

President's Report, December 15, 2021

Julie Thompson

Dr. Chong is not able to join us today and asked me to wish you all happy holidays.

I'd like to thank Senator Aspinall for covering for Secretary Stover, who is out today.

On Wednesday, December 8, we partnered with Kate Jolley, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, to host a meeting with a representative from the company that makes the Program Mapper software. Recall that moving forward with exploring this software was on the Senate's November 17 Consent agenda. On Monday of this week, we had a follow-up meeting so that attendees could discuss the product and recommend on next steps. Thanks go to those who attended the product demo and the discussion, and particularly to Kate Jolley for prioritizing and fast-tracking this process.

Those of you who were on the Senate last year may recall that we did some foundational work on how departments are allocated among the 13 Areas of representation. We were not able to agendaize that last academic year and had hoped to do it this fall, in advance of launching the Spring 2022 election cycle for terms that will begin with the Fall 2022 semester, but this semester is getting away from us, too. Please note that we'll be posting the census information so that everyone can be aware of where things currently stand.

At Plenary, two colleagues from the Los Rios community college district led a presentation on their work to weave equity into their faculty evaluation process. Several of us who attended Plenary really appreciated the work that was shared by these two colleagues—Belinda Lum, the chief negotiator for the faculty union, and Julie Oliver, a past president of her local Academic Senate. We are hoping to host a workshop with Professors Lum and Oliver so that SRJC faculty members can hear about their work. They've expressed willingness to participate in a virtual workshop next spring, and I hope to announce a date soon.

One item that we expect to see on an upcoming Senate agenda is the question of how to resolve conflicts over placement of courses within disciplines. The Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) has a process for placement of courses, and sometimes there are conflicts among faculty members in different disciplines. CRC has discussed the question and will be forwarding a recommendation, which the Senate will be asked to consider.

As a reminder, we have two upcoming training sessions with members of the ASCCC's Executive Committee. On January 24 Stephanie Curry and Michelle Bean will be talking with us about DEIA and 10 + 1. Several Exec members met with Stephanie and Michelle for a planning meeting last week, and we will be in good hands. And on Friday, February 11, for the last hour and a half of our spring retreat, we will meet with Cheryl Aschenbach and LaTonya Parker, who will be presenting on Minimum Qualifications and Equivalency for Ethnic Studies.

When we return in the Spring, we'll be formally launching our Strategic Planning process. Thanks to Dr. Jeremy Smotherman for being such a joy to partner with on this project. Please watch for invitations to the series of Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings that are scheduled for second and fourth Fridays next semester. Those who are unable to attend will be invited to share ideas and feedback via online surveys. The SP process is an opportunity for us to collaboratively shape our college. I encourage everyone to participate as they are able.

I have a number of people to thank today:

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Thanks to Ashley Arnold, Anne Donegan, Brenda Flyswithhawks, Sarah Hopkins, and Steven Kessler for hosting a really wonderful workshop in support of potential applicants for tenure-track positions. We had 136 attendees, from SRJC and outside the College. People attended from multiple states, and there were at least two attendees zooming in from other countries.

I'd like to recognize and thank Lauren Servais, who is leaving SRJC for the College of Marin, where she will serve as Dean of Arts and Humanities. Lauren's impact on our college has been substantial, and all for the good. I thank her for her tireless advocacy for our students. For several years it was my good fortune to have an office that was next door to hers. Her door was always open, and I learned so much from our spontaneous conversations. I will miss her, but the seeds that she has planted during her years here have taken root. Thank you, Lauren, and best wishes.

I also thank George Sellu, who is going on sabbatical next semester. This is "until we meet again" and not a goodbye. Thank you for your service to the Senate, and we wish you a wonderful and inspiring sabbatical semester.

I also thank every one of you for shouldering a ton of work in the Senate this semester. We have much left to accomplish, and when we return in January we will keep working on our to-do list. Even though we need to stay focused on further work we need to do, I think that it is important for all of us to acknowledge what we've accomplished. Thank you, all.

At its special meeting on November 30, the Board approved the Institutional Self Evaluation Report. I would like to acknowledge the work of our many colleagues, from all employees groups and all areas of the College, on this report. The heavy lifting was done by Vice President of Academic Affairs Jane Saldana-Talley and faculty accreditation co-chair Jessica Russell. I'd like to take just a moment for us to acknowledge them and their work.