The Academic Senate this past month completed several more revisions to bylaws of the various senate committees to match current organizational structure and appropriate duties and representation. We plan to finalize bylaw revisions of all senate committees by the end of the fall semester.

The senate also engaged in an initial discussion and review of other best practice on program initiation. Included were several examples of where program initiation is combined with revitalization, modification, suspension and/or discontinuance and some examples where it separated out. The discussion was very informative and led to lots of useful feedback. This combined with the assessment and evaluation of the ongoing work with Interim AP4021 Program Revitalization, Suspension and Discontinuance should provide our Academic Standards and Policies Committee a good starting point in researching and drafting some proposed language for collaboration with the district on long term policies and procedures regarding programs.

The senate revised and approved AP 7217 faculty prioritization process. We have encouraged faculty to review the revised process and be familiar with how a faculty request can be forwarded while working closely with their associate dean to provide the necessary justifications through their departments program review. We look forward to working with the administration and faculty on the 23rd of November and using this process to determine a ranked list to then forward to the president for consideration of new faculty hires. The senate and faculty appreciate the efforts made to make these requests and recommendations moved forward in a more timely fashion. This will allow for a potentially larger and more qualified pool of applicants to be considered for the approved positions.

The senate is pleased to announce that an ad hoc committee of approximately 20 employees has been formed and is coordinating an initial meeting to discuss writing across the curriculum. The committee will be chaired by Professor Peter Blakemore and will involve constituent members from throughout the district. The goal of the Ad Hoc Committee on College Writing is to develop a plan for implementing college-wide writing initiatives, including identifying writing traits of successful students, discipline-specific writing needs, and interdisciplinary writing resources. The Committee will also investigate possible methods for streamlining and improving general education outcomes assessments.

Finally, the senate also engaged in a discussion on educational pathways and the upcoming changes in legislation regarding funding to community college. The faculty expressed some concern of the direction the state is taking towards an emphasis on academic transfer degrees. We want to make sure we strategically as a district discuss the direction both our academic and CTE programs go in order to continue to provide the necessary degrees and certificates in demand throughout this district. Senate leadership will be working with the administration in the coming weeks to coordinate sessions and a timeline for the student success summit at the beginning of the spring.