



santa rosa junior college

All Faculty Association

*AFA is working for you.
The strength of faculty working together.*

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2023

(Approved by the Executive Council on October 25, 2023)

Executive Councilors present (noted by *):

* Sean Martin, <i>presiding</i>	* Wayne Downey	* Venona Orr	* Ivan Tircuit
* Ashley Arnold	* Brenda Flyswithawks	* Jessie Paisley	* Carlos Valencia
* Marc Bojanowski	* Steven Kessler	* Salvador Rico	* Michelle van Aalst
* Bita Bookman	* Dawn Lukas	* Emily Schmidt	* Patsy Young
* Anne Donegan	* Siobhan McGregor-Gordon	* Christie Soldate	

Negotiators/Appointed Positions present: K. Frindell Teuscher, Mark Ferguson

Staff members present: Stephanie Simons

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in Doyle 4520, on the Santa Rosa campus and via Zoom conferencing.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. **Negotiations Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.
2. **Conciliation/Grievance Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.
3. **Cabinet Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.

Closed Session adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBER CONCERNS

1. **Bypassing in the Academic Senate**. A Councilor shared a concern regarding a recent Academic Senate vote that passed a motion allowing the VPAA to be involved in the selection of faculty representatives to a shared governance forum. They found it concerning that the Senate would relinquish to the Administration their responsibility and privilege to make that selection.
2. **Funding for Professional Development**. A Councilor reported that there is concern regarding the lack of funding provided by the District for professional development within the disciplines. It was noted that the State still provides funding for professional development. The Councilor requests that the District find a way to make that money available to the faculty.

MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2023 Executive Council meeting (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions). (Approved minutes are posted at <http://www.afa-srjc.org/minutes.shtml>).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **FACCC Contract Membership Progress Report.**

Sean explained that AFA is considering a Contract Membership with FACCC. A contract membership with FACCC would have particular benefits to AFA. FACCC has sent a sample contract which outlines those benefits. The AFA Cabinet suggested some changes to the contract, which were shared with Evan Hawkins (Executive Director of FACCC) and Wendy Brill-Wynkoop (President of FACCC) who accepted the changes.

- The edited contract was displayed for the Council.
- AFA will have the benefit of appointing a representative to the FACCC Board of Governors.
 - AFA's previous membership with FACCC allowed any faculty member in this district, regardless of union membership, to run for and be elected to the FACCC Board of Governors.
- The FACCC annual dues will be \$189 for full-time faculty (10 monthly installments of \$18.90), and \$63 for part-time faculty teaching at least 33% (installments made monthly only when working). Those teaching less than 33% will receive the benefits of membership without paying dues.
- FACCC has many other benefits including conferences and presentations available on their website.
- A referendum will be presented to the Council on October 25.
- The contract with FACCC will begin after the referendum is approved by both the Executive Council and the membership. The process is slated for completion in early Spring 2024.
- The item was opened to questions and comments.
- Questions & Comments
 - C: FACCC has an active podcast discussing current hot topics, which provide an excellent resource to facilitate and inform discussions on campus.
 - C: AFA represents the faculty of SRJC in local matters with the District, but our District is influenced by state-level policy. AFA works with CCCI on matters at the state-level, but also coordinates much of this work with FACCC (of which numerous CCCI members are also contract members). Joining FACCC as a contract member will strengthen AFA's voice in this state-level representation. Currently, faculty have the option to join FACCC as an individual member, but individual membership isn't sufficient. The option does not have a corresponding board member – the state-level influencer. If AFA became a contract member of FACCC, AFA would be able to provide that state-level representation to SRJC faculty.
 - C: FACCC provides resources to assist members locally, including supporting union-friendly Board candidates, and trainings (e.g., retirement/STRS, how to run actions, suggestions on how to integrate work with student governing bodies). FACCC also provides support in communicating with our local legislators.

2. Elections Policy Workgroup (Sub-Committee): Deliberations

- Steven Kessler explained that this Discussion Item is a continuation of the discussion surrounding the revision of the officer elections policy. This segment asked the Council to vote on how to conduct deliberations about candidates. Past practice is to ask candidates to leave the room while the Council discusses the candidates during the open session of the Executive Council meetings.
- The following elements will continue:
 - Candidates may submit a 250-word statement for each position to which they are nominated
 - Campaigning may occur as each candidate chooses, including holding office hours, providing additional information to Council members personally, and/or via email.
 - Positions with one candidate will not require deliberations.
- Three options were presented. Option 1 required discussion and decision prior to discussion of Options 2 and 3, which would be presented if needed.
 - Option 1:
 - a. No further discussion of candidates. Formal deliberations will not be conducted.
 - b. Deliberations will take place during open session.
 - c. Deliberations will take place during closed session.
- There was a call for discussion of the deliberation style.
 - Many commentors favored removal of in-person deliberations. Q&A sessions, Zoom conferences, video statements, and emails were offered as alternative campaigning methods.
 - Concern was expressed about the extra work it would take to run for an office, and the intimidation a newcomer to the Council might experience when deciding to run for office.
 - It was suggested that statements could be lengthened, and guidelines for writing a statement be developed.
 - It was suggested that deliberations only take place when a run-off is required.
- A motion was made and seconded to move the deliberation system Discussion Item to an Action Item.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Elections Policy Workgroup (Sub-Committee): Voting System Selection - Deliberations

- This item was moved from a Discussion Item.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve Option 1(a) as written.
- There was a call for final discussion.
 - Statements were made in favor of:
 - Allowing candidates to amend their statements before a runoff
 - The value of discussing candidates, the elimination of which diminishes the importance of Officer/Negotiator elections
 - Deliberations as a method of defining the character of candidates
 - Developing a questionnaire for all candidates to answer
 - Sean clarified that this policy only applies to deliberations conducted during a Council meeting.
- The Question was called.
- A vote of the Council was conducted.
- The Council voted to adopt Option 1(a): no formal deliberations (13 in favor).

OTHER REPORTS

1. President's Report. This report was postponed due to time constraints.

2. Treasurer's Report. This report was postponed due to time constraints.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Simons.