

President's Report, April 21, 2021
Julie Thompson

On Wednesday, April 21, the Executive Committee discussed the two **emails that our colleagues Lauren Servais and Malena Hernandez Legorreta sent** on behalf of numerous SRJC colleagues and organizations. We support our colleagues and their demands for freedom from violence and threat, educational justice, and social justice. And we recognize that behind our words of support there must be action that leads to change. Therefore, the Senate must continue to do the work that will bring into being the BSU demands and the recommendations of the Black Studies & Ethnic Studies Task Force, including the creation of an Ethnic Studies Department and the hiring of Ethnic Studies faculty members. This work is urgent and necessary. While there are numerous people and institutions responding to the need for social justice and an end to violence against people of color, we recognize that *education* plays an essential role in ending hate, challenging and dismantling supremacist ideas, and building a society that is safe and just for every person. An Ethnic Studies Department, and Ethnic Studies curricula, embody a college's commitment to such education. We will continue to work with our Administrative colleagues to achieve these goals as soon as possible.

Eight of your Senate colleagues attended **Plenary**. The keynote lectures and breakout sessions reflected the theme of "Working Collectively: Transforming and Decolonizing Institutions." A collective report comprised of notes from each participant will be posted to the Senate website as soon as possible.

We continue apace with creating the **Planning and Budget Council**, which is the new council that will integrate both planning and budget. This process requires dissolution of the Institutional Planning Council and the Budget Advisory Committee. The draft of the committee details will be shared with the college community soon.

Regarding next steps for **Guided Pathways**. We are behind on initiating the next phase, but the good news is that we have learned that we do not need an MOU. AFA and the District have recently negotiated a process that expedites the creation of special assignments that are funded by short-term grants, such as the Guided Pathways funding. Guided by the GP Workgroup recommendations endorsed by the Senate and in collaboration with Senate Exec, I will be working with Dr. Saldaña-Talley to provide her with the information needed to get these GP assignments in place and people recruited to do the work. The goal is a single process to get us all the way through the design and implementation phases, with scheduled progress reports so that the Senate is apprised and able to provide feedback and support. We are hoping to recruit for this work before the end of the semester.

The District is making progress with its creation of an **Ethnic Studies Department**. Dr. Saldaña-Talley's office will be partnering with Senate Exec and members of the Black Studies & Ethnic Studies Task Force to select faculty members with Ethnic Studies MQs to begin curriculum work. I expect that this work will be initiated before the end of the semester. Also, the College community will receive an update on the Ethnic Studies Department soon—completed steps, steps in progress, and a clear timeline for completion, with the intention of having the department in place in Fall 2021.

Regarding the **backlog of policies and procedures** that need revision, previously reported. Please watch for upcoming communications to the College community and invitations to two events, scheduled for the week of May 10: a presentation on the status of the policy revision process, and a training session on constituency group purview. Both of these events are supported by College Council, in its role of facilitating the work of maintaining the Board Policy Manual and overseeing the College's committee system. The purview training is one of the "action items" from the College's recent participation in a Peer Resource Team visit (PRT), through the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; Dr. Chong had initiated this PRT visit to seek support with our project of streamlining our shared governance structure. This training will include panelists with expertise in respective areas of purview. David Morse, Past President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, will be among the panelists and will address the Academic Senate's areas of responsibility. Both the policy and purview events will be important to the College's ongoing policy and governance work, and I hope that you will attend.

Under the leadership of Vice President Kate Jolley, the College is involved in a project to evaluate and possibly **purchase vendor products for a new "suite" of software** to serve the College's IT needs with scheduling, payroll, student onboarding and records, and more. The vendor demonstrations will be held during the fall semester, and members of the College community will be encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Thank you to Vice President Jolley for her commitment to making this an inclusive, transparent process in support of the College's making the best decisions possible.

Thanks to Executive Committee members Laura Aspinall, Jessica Bush, and Monica Ohkubo, who are doing the heavy lifting on **committee assignments**. This is a time-consuming and detail-oriented project, and I am grateful to them for offering to take on this work. I would also like to suggest that in the future the Senate consider how it might formally codify—perhaps in our Bylaws—a commitment to diversity in committee appointments.

Elections news. Thank you also to Senators Jessica Bush and Anne Donegan, who are overseeing the Area elections, and to Senators Jennifer Carlin-Goldberg, Lauren Nahas, and John Stover, who are overseeing the President-Elect elections. They have been diligent in addressing the balloting problems that were discovered last week, and with Amy Quinn they are working to get the elections back on track as soon as possible. As of late afternoon on Monday, it looks like we are close to getting the ballots out. Thanks to you all for your patience and support.

Senator Carlin-Goldberg is our Open Educational Resources Initiative liaison. ASCCC encourages us to also appoint **liaisons** Career Education, legislation, and DEI. Additionally, the Student Government Assembly would like a Senator to attend their meetings (every Monday from 3 to 5). Please consider! If you are interested, please reach out to Senate Exec. It would be good to get these liaisons in place for next year.

As always, please reach out with ideas, comments, and questions. And please join me for my office hour on Monday mornings!

Thank you.