



ACADEMIC SENATE

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 1, 2020

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom only

ZOOM ID: 739 337 730

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/739337730>

PRESENT:

M Aparicio; P Bell; M Bojanowski; J Carlin-Goldberg; C Crawford; A Donegan; T Ehret; J Fassler; N Frantz; T Graziani; J Kosten; D Lemmer; S Martin; L Nahas; G Navarro; M Ohkubo; A Oliver; M Starkey; J Stover; A Thomas; E Thompson; J Thompson, N Wheeler, S Whyllly

ABSENT:

S Rosen

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER:

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

OPEN FORUM:

1. John Stover provided reading of Open Letter:

- ◇ Dear President Thompson and Members of the Academic Leadership Council, Dr. Chong and Dr. Saldana-Talley, Fellow Senators, Colleagues, Students, Guests, and Community Members, These are unparalleled times. Today we reconvene the Academic Senate for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and related crises. The ongoing macro-level disruptions this pandemic is impacting includes everything from our health care systems, our workplaces and economies, educational institutions, family life, and everyday life, just to name a scant few. In fact, Every. Single. Thing. Is different about our lives today, and could be for a long time to come. But we are also experiencing an institutional crisis in the midst of this global pandemic, and we are failing. We are failing to create community, we are failing to communicate clearly, and we are failing in our cooperation to find the best way forward for ALL students, faculty, admin, and staff. Very few, if any, of us have every experienced such dramatic, sweeping changes to our mobility and agency, and every one of us is struggling with maintaining our connections. I also know, and have evidence from my students, that our collective levels of stress, anxiety, and depression are quite high. The burden we carry is heavy, and so is the responsibility. So today, my respected colleagues, as we reconvene I respectfully share three areas of reflection, shared by many in my department and across multiple areas of the college. For our consideration: We are Grateful. We are Frustrated. We are Hopeful. Within our SRJC Community, We are Grateful. • We are grateful for a strong Academic Senate, AFA, and DCC leadership that advocates comprehensively for faculty resources throughout this crisis. • We are grateful for a District that maintains pay, benefits, health care, and material resources for its employees, students, and community members across, what I hope is, all job categories. • We are grateful for our students and our faculty colleagues who are rising to the current challenges with grace, creativity, and ingenuity as they transition to remote instruction. • We are grateful for student-

centered, equity-minded faculty and student services colleagues who understand how to put students first in their pedagogies and practices and deliver instruction and services with all of their students in mind. Within our SRJC Community, We are Frustrated. • We are frustrated by a system of faculty leadership that advocates for shared governance in their relations with the district, but does so in a top-down format in relation to their own colleagues. The lack of consultation and collaboration during this crisis is deeply troubling. • We are frustrated by the lack of information from the District and faculty leaders from March 12th thru the 27th. • We are likewise frustrated by the avalanche of ad hoc, randomized, and emailed based information that has followed since. Clear, consistent, and succinct communication on quick, easy to access, one-on-one help for faculty is MIA. The lack of visibility of our Distance Education Department and related Faculty Committee in these matters is particularly disheartening. • We are frustrated by various documents/resolutions that prioritize faculty choice and individual agency over the pursuit of shared, collective strategies and resources for engaged learning, technical assistance, and student engagement and support. • We are frustrated we are not coordinating holistically, comprehensively, or collectively across all constituencies in our response to this crisis. We are deeply frustrated by all of this and more. Second only to the institution of family, nothing is more important than the institution of education in socializing and preparing young people for their – and our – future. At its founding in 1918, SRJC survived the H1N1 Pandemic, and now, 102 years later, we again fight to survive the COVID-19 Pandemic. But let's not just survive this pandemic. Together as Senators, all Senators, and in partnerships with our faculty, staff, student, and administrative colleagues throughout the college, let's work together to make a better future. The Senate 10+1 purview has never been more important, and this is an "all hands-on deck" moment. Within the Senate and within all of our various constituencies. We can't do it alone. Personal troubles are Social Issues, C. Wright Mills tells us, and Social Issues require Social Cooperation. And so, too... Within our SRJC Community, We are Hopeful • We are hopeful as faculty are rising to the current challenges with grace, creativity, and ingenuity and adapting their interactive, on-ground strategies into similarly engaging e-learning communities. • We are hopeful that many students have already demonstrated their continued commitment to learning and maintain their deep desire to be successful and productive in their studies. • We are hopeful as the District extends its outreach to students and is connecting them to laptops, foodbanks, and other resources. • We are hopeful we all deepen our shared governance activities going forward and also make transparent and consistent our communicative and collaborative patterns throughout the college and across all consistencies. • We are hopeful that when we come out of this current crisis, we never again take for granted the gift of one another's physical proximity and sense of community. In closing, I share with you all what I told my students recently in a video update: "Dear Students, I want you to fight harder than you have ever fought for your education, and I want you to expect more from us than you have ever received. We are here to help you. We are here to serve you. And we are here to make sure that you can do the work that you need to do to be successful. We are social distancing, but we are not socially isolating. Keep in touch, keep the faith, and be well." Our students deserve the best, and it is our responsibility to give it to them. Together, They and We, deserve a more collective future. A more equitable future. A more creative, cooperative, respectful, and joyous future. Because if we

