

ALL FACULTY SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2024

(Approved by the Executive Council on September 25, 2024)

Executive Councilors present (noted by *):

* Anne Donegan, <i>presiding</i>	Amanda Greene	* Jessie Paisley	* Michelle van Aalst
* Ashley Arnold	* Steven Kessler	* Emily Schmidt	* Sarah Whyllly
* Marc Bojanowski	* Dawn Lukas	Christie Soldate	* Patsy Young
* Bita Bookman	* Siobhan McGregor-Gordon	* Ivan Tircuit	* <i>assoc. vacancy</i> /Tony Martin
* Wayne Downey	* Venona Orr	* Carlos Valencia	

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. **Conciliation/Grievance Report**. This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.
2. **Negotiations 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 3:56 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 4:02 p.m.

MEMBER CONCERNS

1. **Support for AB 2277: Part-time teaching cap**. A member alerted the Executive Council to a bill on the Governor's desk that raises the cap on part-time teaching hours from 67 to 85 percent. The bill received last minute opposition. The member asked faculty to visit the governor's website to send a message to support AB 2277.
2. **Support for the Faculty Association of YCCCD**. A member reported that the Yuba Community College District's full-time faculty association has been without a contract for two years. They have not received a raise in four years, and with increased health care premiums, faculty have effectively received a pay cut. YCCCD full-time faculty were scheduled to picket on Thursday, September 12 at the Woodland campus. AFA members were encouraged to join the picket lines, if possible, or sign the YCCCD full-time faculty's petition posted to Change.org urging the YCCCD Board of Trustees to support the revised contract.

MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2024 Executive Council meeting (15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions). (Approved minutes are posted at <http://www.afa-srjc.org/minutes.shtml>).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Associate Councilor Vacancy, Two-Year Term Fa24-Sp26**

Anne explained that an associate Councilor seat remained vacant during the last general election in October 2023.

- This Item was moved from Discussion Item three to one.
- There were two earlier attempts to fill the vacancy. The most recent call for nominations ran Aug. 27 – Sept. 10, 2024.

- The nominated candidate was:
 - Anthony "Tony" Martin, Engineering and Applied Tech.
- Discussion regarding appointment or election was opened.
- A motion was made and seconded to fill the two-year vacancy by appointment. This item was moved to an action item (15 in favor).

2. Endorsement of Harris/Walz Campaign

This item continued a discussion first addressed at the Executive Council meeting on August 28, 2024. It was explained that AFA implicitly gave approval for this endorsement with an email sent to members on August 28, 2024, and this discussion item asked the Council for ratification of the endorsement.

- A motion was made and seconded to move the Discussion Item to an Action Item (15 in favor).

3. Proposed Temporary Amendment to AFA Policy: Conference and Travel

This policy was amended last year to include reimbursement of expenses for an additional associate Councilor at each of the three professional conferences that AFA supports. Since that amendment, the cabinet decided it would like to encourage more Council members to attend these conferences.

- The amendment guarantees \$900 will be budgeted for each conference to pay the registration fees only for attendees beyond the five expenses-paid attendees (\$2700 total).
- Unused fees will roll over to other conferences in the fiscal year.
- Questions and Comments
 - Q: Why is it temporary? Is it a pilot program?
 - ⇒ A: It is not a true pilot program. This policy will be revisited in spring, and this idea will be incorporated permanently. Before the entire policy is reevaluated, the Council is being asked to make a temporary adjustment to the policy, as outlined in Article VIII of the Bylaws, that will set aside this money in the budget now for the fall CCCI conference.
- A motion was made and seconded to move the Discussion Item to an Action Item (16 in favor).

4. AFA Draft Budget, 2024-25. Siobhan presented the amended draft budget.

- 2024-25 Budget (revised)
 - *Revenue:*
 - The projected revenue was down slightly due to the revisions implemented.
 - *Expenses*
 - Conference and Travel: This line showed an increase in lodging for the fall CCCI Conference that occurred after the initial presentation of the budget, and it showed the \$900 per conference increase for the reimbursement of registration fees.
 - Staff Compensation: An error in the way the staff-paid taxes showed on the Treasurer's Report was corrected. It was anticipated that staff will continue to increase hours up to the maximum allowed by policy.
 - Changes were made to the communication process between the Secretary-Treasurer and staff to avoid mistakes in future, including the use of cloud-based file sharing and resurrection of the plan to change to QuickBooks online.
- Questions and Comments
 - Q: Why hasn't AFA switched to QuickBooks online already?
 - ⇒ A: Siobhan explained that there was a name mix-up between SRJC and SRJC AFA. The conflation was a cause for concern, so the initial move was abandoned.
- A motion was made and seconded to move this item to an action item (15 in favor)

5. Donation Requests: UNITE HERE Seed the Vote

This discussion was continued from the meeting on August 28, 2024.

