

## Events

- **The Retreat** Senate Chambers, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
There will be food and drink and conversations including:  
On Faculty Professional Development  
On Senate Elections
- **Senate Exec Meeting with ACCJC Liaison** Tuesday, Jan 21, 10:00-12:00  
Topics for Accreditation: SLOs and Structural Deficit among others
- **Ed Insights: Second Round of GP Evaluations** Feb 11, 12, 13  
Senate Exec Interview Monday 2/10 @ 10:00-11:00 (For more see below)

## Processes

- The search for **Jessica Melvin's Replacement** is underway. An internal search has been announced and closes today. A hiring committee, as of this writing, has yet to be formed. As I had requested, the position is a combination of Academic Senate, 60 %, and Gatekeeper of Flex (not the official title), 15 % for a combined 85 % job.
- **Faculty Co-Chair of Accreditation.** Senate Exec met with AFA to consult for negotiations for compensation, job description and selection process yesterday. Negotiations will occur Friday, and MOU will be created and signed, and the announcement will go out next week. Very important position. Spread the word and encourage qualified faculty to apply.

**Guided Pathways—Statewide goings on** (the following is identical to a part of my report to the Board of Trustees.

We were part of a study of 12 colleges last spring conducted by Ed Insights, a research and policy company based at Sacramento State University. The purpose of the study was to find out how colleges are implementing Guided Pathways, assess how well or ill the Chancellor's Office is supporting the work, and make recommendations to the Chancellor's office for improvement. Ed Insights will be making a follow-up visit here at SRJC February 10, 11, and 12. The full report, which was released in December, just before our break, I dutifully devoured during my vacation. It was delicious.

I lied just now.

But even though not delicious to my taste, it bears a thorough and complete reading to get a picture of what's going on. I assume the document—a modest 122 pages—was made available to you and

it really gives good insight, I think, into what the Chancellor's Office is thinking. There were five recommendations<sup>1</sup>:

1. Articulate a common definition of equity to inform all aspects of CCCGP
2. Model integration of CCCCCO structures and priorities
3. Support strategic alignment of CCCGP at the district, regional, or system level, as appropriate.
4. Improve coherence among CCCCCO and non-CCCCO professional learning resources.
5. Create sustained learning opportunities with coaching and peer support.

Comment:

Recommendations 1, 2, and 5 are good. 3 out of 5 ain't bad.

Recommendation 4 is problematic.

Recommendation 3 should be rejected completely.

Reason: GP has been from its beginning as a framework which local districts fill locally. Local interpretation, local implementation, local definitions, has always been a main selling point and the basis on which many have gone along. Recommendations 3 and 4 work contrary to that idea.

For # 4, the main other source for professional learning resources is the ASCCC. The ASCCC has a Guided Pathways Task Force which develops those resources and one of the problems it is trying to solve is the inadequacy and problematic nature of the CCCCCO's resources. It seem innocuous on the surface but I smell a political rat trying to rein-in senate driven work and I am very skeptical.

For number 3, in the study, the main example for what kind of CCCGP thing needs alignment is Meta Majors. The suggestion is that Meta Majors should be aligned—which is a euphemism for in lock-step conformity—across districts or even system wide. Two points will illustrate why this idea is bad, specifically because it flies in the face of local control.

One: at SRJC, our GP process has so far concluded that we don't want to do Meta Majors at all. The only way then, in a system wide "alignment" that we could "align" is by being forced to do something that we have decided doesn't fit us.

Two: Meta Majors is an interesting taxonomical activity. I have been in breakouts and focus groups where participants grouped academic disciplines and programs into interesting combinations based on apprehension of sometimes really out-of-the-box similarities. In such workshops every meta major scheme is different from every other one for the simple reason that every academic subject is connected to every other one at *some point*. The idea that the Chancellor's Office would enforce alignment of Meta Majors across the system—making every college the same—removes from us what makes us unique and plugs us into the BORG. It is an idea, I believe, we must resist.

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<sup>1</sup> Listed on page 5 of the document, and elaborated on in pages 45-47.

## **Guided Pathways—Local**

On the other hand, we have a great Guided Pathways team, a structure in place, meetings scheduled, and money to allocate. I am optimistic about what we will accomplish and you will be hearing a lot more detail during the semester from the Guided Pathways team.

Eric Thompson