

SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

DECEMBER 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

Our PPAC faculty lead recently met with district leadership to discuss the pace and process of policy review, and I am pleased to report that the conversation was both productive and reassuring

First, we received verbal assurance that the district will be supportive of Academic Senate meetings. They will work with our schedule, and we both agreed that we are all in it for the same reason: our students.

Faculty lead Judy Joshua informed the district of the Senate's vote to conduct our first read of the November 20th Board Policies and Administrative Procedures on February 4, 2026. In response, district leadership confirmed that the December 18th PPAC meeting will not be a voting meeting for the level 3 BPs/APs, and the January PPAC meeting will be canceled, with the next meeting scheduled for February 19, 2026.

This timeline demonstrates the district's commitment to supporting Academic Senate's work and ensuring that faculty have adequate time for meaningful review and input on policies that affect our campus. This collaborative approach reflects the partnership needed as we navigate complex policy matters together, always keeping student success at the center of our work.



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

I am pleased to announce that Brandy Major was elected as our IDEAA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Anti-Racism) Faculty Lead for Spring 2026 through Spring 2027. This one-year position carries a 0.5 reassignment load and plays a critical role in ensuring that equity-minded practices are embedded throughout our curriculum and institutional processes.

The IDEAA Faculty Lead coordinates with the Curriculum Chair and Office of Instruction to provide leadership and training in developing equity-minded curriculum processes that meet local, state, and federal guidelines. This includes reviewing courses and modifications for IDEAA content, examining equity-minded language in course materials, coordinating textbook reviews for inclusivity and cost reduction, providing professional development on culturally responsive practices, and coordinating with Distance Education and Non-Credit faculty leads. The position serves as an advisor to the Academic Senate and regularly attends curriculum and campus IDEAA committees.



Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues

Academic Senate President-Elect: Tatiana Vasquez

Please join me in congratulating Tatiana Vasquez as our upcoming Academic Senate President at SBVC. Tatiana has been a dedicated faculty member since 2009 and brings 16 years of institutional knowledge to this role. She has served as Science Division Senator, Department Chair, co-chair of Facilities and Safety and the Participatory Governance Task Force, member of College Council, and currently as Academic Senate Vice President, where she has been key in shaping the AB 1705 Task Force and updating our constitution and bylaws.

Beyond her governance work, Tatiana is curator of the botanical gardens at SBVC, which educates and engages our community.

Thank you to all faculty who participated in this election process. The Academic Senate President is the primary voice for faculty on all academic and professional matters covered under the "10+1," representing us on governance bodies and connecting our work to statewide efforts through the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.



Ensure Fiscal Accountability and Stability

Our college's fiscal stability is fundamentally tied to student enrollment and retention. As of October 2025, we have actively enrolled 15,909 students, with 16,198 students enrolled at census and 40,266 seat count at census. These numbers represent millions of dollars in FTES funding that directly sustain our institution and they are the result of faculty dedication that extends far beyond contracted hours and formal job duties.

Faculty work is not limited to their primary assignments. Faculty serve on curriculum committees, accreditation teams, program review processes, and governance bodies. Beyond this, faculty invest significant time preparing and refining their classes, updating course outlines of record, reading current research, collecting and processing information to improve student outcomes, and staying current in their fields through professional development. Daily, faculty reach out to those who are struggling, design and coordinate campus events, and create resources that benefit the entire campus. They search for no-cost materials to reduce financial barriers, help students find resources for food, hygiene products, and showers, analyze student data, and ensure online courses meet Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) compliance.

The work highlighted in this report reflects the commitment of our faculty: instructional faculty, counselors, and librarians, who show up every day for our students and our institution. Their investment goes beyond job requirements: attending student games, presentations, and award ceremonies; serving as club advisors; and taking the time to truly know our students. Their expertise, dedication, and countless hours of service are what make SBVC a place where students can thrive and our community can depend on quality education. Thank you to all faculty for your unwavering commitment to student success and to the mission of this college.

Submitted by Andrea Hecht,
SBVC Academic Senate President