

SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2025



SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT: ANDREA HECHT

OUR PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Academic Senate serves as the primary voice for faculty in district governance and decision-making processes. Our fundamental responsibility is to ensure meaningful faculty participation in all matters related to curriculum, academic standards, and the educational mission of our institution. We operate under the framework of the "Ten Plus One" guidelines established in Title 5, which defines our areas of primary reliance and consultation.

OUR ROLE IN SHARED GOVERNANCE

The Academic Senate operates under a dual mandate: our local charter (see Constitution) establishes us as the faculty advisory body to the Administration and Board of Trustees, while state law (Education Code and Title 5) grants us authority in the 10+1 areas. This creates a framework where we provide expert faculty perspective through both advisory consultation and areas of primary reliance.

In matters within the 10+1, the Board of Trustees must either rely primarily on our recommendations or engage in collegial consultation with us before making decisions. This means faculty knowledge helps shape college policies that impact academic quality and student success. We work collaboratively with administration to make sure academic and professional decisions are grounded in faculty expertise and support student success.

Eliminate Barriers to Student Access and Success



As SBVC's Academic Senate President, my focus will be on **Strengthening Faculty Voices**, which ties into SBVC's guiding principle **Advancing Community**. When faculty have meaningful input in academic and educational matters, our entire campus community benefits through enhanced student success, innovative programming, and responsive educational delivery.

Submitted by Andrea Hecht,
SBVC Academic Senate President

The Academic Senate recognizes the tremendous time and effort faculty invest in creating Open Educational Resources (OER) and Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses in support of the Burden Free Instructional Materials initiative. By eliminating textbook costs, faculty directly remove financial barriers that impact student enrollment, retention, and success. The Academic Senate requests continued institutional support for faculty engaged in developing high-quality OER and ZTC materials that advance educational equity and student access.



Be a Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Institution

During September, SBVC kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with an inspiring keynote from Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, who emphasized that in the current political climate, this is a critical time to solidify our commitment as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

The Academic Senate supports advancing our HSI identity through intentional, equity-driven, and data-informed practices that uplift and empower our Hispanic, Latina/o/x/e, and Chicana/o/x/e student communities while fostering belonging, cultural pride, and academic success.

The Academic Senate commends SBCCD for joining more than 170 colleges in signing a letter to Congress supporting HSI and Minority-Serving Institution programs. With up to \$3 million in potential HSI investments at stake, this advocacy protects critical funding for science labs, online education, equity programs, and curriculum improvements that directly benefit our students.

External advocacy must be matched by internal action. The Academic Senate requests the Board's continued support in formalizing HSI commitments through policy development and resource allocation. From the new Water Resources Management bachelor's degree that eliminates transfer barriers for place-bound students, to equity-focused curriculum and programs, our institutional practices must reflect our HSI values and serve our predominantly Hispanic student population.



Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues

Strengthening Student Voice Through ASG Partnership

This year marks a significant milestone in shared governance as we welcome Vice President of Student Senate, Alaysha Nash as our first standing ASG representative to Academic Senate meetings. The Associated Student Government (ASG) serves as the official voice of SBVC students, taking part in college decision-making, collaborating with campus leaders and community partners, and leading programs that transform the student experience. This partnership ensures student perspectives directly inform academic policies and practices.

Supporting Baccalaureate Degree Implementation

The SBVC Academic Senate recommends that Board Policy 4100 (Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates) be reopened and revised to incorporate baccalaureate degree requirements aligned with Title 5 CCR § 55092.

This revision is necessary to support the implementation of the Water Resources Management baccalaureate degree program, which was approved by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors on September 23, 2025, during their historic first meeting at SBVC.

The Water Resources Management bachelor's degree addresses a critical workforce shortage in the Inland Empire, where over 30% of water industry employees are expected to retire within the next 10 years. This program positions SBVC as a regional leader in preparing students for high-wage, in-demand careers in water supply utilities, treatment plant management, regulatory agencies, and conservation districts. With anticipated enrollment beginning Fall 2026, establishing compliant graduation requirements is an urgent priority.