call Bldg.

ZOOM ID: 958 4627 3808

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PRESENT M. Anderman, L. Aspinall, A. Atilgan Relyea (remote), S. Avasthi, L. Branen-Ahumada, K. Bunas, J. Bush, J. Davis, K. Fortunati, K. Frindell Teuscher, G. Garcia (remote), V. Hamilton (Petaluma), T. Jacobson, J. Kremer, D. Lemmer, L. D. Lukas, S. McGregor-Gordon, T. Melvin, J. Nieto, M. Ohkubo, A. Oliver, N. Perrone, N. Persons, S. Rosen, E. Schmidt, J. Stover, I. Tircuit

ABSENT: M. Papa

GUESTS: A. Forrester, L. Larque

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Stover at 3:15 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

Land acknowledgement statement was read by President Stover.

We acknowledge that we gather at Santa Rosa Junior College on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People in Santa Rosa and the Coast Miwok People in Petaluma, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

OPEN FORUM

1. **L. Larque:** spoke as a retired faculty member, who is currently teaching one course. Expressed appreciation towards President Stover presentation on student well-being, which inspired her public comment. Raised concerns about the increasing presence of fear and discrimination in the current political climate, which is affecting students, faculty, and staff of marginalized identities. Emphasized the importance of addressing and teaching students about the impact of AI, as students are already engaging with it. Stated conversations regarding AI should be open.
2. **A. Forrester:** spoke as a faculty member of the philosophy department. Shared throughout her years as an instructor, she has utilized student comment cards as a method to obtain an understanding of her students' needs, preferences and opinions. Shared how this method has shown her the diversity of her students and their diverse perspectives and causes her to disagree with a single voting student member on a hiring committee. Expressed support for having students join hiring committees.
3. **S. McGregor-Gordon:** spoke as a faculty member. Expressed appreciation and concern towards the President's Report, questioned its purpose and tone. Stated previous reports provided guidance and open communication, which aligned with the Senate Constitution and district mission. Stated links in the current report were one sided and felt tone was dismissive. Encouraged meaningful and respectful conversation regarding significant issues, such as AP7120 and the usage of GenAI in Canvas.

The full text of all three open forum statements can be viewed [here](#).

JUST CAUSE FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

- President Stover inquired if there were any objections to Senator Atilgan Relyea's remote participation. Hearing none, the remote participation was approved.
- President Stover inquired if there were any objections to Senator Garcia's remote participation. Hearing none, the remote participation was approved.

MINUTES

Correction/Adoption of [Minutes of August 20, 2025](#)

President Stover asked the Senate if any amendments and/or corrections were necessary for the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

- **Senator Persons:** cited a misspelling for an individual who participated in Open Forum.
- **Senator McGregor-Gordon:** cited a misspelling to her name in the first vote.
- **Senator Schmidt:** requested the answer to the question regarding AI tools in Canva be updated to include L. Beach's uncertainty as part of the answer.

President Stover delayed the approval of the minutes, stating they will be discussed again at the next Senate meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Any senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

- **Senator Lucas** requested for [Recommended Classroom Practices for Flexibility and Accommodation in Student Attendance and Participation](#) to be moved to an action to allow for further discussion. No objections were raised.
- **Senator Atilgan Relyea** cited a misspelling to her name.

REPORTS

The [President's Report](#):

- Expressed appreciation for Media Services' support re: the transition to the new Senate meeting space.
- Reminded Senators that future Canvas-based GenAI tools do not take the place of regular, substantive interaction (RSI) standards, and asked for consideration of students' needs in relation to educational technologies and the workforce.
- Stated the upcoming senate retreat will provide dedicated time to discuss GenAI and [10+1](#).
- Noted the increase in Academic Senate responsibilities in the recent years and requested patience and understanding for the complexities of issues facing the Senate this year.
- Informed senators of the transitioning of the Administrative Assistant position from part-time to full-time, with the position being presented to the board on Thursday with temporary support provided through current STNC Amber Banks.
- Clarified the role of the President (to facilitate the voice of the Senators), of Senators (to represent the voice of the faculty in their areas), and the commitment to work together in collaboration towards fulfilling 10+1 duties across current topics.

CONSENT Treated collectively as one Action item. Any senator may move any Consent item to the Action agenda to allow for discussion.

1. [Associate Degree Course Requirements – Military Exemption for Veterans Credit DD214 \(see also Deciphering the DD-214\)](#). Consent Item #1 was voted on after Consent Item #2 was moved to Action by Senator Lukas. Consent Item #1 passed unanimously with 26 yes votes and 1 absence.

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-Ahumada – yes
K. Bunas – yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes
K. Fortunati – yes
K. Frindell Teuscher –

yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer – yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-Gordon – yes
T. Melvin – yes
J. Nieto – yes

M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver – yes
M. Papa – absent
N. Perrone – yes
N. Persons – yes
S. Rosen – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
I. Tircuit – yes

ACTION

Items must come from the Discussion agenda of a previous meeting or be carried over from a previous Action agenda.

