



DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2020

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DAS Members Present: Judith Bell, Frank Espinoza, Heather Jellison, Garry Johnson, Alex Lopez, Wendy Pio, Randy Pratt, Preeti Srivinasan.

F. Espinoza welcomed DAS members and guests to the December DAS meeting of the Fall 2020 semester.

- I. The Meeting Called to Order** at 4:05 p.m. via Zoom
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Approved w/o Objections.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved w/o Objections.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No Public Comments.
- V. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Brief Introductions and Welcome to Professor Wendy Pio

F. Espinoza: Welcomed the newest faculty member to the DAS, SJCC At-Large Faculty Rep.: Wendy Pio.

Professor Pio introduced herself along with each current DAS faculty member providing a brief introduction and all welcomed Professor Pio to the DAS.

Professor Pio teaches in the Dental Assisting Program at SJCC. She has been a full-time faculty member since 2005. Prior to that, W. Pio was an adjunct faculty member at both Foothill College in the dental assisting program and SJCC. W. Pio shared that she graduated from the SJCC Dental Assisting Program in 1973. She had served for a couple of years on the SJCC Academic Senate earlier in her tenure process.

Welcome / Congratulations to SJECCD Newly Elected Trustees: Bob Livengood (Trustee Area 1) & Omar Torres (Trustee Area 7)

F. Espinoza: congratulated and welcomed both newly elected Board of Trustee's Bob Livengood and Omar Torres. Espinoza provided a brief explanation on the function of DAS and its relationship to both Academic Senate's at EVC & SJCC.

B. Livegngood shared some of his personal background. He is not new to politics and spent 30 years in elected office in the city in Milpitas. He was elected to seven terms on the city council and four terms as the elected mayor of Milpitas. Because of the learning curve, Livengood shared he will look to DAS for assistance and welcomes for DAS to reach out to him when necessary. He received his associate's degree from San Jose City College, even though most of his work was completed at Evergreen Valley College. He received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southern New Hampshire University. Livengood currently serves as a Law Enforcement officer in the City of Santa Clara. He has an interest in what's going to happen with the 27 acres in the Evergreen community. He also shared an interest in, and done some study, on student housing and how that relates to community colleges. He referenced that a

number of districts in the state do have some level of Student Housing. He is interested in taking a look at how that might be a tool the District can use to keep students in school. Also, he shared the importance of programs like Nursing, Dental Assisting and other types of vocational opportunity programs for students who may not be interested in transferring to a university. This can provide students with skills and an education to be self-sufficient and live in Silicon Valley should they choose and get themselves firmly into the middle class and hopefully even higher. Livengood also commented on the District's Milpitas Center that offers college courses to the community. Livengood shared an interest in expanding that concept into other parts of the district, in particular into East San Jose, where he believes there are underserved areas that can benefit from college course offerings and services.

O. Torres was born and raised in the Washington neighborhood in downtown San Jose, also known as the Sacred Heart neighborhood. He commented that this up-bringing in this neighborhood has molded him into the community leader he has become today, He organized the neighborhood association to support youth and seniors to bring in more resources from the County and State into this community that has not been served adequately due poverty. Trustee Torres stated that this has contributed to his passion for students especially students of color and undocumented students. These are some of the many reasons he decided to run for the College Board. Trustee Torres is a former student of SJCC. He credited his motivation to continue with his higher education to his teachers and staff in elementary, middle and high schools. He also credited his high school counselor (Olga Morales) who is now a Counseling Faculty member at SJCC. Torres shared that he serves as an active leader in the LGBTQ community and advocates strongly for social justice. He is currently employed as a staff member for Council-member Magdalena Carrasco serving East San Jose. Torres shared some of his priorities are to: support students and communities of color, increasing the transfer rate, working with faculty and classified professionals, addressing student housing and included that the 27 acres should include housing; "It is the issue of our lifetime." Torres also emphasized the need to address pre-apprenticeship programs in the construction trade in our educational system which will help build the middle class. Torres is eager to learn about the Senate and 10 +1 as he works to help establish policies that protect employees and students in the District.

Fall 2020-Impact of COVID: Student Success-Student Resilience; Student Challenges-Academic Probation, DQ, Course Withdrawal...

F. Espinoza addressed that an administrator informed him of a perception that the advocacy that's happening by way of faculty leaders appears to be very focused solely on faculty needs versus student needs. It did not sit well knowing that Faculty have been working tirelessly to meet the needs of students during this Pandemic and virtual learning mode. It is on record that the Senate leadership helped many students with their GPA's after advocating to have all F grades changed to NP on their transcripts for Spring 2020. This may not sound like much to some but it truly benefited many students. This is just one of many advocacy efforts made by faculty. So, in reflecting, the question was posed: what should our district academic senate work be in Spring 2021?

J. Bell shared that in her role as the Program Review Coordinator, she communicates with several faculty. It's really tough on faculty and if it's tough on the faculty, it's tough on students. It's not as if faculty and students are somehow separate from each other. Faculty deal directly with students. Faculty have students in their courses who have very difficult circumstances. This difficulty also extends to those Faculty who teach in the experiential learning areas which are really hard to translate classes into online. As a result, a constituency group is piloting an effort titled "San Jose Cares" to outreach to faculty and ensure they are doing okay during these challenging times. Faculty often times struggle in silence.

