

Academic Senate President's Report

7 May 2025 / John A Stover III, PhD

Welcome to our final, regularly scheduled Academic Senate meeting of AY2024-25. Remember, too, we have a Special Study Session on May 21st, so it's not "good-bye" but rather "see you later!" energy today. The 578 days of May are well underway and there's lots to do, so let's get to it: first, a big shout out to our wonderful AA, Elisa, for the 48 hour turnaround on April 30th minutes. Well done, and we're thrilled we get to work with you FULL TIME next year!

Our Report and Consent Agendas are full again, so I do hope you have read and reviewed all related materials ahead of the meeting. Dr. AC Panella provided us with a wonderful video overview of the proposed SRJC Petaluma Thematic Learning Opportunity, and you'll hear directly from faculty who worked on the Professional Development Revitalization Recommendations, too, both in Reports and on Consent (*same item on both*). In Reports, we'll also hear updates on the Online Teaching Certification recommendations, which will be agendized early next AY 2025-26. A quick update on GenAi Academic Integrity work is also provided in today's reports. Also and in follow up to last week's reports, the Bylaws and Constitution changes/request for extension and the CRC handbook updates are consent items.

A lot of folks have done amazing work this semester – on our workgroups, on committees, in senate and districtwide committees, and across the state – and in partnership with classified, students, and administrators. I want to thank again, in particular, the following folks:

- Apportionment Taskforce Workgroup Senators S. McGregor Gordon and G. Moore. Our last actions on the topic were a reminder that facilitating the voice of senators is not only important but also impossible to predict. The Senators' work in preparing the detailed recommendations you all considered enabled us to meet the overdue requirements for reapportionment this semester, and I'm very grateful to them both, and all of you, for taking action before today.
- A special shout out to all the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who served – and continue to serve – on the Strategic Action Planning Taskforce. I've appreciated so much this year about how the District is centering our educational mission and centering students in our plans for the future.
- We have ASEC Officer Elections today, and I'm honored by those who have served and those who are stepping up for consideration. My current ASEC team has been a BIG part of our action-oriented success this year, and I'm so grateful to you all for how you supported, challenged, and moved us forward all year. Big thanks, too, to outgoing ASEC members S. Avasthi and A. Atilgan Relyea, both of whom have advocated consistently in support of their roles and constituencies. Thank you for your service and contributions, and I'm glad both of you are returning as Senators next year, too.

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Speaking of Elections, today we'll roll #OG with paper ballots, and our Elections Taskforce will certify the results in the meeting. I've attached the certification report they will complete, as well as the ballot template that will be, by name, distributed to each Senator. Big thanks to everyone who is running, everyone who has served, and our certifying officials. A sincere thank you to all of you for your service, leadership, and participation.

I've also attached the final version of the resolutions, which contain the outcomes on all Spring 2025 resolutions taken up at Plenary. Spring Plenary was amazing on so many levels, and next Spring Plenary will be in Napa County, so let's show up strong! There's a lot to consider in the current resolutions, and I'm glad to have the summer months to do some reading and planning.

On a personal note, I want to thank you all for this first year of service as your Academic Senate President. This first year of service has been an ongoing opportunity for professional growth and interpersonal skills development, which has fostered joy and connections in my life as well as created tears and hurt feelings. With that said, a couple meetings ago I left the meeting feeling something new that I don't often feel, and that was a feeling of accomplishment. It's not something I feel very often, and it was after a particularly difficult Senate meeting to boot. Which is to say, I don't share this very personal (*perhaps #TMI?*) insight with you to brag or boast, but rather to share with you how humbled I am to be of service in this role. I'm deeply committed to this work, and doing this work in partnership with all of you is the only way to do justice to this role.

Facilitating the voice of the faculty is incredibly hard work and also quite beautiful. It means I'm sometimes in conflict with people I love, and other times agreeing with those I have rarely agreed with in the past. It means admitting when I am wrong – *which is more often than I'd like, #tbh* – and embracing the opportunity to change, growth, and be better each and every day. Change is the only constant in the universe, and no one can take your education away from you. If we connect these two ideas - one I've strongly believed in all my life and the other something my mom taught me - I think we can all, together, face the challenges (*of which there are many*) and opportunities (*which are more positive and numerous than they seem*) ahead. I am grateful to you all. Let's get to work.