1. Recommended Classroom Practices for Flexibility and Accommodation in Student Attendance and Participation as moved from Consent by Senator D.L. Lukas.

- Senator expressed support for universal design for learning, but raised concerns at the proposed list, stating the list may extend beyond the Senate's role and resolution.
- Senator stated proposed list read more as helpful suggestions and examples, though all may not be useful if applied universally. Moved for approval.
- Motion to approve made by Senator Persons, seconded. Motion passed with 18 yes, 1 no, 7 abstentions, and 1 absence.

M. Anderman –
abstain
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea –
abstain
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-
Ahumada –
abstain
K. Bunas – abstain
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes

K. Fortunati – yes
K. Frindell
Teuscher –
abstain
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer – yes
L. D. Lukas –
abstain
S. McGregor-

Gordon – yes
T. Melvin – yes
J. Nieto – abstain
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver – yes
M. Papa – absent
N. Perrone – yes
N. Persons – yes
S. Rosen – yes
E. Schmidt – no
I. Tircuit – yes

2. Reorganization of Associate Areas of Representation.

- President Stover acknowledged the misspelling on the document and stated it will be corrected.
- Senator expressed appreciation for the clarity and thoughtfulness that went into the creation of the document. Moved to approval.
- Motion to approve made by Senator Lucas, seconded. Motion passed unanimously with 26 yes votes, and 1 absence.

M. Anderman –
yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea –
yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-
Ahumada –
yes
K. Bunas – yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes

K. Fortunati – yes
K. Frindell
Teuscher –
yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer – yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-
Gordon –

yes
T. Melvin – yes
J. Nieto – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver – yes
M. Papa – absent
N. Perrone – yes
N. Persons – yes
S. Rosen – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
I. Tircuit – yes

DISCUSSION:

1. AP7120 Contract Faculty Hiring Procedure

Senators discussed proposed revisions to AP7120 regarding student and outside faculty participation on hiring committees. Areas of discussion included:

- *Student Participation*
 - Overarching support for student participation, but no support in single student voting members.
 - Suggested flexibility in how students become incorporated through alternative models (non-voting members, 3 - 5 panel of students, scoring rubrics, teaching/counseling demos).
 - Expressed concerns on lack of faculty experience, student eligibility and outside

- responsibilities affect student engagement.
 - Expressed concern regarding student decisions being based solely on popularity.
 - Emphasis on the need for clear protocols to ensure student participation is meaningful, consistent and impactful.
 - Stated broader inclusion of student perspectives may not produce desired outcomes but may positively impact committee discussions.
- *Outside Faculty Participation*
 - Recognized the value of diversity within hiring committees and from outside departments.
 - Expressed concerns towards requiring faculty members from outside departments, stating it has the potential to reduce discipline-specific expertise on hiring committees.
 - Stated outside department participation should be strongly encouraged but not required.
- *Process and Language of AP7120*
 - Questioned the selection process for students and outside faculty. Questioned the definition of “consult.”
 - Stated the current draft lacks clarity, which creates challenges and inconsistencies.
 - Suggested developing a scoring rubric to highlight how student input aligns with ASCCC training.
 - Provided clarity regarding necessity to move item to Action to be utilized in current hiring cycle.
 - Noted College Council engages with Action prior to Board of Trustees
- *Senate Authority and Administrative Changes*
 - Stated previous senate votes, such as unanimous votes, have been altered by Administration without consultation, and requested stronger advocacy for the Senate’s position.
 - Expressed frustration of missed past deadlines, with limited faculty involvement in a timely manner.
- *Equity and Best Practices*
 - Senate was informed of research in support of the inclusion of student and outside faculty members on hiring committees, which proved to reduce bias and promote diversity.
 - Stated the hiring of qualified individuals should be the priority.
 - Alternatives to student voting were suggested, such as reviewing current candidate pool and reviewing diversity within each department.

Motion was made to move topic to discussion by T. Jacobson, seconded. Motion failed with 9 yes votes, 13 no votes, 4 abstention, and 1 absence. Item will be brought back on discussion at our next senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman – no
 L. Aspinall – yes
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
 S. Avasthi – yes
 L. Brannen-Ah – abstain
 K. Bunas – no
 J. Bush – yes
 J. Davis – no
 K. Fortunati –

abstain
 K. Frindell
 Teuscher – no
 G. Garcia – abstain
 V. Hamilton – abstain
 T. Jacobson – yes
 J. Kremer – no
 D. Lemmer – yes
 L. D. Lukas – no
 S. McGregor –

Gordon – no
 T. Melvin – no
 J. Nieto – no
 M. Ohkubo – yes
 A. Oliver – no
 M. Papa – absent
 N. Perrone – yes
 N. Persons – yes
 S. Rosen – no
 E. Schmidt – no

2. “Three New GenAI Features Debating in Canvas”

Senators discussed three new Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) features currently available in

Canvas. Areas of discussion included:

