



## **District Academic Senate Minutes**

**Tuesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Room 112, District Office**

### **Present:**

John Banks (SJECCD Treasurer & SJCC Academic Senate Treasurer)  
Phil Crawford (SJCC Academic Senate): Remote  
Grace Estrada (EVC Academic Senate)  
Henry Estrada (EVC Academic Senate President)  
David Hendricks (SJECCD District Academic Senate President & EVC Academic Senate Treasurer)  
Mark Branom (SJECCD Academic Senate VP & SJCC Academic Senate President); Remote  
Kelly Nguyen-Jardin (EVC Senate VP) (Remote)

### **Guests:**

Mary Crocker Cook, SJCC Alcohol and Drug Studies Department Chair  
Tejal Naik, EVC Distance Education Coordinator

## **CALL TO ORDER 4:05**

### **I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA** John 1<sup>st</sup>; Grace 2<sup>nd</sup>

1. Addition/Deletion/Corrections Mark 1<sup>st</sup>; Henry 2<sup>nd</sup>

Add new Item #1 SJCC Alcohol and Drug Studies Baccalaureate Degree Application

2. Approval of Agenda

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Henry 1<sup>st</sup>; Grace 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Each public comment is limited to two minutes)**

## **IV. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 1. SJCC Alcohol and Drug Studies Baccalaureate Degree Application

Mark and Dr. Cook provided some background context on the issue. Dr. Cook had been assigned a Special Assignment in Spring 2025 to collect data, coordinate with partners, and begin an application to create a Baccalaureate Degree in Alcohol and Drug Studies at SJCC. The campus administration supported it as did the SJCC Academic Senate. Work was done over the summer. Yet, in early October Dr. Cook began experiencing some reticence on the part of the Administration to continue their support for the application. Dr. Cook made numerous presentations and addressed the concerns that were raised at these meetings into the application and she has now completed it. She was instructed that the application was being paused. Because of help from Deans at Mission College and DeAnza College (both of which have Baccalaureate Degrees), she was able to complete the application two months early. The final application still requires signatures from the VPAA (Vice President of Academic Affairs), Campus President, and Academic Senate President. There is much excitement in the community about the program. There is a significant danger of missing the application deadline for submission to the State Chancellor's Office. In order to facilitate finding a collaborative solution, Henry and Mark and David agreed to reach out to the Chancellor to discuss the issue and advocate that the application be supported.

### 2. Program Viability Task Force Update

EVC's Academic Senate is working to review AP4020/4021. Most of the work is on Program Viability and the process for retiring programs. One category are those programs that can easily be deactivated either due to a change in law or the loss of a partner program. Meanwhile, other programs need a more extensive process, some which can be expedited and others that need a more thorough review. The Task Force has created a flow chart to break down the steps for each process.

Some members brought up the issue of faculty replacement as one vital element in program preservation. Programs can effectively be killed off by not replacing full-time faculty; the Senates need to monitor this to be sure that we protect viable programs from being squeezed through faculty attrition. All agreed that it also is odd that faculty are the one type of employee not to have automatic rehiring following a retirement or separation from service. Without the active support of full-time faculty, programs wither or are put on the backs of Associate Faculty.

Henry discussed the parameters for evaluating CTE programs, including evaluating market demand, consulting with advisory groups, and analyzing the data. These programs cannot just be stopped since active students have the right to a “teach out” to get them to the end of their certificate, credential, or degree. Without an active and knowledgeable faculty member, programs may be vulnerable to inappropriate deactivation. Phil noted that programs also need active coordination between the programs and employers to keep them viable; in cases where prospective students don’t know about a program that could help them, the disconnect could lead to the destruction of a program that could have benefited them. Without clear steps and guidelines about deactivation, we may lose valuable programs.

Grace observed that it would help the Board to understand program deactivation by providing a justification. On the Board Consent Agenda there are a couple of programs that could use some context in order to help Trustees understand the logic and structure of why certain programs are subject to deactivation.

