

## John Stover, statement, candidate for Executive Secretary



**Hi! I'm John Stover, a SRJC Sociologist and an Area Seven Academic Senator. It would be my honor to serve as your next Executive Secretary and I humbly ask for your support.** I have many skills to bring to this role as drawn from a variety of experiences across my 17 years in higher education, and I will support and improve many of our existing Academic Senate (AS) processes.

As a Sociologist, I bring to the Executive Secretary position an informed understanding of bureaucracies and organizational policies and practices. In this regard, I deeply appreciate SRJC's culture as it supports faculty

purview and agency in matters of 10+1, shared governance practices, instructional innovations, and curriculum and professional development processes. As a trained and experienced ethnographer, I am also highly adept in note-taking and observational reporting. As your Secretary, I will support the ongoing, effective proofreading and dissemination of our formal notes. I will likewise prioritize the improvement of our motion and amendment processes, per Robert's Rules of Order and in partnership with our President, Vice President, and Parliamentarian. For example, I see opportunities for our motions and amendments to be more clearly visible and articulated during our discussion and voting activities. Correspondingly, I will work with the AS Executive Committee (ASEC) to make integrated, effective use of Zoom and online-related technologies.

Since joining SRJC in 2017, I have worked on multiple fronts to dismantle anti-Black sentiment and white privilege. I consistently prioritize actively anti-racist pedagogies within my classrooms and in partnership with fellow faculty, Student Services, and our Intercultural Centers. I have enthusiastically participated in sub-committees of the AS since 2018, first as a Steering Committee member of the Petaluma Faculty Forum (AY2018—19), and as a contributing member (AY2018—19) and Mapping and Scheduling Co-Lead (AY2019—Present) of the Guided Pathways Workgroups. In our AS Summer 2020 special meetings I advocated for the demands of the Black Student Union and for our efforts to truly diversify faculty assignments to college and AS committees. In my service on the AS Elections Committee (Spring 2020—Present) I also worked collaboratively to develop the language of our current ballot initiative towards the diversification of Senate's membership. In Spring 2021 I am running for re-election in Area Seven and will serve on the planning committee for the #WeTheFuture Social Justice Conference.

On a more personal, intersectional note, as a Gen-X, Jesuit-trained, queer man from the Midwest, I bring my diligent work ethic and social justice-oriented perspectives to bear in my service, not only as a Senator but also, and hopefully, as your next Executive Secretary. As such, I welcome the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities as assigned by and in support of our AS President (as outlined in Sections 3.D & 3.F of the Bylaws). I fully support our ongoing efforts to expand and further diversify the ASEC and look forward to the work we will do together.

As when I first ran for AS, I am committed to transparent decision-making, professional communications, and productive, cross-disciplinary collaborations. I am neither afraid to admit when I

am wrong nor fearful to learn from my mistakes; furthermore, I expect I **will** make mistakes, welcome the opportunity to grow with this position, and value your feedback and constructive criticism.

These values, and more, I bring forward for your consideration for the position of Academic Senate Executive Secretary. Thank you for your time.