



District Academic Senate Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 (Held in Room 112 Multi-Purpose Room at District Office)

Present:

Henry Estrada (Acting SJECCD Academic Senate President & EVC Academic Senate President)
Heidi Kozlowski (SJECCD Academic Senate VP & SJCC Academic Senate President)
Fabio Gonzalez (SJCC Academic Senate VP)
Kelly Nguyen-Jardin (EVC Academic Senate VP)
John Banks (SJCC Academic Senate Treasurer)
David Hendricks (EVC Academic Senate Treasurer)
Charlie Kahn-Lomax (EVC Academic Senate)

Guest: Grace Estrada (EVC), Mark Branom (SJCC)

Call to Order: Meeting begin at 4:04 PM

- I. **Agenda 10/08/24 unanimously approved:** 1st Fabio Gonzalez, 2nd John Banks
- II. **Approval of the Minutes for 9/10/24** Kelly Nguyen-Jardin suggested an addition to item 5 (Associate Faculty Hiring Procedures). 1st by John Banks, 2nd by Fabio Gonzalez. The minutes were approved as amended.
- III. **Public Comments (Each public comment limited to two minutes):** Grace Estrada asked if the District could have an Institutional Review board, so that students can conduct original research that can be presented to other students. Her counterpart in Psychology at SJCC, Christina Leal, will be presenting the idea to the SJCC Academic Senate when Grace presents it to the EVC Academic Senate. Faculty in the Psychology departments at both colleges will then bring it back to the District Academic Senate.

INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Election of a District Academic Senate Treasurer

John Banks (SJCC Academic Senate Treasurer) was unanimously elected as the new District Academic Senate Treasurer.

2. SJECCD Budget 2025-2027

The SJECCD had to cut \$4.8M from its budget for each of the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years. About \$1.1M was cut from the District Office, \$1.7M from SJCC, and about \$2M from EVC each year. There will be additional cuts over the next two years. EVC will cut \$516,534 in 2024-25 and \$212,394 in 2025-26, for a two-year total of \$728,928. SJCC will cut \$512,418 in 2024-25 and \$210,702 in 2025-26 for a total of \$723,120. And the District Office will cut \$900,000 in 2024-25 and \$27,000 in 2025-26 for a total of \$927,000.

Much of the discussion revolved around the fact that SJECCD is only one out of eight of the 73 California Community College Districts that is on Basic Aid (community supported). It was noted that we are very lucky to be on Basic Aid. Otherwise, based on the Student-Centered Funding Formula used by the state to compute revenue for districts on apportionment, our district would have a \$40M deficit.

The District Office gets about 30% of the Budget and the colleges get about 35% each. The average revenue for a California Community College District is \$180M whereas the SJECCD 2024-25 Adopted Budget is about \$171M, The fund balance for districts range from 5-16% whereas SJECCD has a fund balance of 22.75%. Finally, the percentage of revenue that goes to the district offices ranges from 10-20%.

We need to take another look at a RAM for our district and consider a model similar to that employed by the South Orange County Community College District, as they are the most efficient Basic Aid district in California. It was also suggested that since access to the current District Office is difficult, and the Tech Building at SJCC is now empty, that we consider moving the District Office into the Tech Building. This would result in a significant savings.

3. Enrollment Management

Our class schedules are set by simply rolling them over from one semester to the next. But the schedule should be based on student demand, reflecting days, times, and modalities that work for our students. We should do whatever we can that facilitates getting our students through their program maps in a timely fashion. Moreover, our schedule has to align with the budget that we have for it. Faculty have noted that we are aggressively cutting classes two weeks before the term begins. But many of our students tend to sign up late for classes. Moving forward, we should consider the realistic registration patterns of our students and track them.

4. Teaching with AI

The Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges released "Vision 2030" in the Spring of 2024. It acknowledges that generative AI will have a role to play in California's community college districts for instruction. Data analytics is also recommended for use by the administration.

San Jose City College has a Generative AI Committee that reports to their Academic Senate. The committee has drafted a Generative AI Guide for faculty to use to produce authentic assessments and to work more effectively. Evergreen Valley College will also be forming a similar committee

The bestselling book “Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning”, by Jose Antonio Bowen and Edward Watson, provides a summary of things to consider:

- AI is going to change the way we work and think.
- AI is the new baseline for what we will consider to be adequate.
- AI will be a tool that elevates our creativity and productivity.
- AI is only going to get better and ubiquitous.
- Faculty must adapt to AI with new policies, assignments, and assessments.
- All students will need to become AI literate.
- Faculty will have to learn to partner and collaborate with AI.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.