

# Academic Senate Spring 2025 Officer Elections:

## Candidate Statement

### Laura Aspinall, At-Large Representative

My name is Laura Aspinall and I am running for the At-Large Representative on the Academic Senate Executive Committee. I served in this role previously for two years and currently serve as Secretary.



**By the very nature of my job I have a broad understanding of our District.** I have been a Contract faculty in the Disability Resources Department since 2005 performing both allied and instructional duties; prior to that I was an Associate faculty in Disability Resources for two years. As a Disability Specialist I interact and work with students, faculty, staff and administrators from across the District. I have familiarity with our degree, certificate, noncredit and student services programs. I have respect for discipline expertise and understand that our college's programs and departments often have unique needs that are integral to their success.

- **I bring with me a breadth of knowledge regarding our programs, curriculum and shared governance processes.** I

am the AS EC Secretary and served in this position prior to my current term for six years. I also served previously as the At-Large representative on the EC. I have been a Senator for 15 plus years. I am a past department chair, and have served on College Council, Integrated Student Success Committee (ISSC), Institutional Planning Committee (IPC), Educational Planning and Coordinating Committee (EPCC) and my discipline's curriculum cluster tech review committee. I co-chaired the Lab Equity Task Force and served as chair of the Class Size/Waitlist Task Force. I have authored many Course Outline of Records for my discipline, served on departmental and District-wide hiring committees, as well as a variety of tenure committees, both within and outside my department. All of these experiences have contributed to my knowledge of how our governance processes work, and where they fall apart. In the past five years I have been directly involved in the redesign of our college's participatory governance system. This work is nearing completion and has been done in collaboration with administrators, classified staff leadership and classified and faculty union leadership. This experience aligns with my long-standing interests in creating processes that are transparent, equitable, effective and invite participation and collaboration.

- **I am passionate about supporting students to achieve their goals and reducing the barriers that impact students' ability to do so.** For some this may be finishing a class successfully, for others this may mean earning a degree or transferring. For all, this means meeting students where they are and providing the supports and resources needed to reach their goals. Students' experiences at SRJC are what inform the shared governance work that I do. While equity has always been core to my work, I have spent the last seven years intentionally learning what it is to be a practitioner of equity. It is a practice I engage in every day, personally and professionally. Informally and formally.

Somedays I get it closer to right than others, but I am always looking to learn more and to do better. It has opened my eyes to our students' experiences and how much power we wield. We have the ability to create experiences in which our students feel challenged, yet supported and valued by our college community. Whether our intention or not, we also create experiences that are damaging and leave students feeling they don't belong at our college, and worse, questioning their worth. Often the difference between these two experiences isn't much. I look forward to building on the equity work the Senate has started and am eager to see where it will take us.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to continuing our work together!