R. Pratt commented that in the last Study Session held by the Trustees, on the topic of expanding into Eastside San Jose, one thing that became evident by some Trustees was to address the needs of current students who are enrolled in our colleges. Also communicated at the Study Session was the need to understand the challenges of faculty and support their efforts to better serve students during this virtual learning. There appears to be a disconnect between

faculty who are on the front-lines and administrators. Faculty and Classified Professionals know what our students are going through.

A. Lopez shared his discontent with the perception that was communicated regarding Faculty not advocating for students and found it to be offensive. Faculty work hard as they engage in the daily front-line issues that student's deal with regularly and continue to strongly advocate for students so they can have the resources they need to continue with their education. Lopez shared that before the District looks to expand their footprint, it is important to focus on the needs of students that are currently taking courses in the District. Students continue to drop classes and are leaving at an alarming rate. Counselors are constantly communicating with students to address not only school related issues but also personal challenges. Faculty have shared their concerns with losing 25% plus of students dropping from a course. The District needs to focus on the challenges that students are faced with today versus simply trying to figure out how to pack the colleges with more students. The focus needs to be on helping students with completion and success rates. Students need extra help now. Faculty need to continue working together and support each other as front-line workers as they advocate in support of students.

Fabio Gonzalez (guest SJCC Faculty/Past SJCC & DAS President) suggested for DAS to request to be placed on the Board agenda for a DAS presentation. The purpose would be to provide an up-date on the work of faculty at both campuses. This opportunity would highlight faculty work on: program reviews, countless numbers of Curriculum and Program up-dates and new Program's being developed, along with other highlights. Academic Senate's have always supported faculty and took the lead with the whole distance learning certification which prepared the faculty leadership to move All classroom instruction to a virtual delivery mode. This message needs to be delivered to the Board of Trustees, together with the Faculty Union, to let them know that faculty work centers on serving the needs of students and the community.

Spring 2021 DAS Meetings: Feb. 9th, Mar. 9th, Apr. 13th, May 11th (4:00-5:00 p.m.)

ACTION ITEMS

DAS to host a Webinar(s) for Spring 2021: Topic to be Determined by DAS (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)

J. Bell motioned that the DAS host a minimum of one Webinar in Spring 2021 on a topic & date to be determined by the DAS committee. **W. Pio** second the motion. Passed Unanimously.

REPORTS

R. Pratt, EVC Academic Senate reported that he sat in on a meeting with administration that included an item regarding Biology faculty wanting to provide their students, who are sheltered in place, with a \$40 lab kit to assist them with doing their labs at home. The entire semester this request entailed faculty doing the research to produce a proposal that has required two meetings. This would cost approximately \$2,000 in a district with a \$20 million reserve. It is hard to believe that faculty have to go through this simply to help students. This is not only an embarrassment but also an example of the disconnect between Administration and the needs of students. The Senate is also preparing for the faculty hiring process to begin for six new faculty.

A. Lopez, SJCC Academic Senate reported that the SJCC Senate approved their governance manual handbook. He emphasized the importance of referencing in the handbook language that differentiates mutually agreed upon and primarily relied upon 10+1 language between the Senate and the District. Another item reported on was the Hanover research project that is evaluating the success of various Special Programs at SJCC. The college president claims to have mentioned this research project in public comments; however, the Senate's executive committee has no recollection of this being shared. The Senate requested to have this contracted research placed as an information item on the Senate agenda. Inquiries have been to the Senate President from Special Programs who are the target of the research: SAS, Umoja, Puente, EOP&S. It is important to make sure that administrators are abiding by established policies related to Senate 10+1 purview. Also reported was the Senate approved joining the California Virtual Campus On-line education. A. Lopez also emphasized his support of the idea to present to the Board of Trustee's on the positive on-going efforts and success of faculty in their support of students in the District.

F. Espinoza District Academic Senate addressed two items. As co-chair of the District Policy Committee, the tradition of the marathon meetings in January (Intersession) will take place to address the on-going need to revise BP/AP's. These meetings will take place January 5, 6, 7, & 14th. The DPC met last week, where some questions came up regarding BP's related to the finance area, chapter six. Andrea Lopez (co-chair of DPC) and Espinoza met with Vice Chancellor Escobar and made the recommendation to have Chapter 6 BP's pulled from the next Board of Trustee's meeting. This recommendation was made due to the unfinished RAM work that will need to be included in the up-dating of the related BP's. Also reported was the special study session of the Board of Trustees. Addressed were the disparities that continue to exist in East San Jose. There was good dialogue among Trustees regarding suggestions for future inclusion of the community to assess their needs. Espinoza will be making a recommendation to Chancellor Breland to include a sentence or two on what Special Trustee Study Sessions will plan to address in future announcements via emails to announcements to the District / Public.

ADJOURNMENT Moved to adjourn without objections.