

Academic Senate President's Report
Wednesday, 2 April 2025 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back to the Senate, everyone. Spring has sprung, and I'm looking forward to our three meetings this month (April 2nd, 16th, 30th) and our final meeting next month (May 7th). We have packed agendas and lots to do before the end of the semester, so here's the most important updates:

- The EPCC subgroup work on [AP3775 Generative AI](#) and Academic Integrity, which I'm co-leading with our VPAA, has begun. We've already received helpful consultation from colleagues at MiraCosta College and input from Senator D. Lukas, who also sits on EPCC. College Council will be taking up the formation and membership of a distinct wide task force at our meetings this month, and we have strong representation of the Senate voice (Senators Aspinall and Perrone, myself) on the Council.
- It has come to my attention our procedures for assessing faculty minimum qualifications and equivalencies must be updated as quickly as possible to meet the standards articulated in [Education Code: § 87359 \(b\) Waiver Of Minimum Qualifications; Equivalency](#) which requires local Board of Trustees to rely primarily upon the advice of the senate regarding faculty minimum qualifications. I'm partnering with the Faculty Equivalency Committee and SRJC All-Around Leader K. Jolley in ensuring ...
 - *"The agreed upon process shall include reasonable procedures to ensure that the governing board relies primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate to determine that each individual faculty member employed under the authority granted by the regulations possesses qualifications that are at least equivalent to the applicable minimum qualifications specified in regulations..."*
 - This is particularly important work as it impacts all departments and especially those most likely to require equivalency reviews, such as Ethnic Studies, whose interdisciplinary approach will be best served as we ensure faculty are carrying out our responsibilities consistently and within our [10+1](#) and [Title V](#) purviews.
- Strategic Action Workgroup and CRC handbook updates are forthcoming this month, along with Senate consultation and subcommittee reports, and we'll review, today and April 16th, [ASCCC Sp25 resolutions](#) and [bylaws/constitution updates](#).
- V. President Ohkubo and I are continuing to consult with AFA President A. Donegan and Chief Negotiator and Senator K. Frindell Teuscher, and long term I'd like to see the trust, rapport, and collaboration we're building on the micro-level expand to the meso-levels of our respective organizations.
- Also, the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC) and I are working with J. Smotherman and others on ensuring the grants review process includes a clear process by which 10+1 purview can and will be carried out.

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- The Senate Election cycles are also underway. Here's the **updated** schedule we're following:
 - **Senator Elections* AND Senate President / President-Elect:**
 - *Nominations (closed): Monday March 3rd thru Friday, March 28th*
 - Elections: Monday, April 7th to Friday, April 11th
 - **At-Large Senators in **Areas 1, 2, 5, 7, & 8*****
 - Nominations: Monday, April 14th thru Noon Friday, April 25th
 - Elections: Monday, April 28th thru Friday, May 2nd
 - **Executive Committee Officers****
 - Nominations: Monday, April 28th thru Noon Friday, May 2nd
 - Elections (Senators only): May 7th (in meeting)

** current senators in these areas, please encourage folks in your areas to run for these still-available seats!*
- ** Unfortunately, at large senators will not be able to run for executive committee positions this election cycle. Next year we'll start the election cycle in February to avoid this shortcoming.*

It is also important to share with the body these two VPAA updates:

- (March 6th) VPAA Holcomb has stated the following concerning associate representation on committees: “Per our discussion during our last standing meeting, this is to follow up and convey that the District remains committed to providing compensation to associate faculty members who are assigned to serve on workgroups and committees, in alignment with the collective bargaining process between the District and AFA. **Furthermore, it is understood that the necessity to appoint associate faculty members to serve in these roles is generally in rare and unique circumstances, as college service is an element of responsibility among contract faculty members** whereas associate faculty members do not hold a college service requirement” *(emphasis added)*.
- (March 21st) Given the current uncertainty of federal funding based on recent Executive Orders ([see Section 2b here](#) and [related press release](#)) SRJC has indefinitely paused the recruitment for the Director, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Grant Initiatives. Dean Cathy Prince continues as Project Director role and VPAA Holcomb continues as Certifying Official.

Concerning the March 6th update, this also means our discussions on reappointment - which have thus far included the idea there could be “One Contract and One Associate” Senator in Areas One thru Eleven – is **not a viable recommendation to consider going forward**. This is our first year with six, instead of four, associate representatives on Senate, and other ideas discussed to date – including the importance of including associate faculty in updates sent by Contact Senators – **can and should be continued** as we ensure the facilitation of associate senator voices.

I appreciate you all and am grateful to be in service and in community. Let's get to work.