

President's Report, August 18, 2021
Julie Thompson

Welcome to new Senators and guests, and a special welcome to our new Vice President of Human Resources, Gene Durand.

We have funding for Communities of Practice this academic year, in both fall and spring. The call for proposals will go out soon. The call will specify the the goals of eliminating equity gaps for our students and implementing the DEIA professional learning priorities that the Senate approved in Spring 2021.

Any senators interested in serving on our Elections Committee this year, please let me know. Preferably, I would like to appoint senators who are not up for election for anything this year so that we don't have to find temporary replacements when committee members are themselves up for election.

Regarding the Senate's equity position: After extensive conversation and considering input from others, the Executive Committee proposes that the position of Equity Officer be focused on supporting the Senate and Senate Exec as we work to transform into a more equitable institution. We think it will be good to pull in a bit so that the Equity Officer is helping us as we conduct Senate business, to bring a conscious equity lens to our conversations and our work.

Yesterday was the deadline for faculty members to apply to fill the open seats on the Guided Pathways projects. To set the work in motion, Dr. Saldaña-Talley will be meeting with all faculty members appointed to Guided Pathways projects. Dr. Saldaña-Talley, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Senate will hear from these workgroups throughout this semester and next.

Today is the last Senate meeting for Kyla Wegman, Area 1 Senator. I thank Kyla for her service to the Senate. We will immediately open recruitment to fill this vacancy and hope to have an appointee in place for the September 1 meeting.

Due to \$100 million in new, ongoing funding available to increase the number of full-time faculty members in the system and move toward the 75-25 full-time to part-time ratio, SRJC will receive funding to add 19 new full-time faculty positions. This is in addition to any new positions that the District would already be recruiting for this year. This is good for our students and programs, presents a significant opportunity to further diversify our faculty, and provides opportunities to adjunct faculty members across the state.

Regarding Open Forum, as we know the College community has had a significant need over the last year to make public comments, and our Open Forum is one of the few opportunities available for people to address the community. The Executive recognizes this need, and also the Senate's need to hear from the community, and we also recognize that we are responsible for managing meeting time allowed for getting our business done. Senate Exec is discussing ideas for providing additional opportunities, outside of regular senate meetings, for faculty members and others to make public comments. Ideas include a listening session devoted to public comments. Details coming.

Senate Exec is also in conversation with AFA and the DCC Co-Chairs about concerns that faculty members have raised as more classes and student services have transitioned back on site this fall. In the past, during campus closures, power outages, and fires, the faculty leaders have

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partnered with the Vice President of Academic Affairs on FAQs so that we can provide clear, consistent, agreed-upon answers to questions that we are receiving—or anticipating—from the faculty. We are discussing a new FAQ to provide answers to common questions for our current circumstances.

In terms of committee business, this year will see the inaugural meeting of the new Planning and Budget Council. Again, details forthcoming. Also, College Council will be surveying all committees this year and asking them to review their committee charges from a DEIA lens.

Also, thank you as always for the amazing work that you all are doing—serving on the Senate, facilitating Communities of Practice for your colleagues, attending ASCCC institutes.