### 3. District AI Survey for Faculty Update

Prof. Naik explained that the AI survey has been designed to figure out current faculty awareness and usage in order to establish Communities of Practice. The goal is to have a practical outcome for faculty and provide a training ground and generate ideas that they can incorporate into their teaching. While the initiative started at EVC, it has expanded to include valuable input from the SJCC DE Committee. Both campus faculties need to discern the challenges and benefits of AI. There are 21 questions. 4 are preliminary. 15 are to gather usable data. Figuring out where faculty are with regard to AI will help determine what they need to understand and address it. The hope is to send the survey out soon and have preliminary data by the end of the semester so that there can be a presentation at January PDD.

David agreed to work with Henry and Mark to create an e-mail message to distribute to the campuses. Ideally it should be sent out by Nov. 17.

#### 4. College Academic Integrity Policy on Generative AI Use

David noted that the EVC discussed and endorsed adding the category of “Generative AI Usage” as one of the violations under the District’s Academic Integrity statement. He asked that the SJCC Senate also discuss that endorse its inclusion.

#### 5. SJCC Resolution on Unequal Instruction Days

Since lab courses have very specific needs, they need special consideration when they are being scheduled on days of the week that are likely to have more holidays, particularly Fridays and Mondays. Doing so puts an undue burden on the faculty who are conducting the labs. Many of the labs require complex set-ups and take time for students to complete, so it requires more intentional scheduling than simply adding the requisite number of minutes to each week. The SJCC resolution was discussed at the EVC Senate, and the sentiment was that the Resolutions were stepping outside of the purview of the Senates and would require actions by the Faculty Association, as well as by Classified Staff. The EVC Senate recognized the seriousness of the issue, but advocated adjusting the Resolutions to ask for a Task Force comprised of affected Deans and Faculty to discuss viable options that would allow students to complete all of the requisite labs for a course while still fitting within the current academic calendar. One option is to work with English faculty to open up the English Finals day; this conflict is specific to EVC. Henry pointed out that the number of students in lab courses that need an English Final is small and that one part of the solution to opening that Friday would be to create procedures specific to students with that conflict. Setting up a Task Force would be a good first step to finding a solution.

David suggested that the EVC Senate and DAS would be open to endorsing and adopting the Resolution if the Resolves were modified to ask for a Task Force of affected Deans and Faculty.

Grace suggested that both campuses should consider creating separate Task Forces to address campus-specific issues and solutions, and then coordinating their solutions.

## 6. ASCCC Plenary

John reported on a break-out session that focused on AI advances; one AI agent can take entire courses for students. Mark pointed out that this makes it incumbent on faculty to do their best to adapt. Modern AI can mimic a person's voice and is getting to the point where it will be able to generate live simulated videos as well.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

## VI. CONSENT ITEMS

## VI. REPORTS

### 1. Evergreen Valley College Academic Senate

Henry reported that the committees that report to the Senate will engage in a pilot program to use a standardized form to sum up their activities for the year. This is intended to consolidate information in anticipation of accreditation.

### 2. San Jose City College Academic Senate

Mark reported that most of the issues taken up by the DAS reflect the major issues of the SJCC Senate, particularly the issue of Alcohol and Drug Studies Baccalaureate Degree and the unequal distribution of lab days. He suggested that the SJCC Senate may shift to having committee reports being submitted in writing in advance of Senate meetings, rather than being delivered orally during the meetings. Having this information on the Senate webpage would help to disseminate it more effectively. He also mentioned the possibility of using Notebook LM to create a podcast based on the meeting minutes.

### 3. District Academic Senate

David reflected that the issues addressed by the ASCCC Plenary were very much in line with that the Campus Senates and the DAS have been addressing, such as Dual Enrollment, safety protocols in the era of social media, and academic freedom.

**VI. RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 minutes)**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT 5:07pm**

Move to adjourn: Henry 1<sup>st</sup>; Grace 2<sup>nd</sup>