

SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

APRIL 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.



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

Student Services and Counseling

A forum was held with counseling faculty regarding the Student Services Building reorganization. SBVC is on pace to provide 16,000 counseling appointments this year with 17,000 students enrolled, reflecting the incredible dedication of our counseling team. The college continues to work toward professionalizing and expanding counseling services, and twelve temporary counseling positions are being transitioned to tenure-track, a meaningful step forward for students and faculty alike. We look forward to hiring more faculty to support all of our students in a timely manner.



Eliminate Barriers to Student Access and Success

Campus Space Planning

Discussions are ongoing regarding the relocation of faculty from the Village into Student Services spaces. Plans include the development of a dedicated multicultural space, and a consultant is currently conducting affinity group sessions to help inform its design and purpose. I want to thank the district and our community for their support in creating a Student Services Building that will bring all counseling faculty together in one place, a true one-stop space for our students.

SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

APRIL 2026



It is my hope that as we settle into this new environment, our offices continue to center the needs of our students in everything we do. As our student population grows, it will be important that our spaces grow with them. While our current offices are limited in size and the building plans have already moved through the state approval process, we remain hopeful that thoughtful design and intentional use of space will allow us to continue serving our students well now and into the future.



Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues

ASCCC Spring Plenary

Academic Senate President Andrea Hecht and Vice President and President-Elect Tatiana Vasquez will be attending the ASCCC Spring Plenary this month, representing SBVC in statewide Academic Senate discussions. Please note that as a result, we will be unable to present at the Board of Trustees meeting in person.

This year's Plenary theme, Transformational Love and Joy: Centering Equity, Purpose, and Courage in Academic Leadership, calls faculty to lead with intention, care, and a deep commitment to student success. Sessions will focus on equitable curriculum design, academic freedom, emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, baccalaureate degree programs, and inclusive support services, all areas deeply relevant to the work we are doing here at SBVC. This is a meaningful opportunity to engage with faculty colleagues across the state and bring back ideas and conversations that continue to move our college forward. Thank you for your continued support in professional development.

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APRIL 2026



Spring Curriculum Regional Event, Area D

I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the SBVC faculty who gave their time on Saturday, April 4th to represent our college at the Spring Curriculum Regional Event, Area D. **Thank you to Bethany Tasaka, Melita Caldwell-Betties, Brandy Major, and Tatiana Vasquez,** your commitment to our students and to the work of curriculum development does not go unnoticed.



Ensure Fiscal Accountability and Stability

Centennial Gala

The Centennial Gala was a truly beautiful evening and a remarkable success. SBVC raised \$1.1 million, including a generous \$500,000 donation for the Aeronautics program, which will be matched by the Foundation. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making the evening so special and memorable for our college community.

Submitted by Andrea Hecht,
SBVC Academic Senate President