



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

Click [here](#) to start Zoom

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 The 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's 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 philosophy department faculty member. 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, and stated "I am strongly in favor of student participation in hiring processes."
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 the links in the current report were one sided and felt tone was dismissive. Encouraged meaningful and respectful conversation regarding significant issues, such as AP7120A 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, remote participation was approved. President Stover inquired if there were any objections to Senator Garcia's remote participation. Hearing none, remote participation was approved.

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

Senator Persons cited a misspelling for an individual who participated in Open Forum. Senator McGregor-Gordon cited a misspelling of her name in the first vote. Senator Schmidt requested the answer to the question regarding AI

tools in Canvas 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 Lukas requested for Action Item #1, [Recommended Classroom Practices for Flexibility and Accommodation in Student Attendance and Participation](#), to be moved to an Action to allow for further discussion. Hearing no objections, Action Item was moved. Senator Atilgan Relyea cited a misspelling to her name.

REPORTS

[President's Report.](#)

President Stover 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; asked Senate to consider 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 recent years, and requested patience and understanding for the complexities of issues the Senate is facing 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 the upcoming Thursday with temporary support provided through current STNC; and clarified the role of the President (to facilitate the voice of the Senators), the role of the Senators (to represent the voice of the faculty in their areas), and their commitment to collaborative work toward 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 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 noted the proposed list was presented as suggestions and examples.

Senator Persons moved to approve; seconded. Motion passed with 18 yes votes, 1 no votes, 7 abstentions and 1 absence (*see next page for vote count*).

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. A Senator expressed appreciation for the clarity and thoughtfulness that went into the creation of the document. Senator Lukas made a motion to approve; 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 voiced support for student participation on hiring committees, presented alternative models on their incorporation, and concerns were raised regarding students' lack of experience, which could hinder desired outcomes. Emphasis was placed on the need for training and clear protocols for student participants in ensuring meaningful and positive engagement, and the development of a scoring rubric to assess how student input would be incorporated was suggested.

Senators acknowledged the value of diversity within hiring committees from outside departments, stating participation should be encouraged but not required so as to not reduce discipline-specific expertise on hiring committees; questioned the selection process for students and outside faculty; requested clarity in language for future drafts to language and processes, as current draft presents inconsistencies; shared research in support of the inclusion of students and outside faculty on hiring committees, which has been shown to reduce bias and promote diversity; discussed alternatives to student participation to ensure the hiring of qualified individuals remains the priority; and expressed frustration in the changes made by the district without regard to previous efforts.

Senator Jacobson made a motion to move the Discussion Item to action; seconded. Motion failed with 9 yes votes, 13 no votes, 4 abstentions, and 1 absence. Item will return as a Discussion Item at next Senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman – no
 L. Aspinall – yes
 A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
 S. Avasthi – yes
 L. Branen-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
 I. Tircuit – no

2. **Three New GenAI Features Debating in Canvas**

Senators expressed concern on the implementation of GenAI tools in Canvas without prior consultation with faculty, senates, or Chancellor's office and noted the potential impact it could have on student and faculty interactions. Questions raised by Senators included: questioning if GenAI tools align with 10 + 1 responsibilities or other values (equity, privacy, intellectual property, human-centered learning); whether the Senate should recommend institution-wide adoption; that the potential usage of

GenAI tools in Canvas was optional and how usage could assist faculty by elevating access to resources; questioned if GenAI tools would assist or hinder student success; acknowledged how campus wide adoption could exacerbate inequitable access to technology for some; highlighted AI usage among students, in various workforces, and worldwide; showed how ASCCC and Mira Costa College are implementing policies to promote ethical usage; and stressed the importance of preparing students for the professional demands of the workforce by assisting students with guidance on AI engagement.

BREAK

5. Online Teaching Certification

Recommendations 1.1 - 1.5: Senator noted the development of the recommendations were to safeguard a standard level for online teaching that ensured compliance with laws and regulations and described proposal as a fair compromise.

Senator Lukas moved to place Recommendations 1.1 - 1.5 on the Action agenda for the next Senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed with 25 yes votes and 2 absences. Recommendations will be added to the Action agenda at the next Senate meeting (17 September 2025).

M. Anderman – yes
L. Aspinall – yes
A. Atilgan Relyea – yes
S. Avasthi – yes
L. Branen-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
I. Tircuit – yes

Recommendation 2.1: Senator Lukas moved to place Recommendation 2.1 on the Action agenda for next Senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed with 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

Recommendations 3.1 - 3.3: Senator Lukas moved to place Recommendations 3.1 - 3.3 on the Action agenda for the next Senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed with 25 yes votes and 2 absences. Recommendations will be added to the 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

Recommendations 4.1 - 5.2: Senator Lukas moved to place Recommendations 4.1 - 5.2 on the Action agenda for the next Senate meeting; seconded. Motion passed with 25 yes votes and 2 absences.

Recommendations will be added to the 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

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

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

K. Frindell Teuscher – yes

J. Nieto – 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.