

Academic Senate President's Report

17 September 2025 / John A Stover III, PhD

In this week's Senate report I am not only sharing notes on the current agenda but also highlighting the work required between meetings to keep the Senate running.

To the first point, our current agenda reflects an approach I decided to take and after consultation with many folks including ASEC members, Senators, and other Academic Senate Presidents. We will return to contract faculty hiring on October 1st which will provide the District with enough time to plan for this formal request I made on September 11th (*note that both "asks" will be delivered on October 1st*):

Dear Dr. Garcia, VPAA Holcomb, and VP of HR Dunphy: Good afternoon. I'm formally requesting the following support for the Academic's Senate continued discussion on AP7120 as was or is currently agendized as a Discussion Item [[August 20, September 3rd](#) and [upcoming Sept. 17th \(draft form\)](#)] and as specific to the *First and Second Ask* included below:

First Ask: *I am asking for a one to two page (1—2) summary overview of the District's rationale for not accepting the 4.3.2P - clean final approved to Board.docx forwarded in 2023.* This document was shared with both the past and current President of SRJC. I also understand information has been provided in the past, and am respectfully asking for all information to be consolidated into a new document for sharing with the Academic Senate body in a forthcoming meeting (preferably for the October 1st meeting, which includes a deadline to submit by Noon September 25th).

Second Ask: *I am also asking that we include an overview of the AP2410 process to the Academic Senate at our next meeting as a Report.* This way the information comes to the Senate BEFORE the planned discussion item on faculty hiring.

Here is the language I've used in emails to describe AP2410 in the past:

Our existing AP 2410 is helpful to us all in this regard (linked here) as it outlines (but does not closely define) processes for work to be carried out. I've included an excerpt, with items 2 and 4 highlighted as they indicate Senate's role, below my signature. I hope it's helpful in reference.

Thank you, John

[AP 2410 Board Policies and Administrative Procedures](#)

Process for Development of New and Revised Policies & Procedures

2. If the subject matter of a policy or procedure is under the purview of the Academic Senate, the Academic Senate President, in consultation with the Academic Senate Executive Committee, shall assign a lead faculty member or members as deemed necessary to work with the lead administrator to prepare the draft.

4. The lead shall prepare a draft policy in consultation with District subject matter experts and the Superintendent/President or designee, and submit the draft to either the Cabinet Administrator or the President of the Academic Senate. If a policy requires an accompanying procedure, the procedure shall be drafted and submitted concurrently.

In the meantime, we'll take care of other important Senate business and keep moving forward on 10+1 matters specific to Generative Artificial Intelligence.

To my original second point, the work required between meetings to keep the Senate running includes (*but is not limited to*) the following recent activities:

- With presidential tri-chairs (Dr. Garcia and Linda Jay), kicked off College Council (09/04) with an expanded membership increasing the voice of classified, SEIU, and AFA representatives.
- Prepped, supplied, and hosted the Senate Retreat (9/05), both logistically and substantively, and [delivered this slide deck](#) and material (although we ran out of time for practicing pro-con-parliamentary mics).
- Attended the Curriculum Review Committee meeting (9/08) to support their work updating the policies and procedures for handling discipline overlap and conflict; and, worked to resolve,

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where appropriate, ongoing disputes between departments, faculty, and programs related to curriculum needs through meetings, emails, and phone calls.