- Anne explained that UNITE HERE is working with Seed the Vote to do targeted canvassing in Nevada on behalf of the Harris/Walz presidential campaign.
- The Council was asked to consider a donation of \$500 to support Seed the Vote.
- The funds for a possible donation were included in the budget for 2024-25.
- Questions, Comments, and Discussion
 - D: Several Councilors made statements supporting the donation because the Harris/Walz campaign is pro-union, with additional values that align with the Councilors' values. Councilors felt providing assistance to voters in other states furthers support for the campaign. It was stated the outcome of the election is so important that supporting Harris/Walz outweighs the risk of alienating some members.
 - C: A Councilor cautioned that when it comes to monetary donations, perceptions and reactions can be different and stronger than those regarding an endorsement.

- C: A Councilor suggested that funds spent to promote party-neutral voting would be most prudent.
- D: Many Councilors preferred to keep donations for local organizations, where the funds will have more direct effect on the local community.
- D: Some Councilors suggested that a vote should be sent to the constituency asking if they support investing the money.
- A Councilor read the mission statement from Seed the Vote noting that were AFA to attach funds to Seed the Vote, those funds could have more impact than just canvassing for liberal candidates, but also providing support to progressive grassroots movements.
- A motion was made and seconded to move this item to an Action Item (13 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention).

ACTION ITEMS

1. AFA Representatives to District-wide Committees for 2023-24: SGA, TIMC, Fringe Benefits, PDC

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item on August 28, 2024.
- The Item was opened for discussion.
- Sarah Whyllly was willing to switch to the SGA, but can only do 2 of 4 meetings a month, plus events, to which the Council agreed.
- Jessy Paisley agreed to join the Fringe Benefits committee if it only meets in April on Thursdays.
- There were no volunteers to serve on TIMC or the PDC contract faculty seat.
- Anne suggested that the Council should consider making recommendations from the membership for the remaining committee seats.
- There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous show of hands to confirm the following appointment:
 - Sarah Whyllly, SGA

2. Associate Councilor Vacancy, Two-Year Term Fa24-Sp26

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item.
- There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous show of hands to appoint Tony Martin to the associate Councilor vacancy.

3. Endorsement of Harris/Walz Campaign

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item.
- A call was made for further discussion.
- Questions, Comments, and Discussion
 - C: A statement of support for endorsement was made because the values of the candidates align with AFA's goals.
 - Q: Did the AFA office receive any response to the email?
 - ⇒A: No responses were received by the office, though positive feedback was received in passing conversations.
 - Q: Has the union endorsed candidates in the past?
 - ⇒A: AFA has endorsed candidates in local elections.
 - C: It would be appropriate for the council to make an endorsement for candidates that would support the organization's goals, but a resolution should be drafted explaining why AFA chose to make an endorsement.
 - C: A new message to members should be drafted that includes reference to the email that was already sent.
 - ⇒A: If endorsement is approved, AFA will post the endorsement to the website and send an email to the members directing them to visit the website for more information.
 - D: There was a discussion regarding the semantics of how the endorsement will be made.
 - Q: Can information about the other candidates be included on the AFA website to promote neutrality?
 - ⇒A: This discussion was solely about endorsing the Harris/Walz campaign.
 - C: AFA has a track record for endorsing candidates and that serves as precedent for supporting an endorsement in this election.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved that AFA endorse the Harris/Walz campaign (15 in favor).

4. Proposed Temporary Amendment to AFA Policy: Conference and Travel

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item, and a call was made for further discussion.

- A Councilor requested that this be designated as a pilot program.
- It was noted that CCCI and FACCC allow for single day registrations.
- There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved by show of hands to temporarily amend for the 2024-25 academic year the Conference and Travel Policy to include a pilot program to provide reimbursement of registration fees (not including hotel or travel costs) for the FACCC and CCCI Conferences (3 total), up to \$900 for each conference. Whatever money is not spent at each conference, shall roll over to the next conference (15 in favor).

5. AFA Draft Budget, 2024-25

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item.
- There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved by show of hands to adopt the budget as presented (15 in favor).

6. Donation Requests: UNITE HERE Seed the Vote

- This Item was moved from a Discussion Item.
- A call was made for further discussion.
- Questions, Comments, and Discussion
 - C: A Councilor voiced support for sending the request to the members, allowing the members to decide how funds should be allocated.
 - C: A comment was made to support local investment of the funds.
 - C: It was asked, what is the biggest ramification: push back from AFA members or Donald Trump's presidency?
 - Q: A point of clarification was requested regarding how the request came to AFA?
 - ⇒A: The request was made by Marty Bennett, Social Sciences associate faculty at SRJC, who works with UNITE HERE. Marty is part of a local constituency working with the Seed the Vote project.
 - C: A Councilor commented that given the fact that AFA representatives have been empowered by members to negotiate the contract, represent members when they are having problems, and to be trusted to see to the members' best interests, it is within reason that AFA take action to make certain that unions are safe.
- A motion was made and seconded to send a survey to constituents asking if constituents would like to make a donation to Seed the Vote.
- The motion failed (2 in favor).
- A motion was made and seconded to donate \$500 to Seed the Vote.
- The motion to donate \$500 to Seed the Vote was approved (13 in favor).

OTHER REPORTS

1. President's Report. This report was postponed.

Anne thanked the Executive Council and participants before adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Simons.