

Academic Senate Spring 2025 Officer Elections:

Candidate Statement

Monica Ohkubo, Executive Secretary

Fellow Senators,

I hope you will vote for me, Monica Ohkubo, as your next Executive Secretary. In this role I would work to continue to enhance shared governance processes and enhance understanding and application of faculty 10+1 purview across the District. I currently hold the position of Academic Senate Vice President, and I will take all of the experience and skills I have learned in this position into the Executive Secretary position. I believe I have the lived experiences, academic preparation and demonstrable District and community leadership to serve as Executive Secretary of the Academic Senate.



As an allied and instructional faculty member, I work with one of the most diverse student populations (student-athletes) in the District. I get to learn about a variety of majors, programs and disciplines due to the hundreds of students I serve. I have invested the last 20 years at SRJC supporting and promoting excellence and success among students and student-athletes alike. My experience developing effective and novel student-centered programs for diverse student populations will be useful in Academic Senate Executive Committee work.

I am organized and passionate about student success and dedicated to shared governance. My personal skill set allows me to effectively multi-task and apply both analytical and holistic thinking to my work. My scholarship and experience are indicative of the approach I would have as Executive Secretary: student-centered, organized, dedicated, passionate, collaborative and self-reflective.

I have a demonstrated and successful leadership track beyond my duties as Head Athletic Trainer, coordinator of the Pre-Sports Medicine CE program and major, and instructor. I am also the founder and past president of the Sonoma County Athletic Trainers' Association and Co-Chair of the California Community College Athletic Trainers' Association (CCCATA) Medical Advisory Board, Board Member of North Coast Concussion Management, a local non-profit. In terms of equity-specific leadership experience, I am the founder, past chair and current member of the California Athletic Trainers' Association Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the past Far West Athletic Trainers' Association Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee Tri-Chair for the state of California. In all of these leadership positions, I have worked with partners from different academic and professional backgrounds. These experiences have provided me the opportunity to collaborate and develop strong leadership skills that will be useful as the Executive Secretary of the Academic Senate.

I have also engaged in scholarship to inform my work with marginalized groups. My doctoral research focused on student success in the California Community College System. Specifically, I examined student success of pre-sports medicine students and uncovered the value of mentorship, networking and the establishment of foundational skills to these students. Prior to my doctoral work, my research focused on gender stereotypes and their impact on female athletic trainers, and I continue to research and publish in the areas of concussion. I believe that my scholarly experience will help inform my work as Vice President in addressing Black Anti-Racism and equity work on the SRJC campus.

As a person, my intersectionality as a female, person of color in the LGBTQ+ community, coupled with my education, training and experience, allow me to intuitively understand and advocate for the diverse needs of our faculty and students. Working in a field of predominantly heterosexual white males has exposed me to challenges and provided me opportunities to understand marginalization, racism, sexism and homophobia first-hand. I do not ever wish I was afforded an easier path because my lived experience is what allows me to thrive in spaces of adversity and will support the practical application of my unique perspective to the Senate Executive position.

During my last 20 years at SRJC, I have created innovative programs, such as our concussion management program, which I have presented locally, nationally and internationally. I have had the chance to participate in a variety of college service opportunities and gained a great deal of institutional knowledge and experience. The list below shows relevant institutional leadership experiences

- Academic Senate Vice President (2 terms)
- Academic Senate (3 terms)
- District Faculty Staffing Committee (9 years)
- Guided Pathways Mapping & Scheduling Workgroup
- District Health and Safety Committee
- District Planning and Budget Council
- Program Review Committee
- Senate 4.3.2 Hiring Policy Review Sub-Committee
- Kinesiology, Athletics & Dance Department Curriculum Committee
- Curriculum Cluster Tech Reviewer
- Student Health Advisory Committee
- Asian Pacific Islander Staff Association founding member
- Athletics COVID-19 Action Committee Chair
- Parking and Transportation Committee
- Numerous faculty, management and staff hiring committees

Thank you for your support!