- Attended Student Government Association's meeting (9/08) and met/discussed with Zack Miranda (9/09) ways of supporting [SRJC students' 9+1 right to participate](#); and, initiated an information request to ASCCC (9/14) asking the following:
 - *At Santa Rosa Junior College, I am engaged in conversations and work related to [students' 9+1 right to participate](#). I am working with our local Student Government Association, their advisors, and others in establishing best practices. To that end, **is it possible to grant student(s) a non-voting seat on a local Academic Senate in recognition of their right to participate?** If so, I recognize this would necessitate a change to our SRJC [constitution](#) and [bylaws](#), and if you have any examples of folks who have already done so across the 116 California Community College Academic Senate, I would be most appreciative.*
- Met with a [Leadership Santa Rosa](#) organizer (9/09) in preparing to speak at an upcoming event on the impact of Generative AI on education.
- [Updated the Board of Trustees \(9/09\)](#) re: our Senate activities to date this semester [8/20 & 9/03].
- Met with the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) twice (9/04 & 9/11) in fulfilling our planning role for supporting Senate work. Our working agendas, which we were not always able to complete, included the following:
 - *Sept 4th ASEC Agenda*
 - 8:30 to 8:40 am – Coffee Talk and Welcome Amber
 - 8:40 to 9:00 am – Senate Meeting Debrief and Follow Up Steps
 - 9:00 to 9:30 am – Finalizing Agenda for Senate Retreat
 - 9:30 to 9:45 am – Preview of the Committee Appointments Process (in progress)
 - 9:45 to 10:00 am – Future Planning and Items of Interest from ASEC Members
 - *Sept 11th ASEC Agenda*
 - 8:30 to 8:55 am – ASEC with Guests in discussion of AP7120 and agenda planning for Sept. 17th
 - 8:55 to 9:00 am – Break / Transition
 - 9:00 to 9:15 am – Review of SRJC Forward Planning and Next Steps
 - 9:15 to 9:35 am – Review / Setting of Sept. 17th Agenda
 - 9:35 to 9:45 am – Update on Committee Appointment Respondents
 - 9:45 to 9:55 am – ASEC Members Topics and Requests
 - 9:55 to 10:00 am – Wrap Up and Next Steps
- Attended two ASCCC Resolution office hours (9/05 & 9/12) in developing a statewide resolution carrying forward [our local resolution](#) by advancing reform thru this resolve statement (*overall resolution still in development*):
 - *Resolved, that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges advocate with the Chancellor's Office and other interest holders to explore how a transition to hyflex could be implemented in addressing political, social, economic, natural, health, and other threats to students' safe attendance and participation in their in-person courses.*
- Co-chaired a Faculty Staffing Committee meeting (9/12) in discussing challenges and adaptations to the upcoming process.

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- In partnership with their management supervisor, supported the ongoing onboarding of our STNC as well as initiated the first HR-related recruitment steps for the permanent, full time 10-month (over 12) AAll position, which was approved by the Board of Trustees (09/9) ([see pp 4–5 here](#)).
- Ongoing consultation (dyads, triads, small groups) with faculty members and senators, classified professionals, students, and administration across many topics and issues facing the senate (*more on that below*), including regular meetings with the Vice President of Academic Affairs (which the Vice President of the Senate also attends) and standing and drop in meetings with the Superintendent/President.
 - It might also be helpful to pause here to review the responsibilities of the Senate President as outlined in [Article II, Section 1 of our Bylaws](#), which state, in part: “Meet regularly with the Administration (notably the Superintendent/President and the Vice President of Academic Affairs) to maintain free and open communications.”

On this last point, I would like to point out that we take a collaborative approach to participatory governance in the Academic Senate. I facilitate your voices as Senators in support of our [10+1 purview](#), each of you represent the voices of your Area's faculty, we are all obliged to recognize students' [9+1 right to participate](#); and our Title V responsibilities ([see retreat slides 11 & 12 here](#)) emphasize the need for consultation and collaboration with collective bargaining agents and administration. So, the Academic Senate will never be a place where the only voice that matters is the faculty. We work together with many parties across our district to reach mutual agreement, provide primary recommendations, and consult congenially with all of those with whom our success depends for supporting students on their educational journeys.

I approach this work as the sociologist and educator I am – a teacher with a 20 year history in the classroom, watching students grow, learn, and become their full selves and who is inspired almost every day with their engagement and interest. And that is what matters most to me: our students, their engagement in their education, and what we are doing, each and every day, to support and engage them along the way.

Being a leader in these times is challenging, to say the least. There's no way to make everyone happy at the same time, and lately it is far more likely that everyone is frustrated or disappointed in some way across everything that I do. But that's okay, too, I suppose, because being in this role is one long opportunity to be of service, to grow, to learn, and to adapt each and every day. I remain committed to our work together and to the ways in which we find solutions based in the present and pointed towards the future. Thanks for being here and thanks for doing the work.