

Academic Senate President's Report
21 January 2026 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome back, everyone. While the break was brief, I do hope it was everything you wanted. I was able to connect with folks near and far, and my time with family and friends-as-family reminded me of the power of our micro-level interactions and the importance of fostering kindness, connection, and support with our students, one another, and those within our community. Before I go any further, I want to welcome back Senators Ruiz and Morre, and welcome aboard Karen Lamb, our new, full time AAll. We could not be more fortunate to have Karen join the team. She has extensive experience with both the Brown Act and public facing meetings, and Dean Mary Catherine Oxford, who serves as Karen's direct supervisor, has been an integral part in our onboarding and orientation processes. Join me in offering a warm welcome to Karen and big thanks to Dean Oxford. We have some Exchange Bank related business to take care of today in support of Karen's onboarding, too.

You might have already noticed our agenda looks slightly different from last semester. Turns out last Spring we reordered the agenda when we passed these [changes and updates to the Bylaws on 7 May 2025](#). This change enables our reports and information items to be delivered in sequence and at the start of the meeting, which empowers greater efficiency in our meeting protocols. I'm glad we made this change last Spring, and apologize I did not put it into action sooner. Having made this discovery, I decided to again read through our [Bylaws](#) and [Constitution](#), and in doing so identified two additional topics for our agenda today, which I'll introduce more fully when we get to the items. I also made sure to consult ahead of time with faculty colleagues from Shone Farm, Public Safety, and Roseland, and there is interest amongst those with whom I spoke from these sites to establish Senate-based faculty forums such as already exists at Petaluma. Petaluma Faculty Forum was how I started my senate career, and today's report from PFF Co-Chair Dr. AC Panella demonstrates the best of what is possible when we empower faculty to come together and collaborate on our campuses.

Our two substantive information items today will provide important, substantive updates as we make sure we have the information we need as faculty to serve our students in the most comprehensive and accommodating manner possible. I'm grateful to our administrative colleagues for their time and expertise today, and it feels good to center our students' preparation and success and curriculum - [items 5 and 1 in our 10+1 purview](#) - in our first meeting of the semester and so forward-facing on our agenda, another benefit of moving Information Items directly after the Reports.

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We still have work to do with AP7120A Contract Faculty hiring, and I'm working with the Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASEC), the Vice President of Human Resources, the President's Office, and others in addressing questions raised in our last meeting of the Fall semester, and for now the item is on hold while those answers are sought. We made significant progress last semester, and particularly at our last meeting, where we passed ([as captured in our meeting minutes](#))...

- mandatory student interaction demonstration as part of the student involvement
- mandatory student participation as voting or non-voting member of the Screening and Interview Committee (committee decides)
- optional outside faculty member as a voting or non-voting member of the Screening and Interview Committee (committee decides).

This is a tremendous step forward in both the consistency by which Screening and Interviewing Committees (SICs) will form and operate, and it is a critical way in which we center diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and accessibility going forward. These were not easy decisions, nor were they what everyone wanted. Democracy requires tough decision making and compromise, and we successfully did both in the adoption of these practices. I have a lot of respect for you all, and the work we are doing will have positive impacts for years to come. Let's all commit to finishing this work this semester so we do not lose any more opportunities to put these procedures into practice.

[The current AP7120A](#) is a carry over from SCJCD Board Policy 4.3.2, which was first adopted June 11, 1990; revised: April 10, 2001 and April 14, 2009; Reviewed with No Change in January 10, 2012, and moved from 4.3.2 to AP7120A with no change on February 8, 2022. Which means, in real terms, we've been working with the same policy since 2009, which is the same year [Barack Obama was inaugurated](#), [Sully Sullenberger performed the "Miracle on the Hudson,"](#) and the [first Avatar movie premiered](#). [The SRJC Fact Book from 2009](#) is also an interesting window into the past, and I encourage you check out its highlights and data, including but not limited to the ethnic breakdown of our students (55% white and 17% Hispanic/Latino/a/x, and 18% "unknown" PDF page seven of 173) and the total number of students in credit hours we served (close to 18,000! - see page 157 of 173). So much has changed since then. I'm hopeful our AP7120A procedures can likewise change this semester.

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I am also working with Senators Melvin and McGregor-Gordon to forward our AB1705-related resources to the appropriate audiences and statewide leaders, and will keep you updated on that progress. Last semester we turned our local resolution on support for flexible attendance and participation policies for students into a statewide resolution for the [Academic Senate for California Community Colleges \(ASCCC\)](#), and should the body wish to do the same for the AB1705 resolution, that option is available if so requested.

Speaking of the ASCCC, [the Spring Plenary 2026 will be here in Santa Rosa April 9th thru 11th](#), and I have invited the ASCCC Executive Team to come tour our campus on Wednesday, April 9th. I will send out a notice to the community as the date approaches, and consider joining us for a morning reception sometime between 10am and Noon that Wednesday.

Invitations to participate are also being made to faculty on both the senate approved workgroup exploring a 16 week semester, and solicitations for faculty-led Communities of Practice for Spring 2026. Please consider joining us for one or more of these opportunities to contribute and participate.

Other important updates include but are not limited to...

- The first Gen AI Taskforce meeting of this semester is this Friday, January 23rd.
- A reminder we also have a spring 2026 PDA Session entitled "AI Task Force: Let's Talk About Gen AI" (from 12:50 to 2:20 pm) where we'll share more in depth. Please join us then.
- Faculty Committee & AP / BP Appointments. We still have vacancies on committees and BP/AP reviews. I was hoping to have this sorted out by the end of Fall, so now is a good time to fill the following committee vacancies including but limited to :
 - Textbook and Instructional Materials, where we have two vacancies
 - The Faculty Professional Development Committee
 - Majors and Certificates and Curriculum Review Committees
 - Faculty Equivalency, District Technology, and Accreditation Oversight Committees

Please speak to me at your earliest convenience if you wish to be a part of any of these committees and/or BP/AP review processes.

In closing, I'm looking forward to working with you all this semester. Relationships shape reality, and the reality you are creating with me is one I deeply value, appreciate, and celebrate.