

Greetings and good evening, thank you for the opportunity to briefly address the board this evening. Nearly four months into our new zoom-filled, socially distanced reality, it seems most faculty at MJC have begun to settle into a rhythm of sorts and we are working hard teaching summer courses, receiving professional development, preparing for fall semester and participating in shared governance. And, in spite of the world feeling turned on it's head, the Academic Senate has been able to make progress on a number of important initiatives recently.

Since the passage of Senate [Resolution F19A: Teaching the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated at MJC](#), proposed by Senators Theresa Rojas, Aishah Saleh, Noah Wilson and Andrew Kranzman, the Senate has continued to work with Dean Ashley Griffith as well as Glen Stovall and Ulises Ochoa Diaz of Project Rebound to offer a pilot course at the Stanislaus County Re-Entry and Enhanced Alternative to Custody Training (REACT) Center off Crow's Landing in Modesto. The coordination between the college and the REACT team is much appreciated and special commendation is due Deputy Rosales at the facility.

Within the last month, a general education humanities course transformed to correspondence, successfully ended at REACT. While the pilot course was severely impacted by Covid-19, it offered an experience which helped the college establish a credentialing process and safety protocols for instructors while forging a reliable partnership with the facility and paving the way for continuance of the program after the pandemic.

The MJC Academic Senate has also been prioritizing advances in professional development this summer, as over 50 faculty and classified professionals have been participating in book discussions around issues of equity and pedagogy.

We will also convene a second special, summer Academic Senate meeting on July 16th to offer a final review and ratification of the return to campus plan as well as consider resolutions addressing what we as faculty can do to promote anti-racism and equity.

As we transition to a new term, we give thanks to Andrew Kranzman for his years of service to the Academic Senate as our Secretary and welcome Gisele Flores to our Senate Executive.

This summer, we are also busy recommending changes to our participatory governance model to assure thoughtful and efficient decision-making, we continue to meet to craft a report on course and calendar compression and we are focusing on the Guided Pathways Schools rollout under faculty leadership from Rob Stevenson and Tina Giron.

So, we've tried to keep busy in these difficult, uncertain times by identifying areas where we can take collaborative action.

Just as faculty have been engaged virtually all summer long, come next month and the fall semester, we will continue to find concrete ways of teaching our students, bettering our college and serving our community. Pablo Picasso once said, "Action is the foundational key to all success," and the Academic Senate at MJC continues to focus on active forms of service and inclusivity with the hopes of further building a solid foundation for student success.