

SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

JANUARY 2026



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

Enrollment is up at SBVC for Spring 2026, reflecting our faculty's dedicated efforts to eliminate barriers to student access. Our counseling faculty have been leading multiple personalized enrollment support initiatives:

Enrollment Labs provide comprehensive registration assistance including:



- Self-service technology navigation and software support
- Personalized help finding appropriate courses
- First-semester education plan development with counselors
- Access to over 40 computer stations
- Assistance completing applications and matriculation processes (CCCApply, SBVC Orientation, Guided Self-Placement)
- General financial aid support and FAFSA assistance
- Information about support services and retention programs

The “Fast Track” events on January 13-14, 2026 provided intensive enrollment support, with all counselors required to work exclusively in-person. However, this mandate eliminates remote counseling services during peak enrollment days, creating barriers for students who rely on virtual access due to work, transportation, childcare, or disability-related needs. Requiring counselors to work remotely from their campus offices doesn't expand capacity, it simply removes flexible service options that support equitable access for our diverse student population.

We request ongoing dialogue between faculty, administration, and the Board about flexible service delivery models that expand student access while supporting counselor effectiveness. We also advocate for policies that allow counseling faculty to use their professional judgment in determining the most effective service delivery methods to meet diverse student needs during critical enrollment periods.



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

I want to recognize Keenan Giles, our Faculty Lead for Professional Development, for organizing our first SBCCD Affinity Group Luncheon on January 15, 2026. This event brought together the Asian & Pacific Islander Association (APIA), Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA), Latino Faculty Staff & Administrators Association (LFSAA), and Sexuality and Gender Affinity Association (SAGAA) to share their cultures with all faculty and classified professionals during our in-service day.

This luncheon creates space for our campus community to come together in fellowship, celebrate Fall 2025 accomplishments, and begin Spring 2026 united in our commitment to advocating for, uplifting, and empowering our respective communities while building respect and understanding across differences. By centering affinity group voices and cultural exchange during professional development, we demonstrate that diversity, equity, and inclusion work is not separate from our institutional mission; it is central to who we are as a college.

I am grateful for faculty leadership that creates these opportunities for authentic community building and cultural celebration and look forward to more events that center our diverse communities.



Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues

The Academic Senate passed a resolution requesting the development of a formal handbook for the district's Policy and Procedures Advisory Committee (PPAC) to establish clear workflows, decision-making protocols, and procedures for managing feedback and resolving impasses.

PPAC has acknowledged our resolution and is currently working on expanding their process slide deck to formalize these additional elements. We are awaiting the updated deck and will continue to advocate for comprehensive written procedures that enhance transparency and efficiency in our shared governance structure.



Ensure Fiscal Accountability and Stability

I want to recognize President Dr. Contreras for his leadership in strategic staffing and recruitment efforts. Since July 1, 2025, SBVC has filled 41 positions across faculty, administrative, and classified staff; demonstrating our commitment to maintaining the workforce necessary to serve our students effectively.



Submitted by Andrea Hecht,
SBVC Academic Senate President

We are moving forward with 26 faculty recruitments for 2026-27, including positions reallocated based on institutional need (such as converting a Mathematics position to Aeronautics and a CalWORKs Counselor position to Librarian). The college is also responsibly assessing fiscal impact before moving forward with one counseling position, and has adjusted to the elimination of the STAR Coordinator position due to discontinued federal funding.

I want to thank the many faculty who served on both Level 1 and Level 2 hiring committees, their expertise and time ensure we recruit high-quality colleagues who will serve our students well. The Academic Senate is currently working with Program Review to refine our faculty hiring prioritization and ranking process, ensuring our recruitment efforts align with data-driven institutional needs and student success outcomes.

Strategic hiring that balances student needs, program sustainability, and fiscal responsibility is essential to our institutional stability and mission.

Submitted by Andrea Hecht,
SBVC Academic Senate President