- *Adoption & Process*
 - Concerns raised on GenAI tools becoming available without prior faculty consultation or approval. Questioned how GenAI tools align with 10 + 1 responsibilities, and if Senate should recommend institution wide usage.
- *Impact on Faculty Roles Accreditation*
 - Caution expressed regarding how GenAI tools will automate important aspects of faculty work, which could impact current interactions with students.
 - Senators reminded of optional usage of GenAI tools.
 - Stated GenAI tools could assist faculty by elevating access to resources
- *Student Success & Preparation*
 - Differing views were expressed on whether GenAI tools would assist or hinder student success.
 - Concerns were raised regarding equality in access to technology, and AI replacing important faculty and student interactions.
 - Senate informed of students' current usage of AI, and faculty should encourage ethical usage of AI tools to students.
- *Equity, Ethics & Best Practices*
 - Data was shared with Senate highlighting high rates of student usage of AI, and how ASCCC and MCC are implementing institutional policies to promote ethical usage.
 - Questioned if adoption of AI should be guided by values (equity, privacy, intellectual property, and human-centered learning), which would then be utilized to determine if GenAI tools align with values.
- *Faculty Autonomy & Academic Freedom*
 - Expressed concern on opposition towards GenAI tools could potentially infringe on faculty instructional method choice.
- *Broader Perspectives & Workforce Preparation*
 - Worldwide usage of AI across various fields was highlighted.
 - Stressed the importance of students having the ability to engage with AI to best prepare them for the workforce and professional demands.

BREAK

5. Online Teaching Certification

- *Recommendations 1.1 - 1.5:* Senator Lucas noted the development of the recommendations were to ensure a standard level for online teaching that ensured compliance with laws and regulations and described proposal as a fair compromise. Motion was made to place Recommendations 1.1 - 1.5 onto the Action agenda for next senate meeting by Senator Lucas; seconded. Motion passed. 25 yes votes, and 2 absences. Recommendation will be added to Action agenda at our next senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Brannen-Ah – yes
K. Bunas – yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes
K. Fortunati – yes

K. Frindell
Teuscher – yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton – yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer – yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-Gordon – absent

T. Melvin – yes
J. Nieto – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver – yes
M. Papa – absent
N. Perrone – yes
N. Persons – yes
S. Rosen – yes
E. Schmidt – yes

- *Recommendation 2.1:* Senator Lucas moved to place Recommendation 2.1 onto the Action agenda

for next senate; seconded. Motion passed. 26 yes votes, and 1 absence. Recommendation will be added to Action agenda at our next senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman –
yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea –
yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-
Ahumada –
yes
K. Bunas - yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes

K. Fortunati - yes
K. Frindell
Teuscher –
yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton - yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer - yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-
Gordon – yes

T. Melvin - yes
J. Nieto – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver - yes
MJ. Papa – absent
N. Perron – yes
N. Persons - yes
S. Rosen – yes
E. Schmidt – yes
I. Tircuit – yes

- **Recommendation 3.1 - 3.3:** Senator Lucas moved to place Recommendation 3.1 - 3.3 onto the Action agenda for next senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed. 25 yes votes, and 2 absences. Recommendation will be added to Action agenda at our next senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman –
yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea –
yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-
Ahumada –
yes
K. Bunas - yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes

K. Fortunati - yes
K. Frindell
Teuscher – yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton - yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer - yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-
Gordon – absent
T. Melvin - yes

J. Nieto – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver - yes
MJ. Papa – absent
N. Perron – yes
N. Persons - yes
S. Rosen – yes
T. Ruiz – absent
E. Schmidt – yes
I. Tircuit – yes

- **Recommendation 4.1 - 5.2:** Senator Lucas moved to place Recommendation 4.1 - 5.2 onto the Action agenda for next senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed. 25 yes votes, 2 absences. Recommendation will be added to Action agenda at our next senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman –
yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea –
yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-
Ahumada –
yes
K. Bunas - yes
J. Bush – yes
J. Davis – yes

K. Fortunati - yes
K. Frindell
Teuscher – yes
G. Garcia – yes
V. Hamilton - yes
T. Jacobson – yes
J. Kremer – yes
D. Lemmer - yes
L. D. Lukas – yes
S. McGregor-
Gordon –
absent

T. Melvin - yes
J. Nieto – yes
M. Ohkubo – yes
A. Oliver - yes
MJ. Papa – absent
N. Perron – yes
N. Persons - yes
S. Rosen – yes
T. Ruiz – absent
E. Schmidt - yes
I. Tircuit - yes

INFORMATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT 5:00 p.m.

ALL FACULTY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ACADEMIC SENATE MEETINGS

This Academic Senate is created to secure the professional rights and to carry out the responsibilities of the faculty of the Sonoma County Junior College District. The faculty have the traditional right of college faculty to participate in the governance of the college. As specialists in specific disciplines and as experienced instructors, the participation of the faculty in the governance of the college is essential for the district's pursuit of its mission. As professionals, the faculty have the right and a duty to set professional and ethical standards for the conduct of their profession and to promote the excellence of their profession. In order to achieve these ends and in accordance with Title 5 of the California Administrative Code, Subchapter 2, Sections 53200-53205, this Academic Senate is established.