don't try to serve all of our students, then we are failing all of our community. We can and should do better, and I hope we do. Thank you.

2. Dr. Frank Chong provided comments:

- ◇ Proud of our leadership during this time
- ◇ Pedro Avila working to get laptops to students
- ◇ We need to lead with kindness, compassion and patience
- ◇ We see the urgency in trying to do this.
- ◇ This is not a week long situation, but months.
- ◇ We need to look ahead to summer and fall.
- ◇ The economy is in disarray, and we've been warned about the poor budget outlook for next year.
- ◇ My communication lines remain open with Senate and AFA leaders.
- ◇ We have 2 goals:
 1. Keep community healthy and safe
 2. Try to do the best we can to get our students to completion.

- ◇ We are not going to be 100% successful. We understand this is not ideal. These are extraordinary times, and we appreciate the extraordinary faculty effort.

3. Geoff Navarro Reminder that counseling is open & will remain open:

- ◇ Direct students to counseling. Contact Nicole Franz or Geoff with questions.
- ◇ Counselors began remotely meeting with students Monday, March 30. Students can go to our Counseling website or call-in to access Counseling: (707) 778-3914, Petaluma, (707) 527-4451 Santa Rosa.
- ◇ We are serving students via Zoom, phone and e-mail.
- ◇ Thanks for your help in getting the word out to SRJC students and colleagues.
- ◇ Academic Counseling hours (Zoom, phone, e-mail):
 - i. Mon: 9am - 5pm
 - ii. Tues: 8am - 7pm
 - iii. Wed: 8am - 7pm
 - iv. Thurs: 8am - 2pm
 - v. Fri: 9am - 1pm
- ◇ SRJC Schedule of Classes will be posted April 16th
- ◇ Last date to meet w/ a Counselor for Early Bird priority (Priority 3) is now Thursday, April 30.
- ◇ Summer/Fall class registration dates:
 - i. Priority 1 - May 4th
 - ii. Priority 2 - May 12th
 - iii. Priority 3 - May 14th
 - iv. Priority 4 - May 18th
 - v. Priority 5 - May 19th
 - vi. Priority 6 - May 20th
 - vii. Open Reg - May 21st
- ◇ New Priority registration schedule: <https://admissions.santarosa.edu/summer-and-fall-priority-schedule>

4. Anne Donegan concerns of Summer and Fall registration combination:

- ◇ It would be helpful to unlink summer and fall registration due to these circumstances.
- ◇ Changes to the schedule and knowing what modality we will be using helps

students, faculty and staff.

5. Lauren Nahas commented on working with Distance Ed:

- ◇ Working with them for past two weeks doing one-on-one trainings and workshops with faculty

MINUTES:

1. It was noted that a typo was present on Page 2 and different language was needed on Page 2 to confusing language. The March 4, 2020 minutes were adopted as corrected without objection.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

REPORTS:

1. [President's Report](#) –E. Thompson

- All face to face meetings, including Area Meetings and Plenary have been cancelled
- Some committee meetings have continued via Zoom
 - ◇ Try to keep regular schedules.
 - ◇ Side letter by AFA and district makes provisions for faculty who are engulfed in classes, and don't have time for committee, you can back off of that committee.
 - ◇ Please let the committee know if you are doing that.
- The Chancellor's Office has also conducted webinars, disseminated information, received questions and made determinations regarding requests.
- The ASCCC has established a COVID-19 information and resource center
- College was closed to face to face meetings during Spring Break.
- We discussed having an emergency meeting of the Senate but decided against it.
- The Senate Exec has actively participated in the COVID-19 task force
- We have heard frustrations voiced along two competing axes: that information has been too slow, and that there was not more inclusion
 - ◇ It is impossible to answer both of the above concerns at the same time
 - ◇ Communication has taken so long, the more people the longer it takes, delay in answers from authoritative sources, and extremely difficult to coordinate all this remotely
- **Comments:**
 - ◇ It would be helpful to know faculty workload first, then be able to decide continuance on committees.
 - ◇ Please as Senate Leadership, give us information in a middle ground way. Not too much and not to little (or silence)
 - ◇ There is a memo saying all committee work has been suspended, if one wants to follow the letter of the law. Culture of Senate needs to change. I feel like a rubber stamp.

ACTION:

None

CONSENT:

None

DISCUSSION: [COVID-19 Resolution](#)

1. Resolution on functioning under COVID-19

- **Discussion:**

- ◇ Regarding the last resolution, what else are departments going to do instead?
- ◇ Concerns for impact for nursing faculty who require state approval for changes in curriculum to meeting nursing board standards.
- ◇ Zoom bombing is happening
- ◇ What are the options out there? I would say each instructor should know they can work with what they are comfortable with.
- ◇ Students and faculty both have concern over security of CANVAS.
- ◇ Another concern around technology- as we rapidly go online, we have to realize there are many tools connected with these systems. Monitoring methodologies which are concerning.
 - Some concerns are the use of these technologies to monitor and control faculty work. We need to be keenly aware that just because these technologies can be used, does not mean they should.
- ◇ Some courses will not be able to go remote. We'll do our best, but it will not be perfect.
- ◇ Now that we are using Zoom and other technologies. It is easier to record us, and pass recordings on.
 - Our student privacy policy prohibits things like recording class sessions and releasing to an external group.
- ◇ Faculty taking on large numbers of incompletes would be difficult. We should make sure we give appropriate input because there are ramifications of a large number of incompletes.
- ◇ Talk has been to do lectures now and lab maybe in summer after the crisis. Hard to know because we do not know when this will be over.
- ◇ In the second resolve, a concern about the word "fatally". Word choice.
- ◇ Privacy issues for faculty are real and faculty should be aware of these dangers as they sign on to use these tools.
 - Faculty can lose their careers for privacy issues.
- ◇ IP is an incomplete in progress. This is possible for those professors who feel they can't go remote, but wants to pick up where the class was left off. They get an IP for this if this was going to happen.
- ◇ In the trades, this is hard. You don't want someone who learned on YouTube.
- ◇ Worried other colleges and this district will make all disciplines go online.

2. COVID-19 Instructional Continuance

• Discussion:

- ◇ J Fassler - Hard to do a good job with science labs, but we are working on it. As long as we are using the course outline, we should be safe from privacy concerns right?
- ◇ J Carlin-Goldberg- Math had a zoom department meeting. Talked about how to lessen the workload for our students. Math feels hopeful, overwhelmed. Math has a CANVAS sandbox.
- ◇ Dr. Chong- Important to connect with our international students.
- ◇ A Donegan - International student glad the decision was made so they can go home.
- ◇ T Jacobson- KAD had a meeting. We decided this was a good opportunity to grow and professionally develop to toggle back and forth with remote and face to face learning. Have a Google sheet to share ideas and links. Tara has been making videos and posting and having students respond. Time lapsed video submissions are an option to show that students did the workout and can earn participation points. Some classes are meeting by Zoom. We have athletic workouts going online including swimming. Yoga Alliance has approved yoga teacher training to move to remote learning. It can happen the best we can.
- ◇ T Ehret- We will probably find a way to get through to the end of the semester. English has been supportive in holding regular meetings and trainings, etc. Looking ahead, 2 classes in fall are composition classes, and I would like to know at what point will the college determine that classes in fall will be online or not?
- ◇ A Donegan - Norton is providing free online resources.
- ◇ S Martin- Workload issue.

- ◇ M Ohkubo- Another positive in this process is that many forms and systems that needed to go paperless and remote, are doing so very quickly. Hopefully the district will be greener after this, and this will be a "forced" jumpstart for these processes to go paperless and remote. A better document signing program, training and policy is needed.
- ◇ A Donegan- Direct students to resources for students like Foundation scholarships during this time. We as instructors have responsibility to provide stability to students while also being flexible.

INFORMATION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by Eric Thompson