

From the Book of Juli's Almost Two Decade History with the Academic Senate

Once upon a time, Career Counselors were part of Student Services and were represented by the senators there and eligible to run for those seats. When Career Services moved over to BTCWI, it raised the question of where they would fall for AS representation, being counselors who were officially under Instruction instead of Student Services. The Articulation Officer was also listed under Student Services in the contract faculty org chart and was eventually moved to be directly under the VPI.

Before Academic Services became their own department--when the librarians, ASC Coordinator and Articulation Officer all fell under "Instructional Services"--we temporarily put Career Services under that umbrella with them, since they were all Instructional and it was the best solution at the time. Now that the librarians and ASC Coordinator are under Academic Services, the Articulation Officer is alone under the VPI and there is no umbrella under which Career Services, Articulation and the new contract faculty member under Public Safety Management (Bac Degree) all fall, other than all being "Instructional."

The At-large senator (or it could be called "Instructional senator" or whatever) would be any instructional contract faculty member (including short-term contract) who does not currently fall under a specific department with AS representation. Currently, that would be three in Career Services, one under Public Safety Management, and the Articulation Officer. It would also include any future positions that are not covered by a specific department senator. Only those people would be eligible to run for the seat. This is what City College currently does and what we did, up until the 2004-05 academic year, when the position was no longer necessary.

From the City College C&B:

At Large Academic Senator - There shall be one senator elected at large to represent those faculty association members who are not in a department. At Large faculty shall determine how to appoint the At Large Senator. This Academic Senator shall serve a two-year term and be an At Large faculty member without term limits.

It's important to remember that this isn't about the individuals who currently hold these positions... so while their opinions can certainly be taken into consideration, this is about the *positions* having representation and those serving in those positions having the opportunity to serve on the AS, now and into the future.

The discussion about this has been ongoing since Career Services moved over to BTCWI, since it has always been important to us that all contract faculty have representation and the opportunity to serve as a senator. While we were able to come up with temporary fixes in the past, we haven't had once since last year, so it is time to provide a better, more permanent solution.

In 2021, the Articulation Officer was listed under Student Services in the contract faculty org chart, which led to a question about whether or not Mara could run for one of the Student Services senator seats, to which I clarified:

When we were updating the C/B, there was discussion about having an At-large senator to represent faculty like Mara and Donnie, but then people said that she was in SS and he was in Math (or wherever), so we didn't need an At-large to represent them. So, yes, she does count as SS and can be elected senator to represent SS.

In 2023, when I asked Mona her thoughts and to which dean she reported, she responded with: When I first started my Career Center Coordinator/Counselor role in 2016, I was hired under Student Services, so I reported to the Dean of Student Development & Matriculation. But the Career Center became part of Instruction in 2018 so I have been reporting to the Associate Dean of Career Education since then. Adjunct Career Counselors and I don't report to any Chairs in Student Services.

That last line, especially, solidified the fact that having her be represented by Counseling was not a sensible solution and, contrary to what some people thought, the VPSS shouldn't be involved in the discussion, only the VPI should be. Their representation and opportunity to run for a senate seat needs to come via some department under BTCWI or an Instructional catch-all seat.

When it came up again in 2024, while Career Services was covered under the Instructional Services umbrella, Pablo noted this from his discussion with Mona:

For the short term, immediate situation, we agreed it makes sense for her to stay with Instructional Services in terms of A.S. representation. For the long term A.S. representation, I told her that I believe it makes sense to explore the merits and viability of Career Services and Articulation having one Senator seat on A.S. just so their concerns can be represented. For the long term for Career Services representation at Miramar as a whole, she is going to speak with her Dean (Claudia) and the VPI about the options. It's a growing and changing area—well the changes have already happened, and the growth is happening at a pretty rapid rate.

I responded with:

Articulation is officially under the VPI, not under a different school like Career Services is, so there could be some pushback against putting Articulation and Career Services together. I like what... was it City?... does, with an At-large senator to represent the faculty who don't fall under a particular department (I even recommended we do the same years ago), but now that Instructional Services put ASC and Articulation under them, Career Services is the only one to whom that would apply.

Pablo's response was:

My take is that now, she and Mara are not a great fit with the current organization. Maybe it's time to bring back the idea of the At-large senator you shared?

In 2025, when we wondered if Career Services could fall under Business for the purpose of AS representation, Dawn Diskin said:

I know we are all confused with the Career Counselor split, but we know that Amara is our counselor in Business and Mona is for some of the other BTCWI programs.

So, while there's a *chance* that one of them could fit with Business, it's not really a solution for all of the contract faculty under Career Services.

A suggestion has also been made that the Articulation Officer be given their own Senator seat, but that would mean they would be *required* to be on the AS, which they might not want added to their plate. It would also give one person as much of a say in things as an entire department. Under a catch-all seat, the AO would have the *option* to be a senator without the *requirement*.

In 2025, VPI Odu reached out and asked me where Mona and Mara fall for AS representation, and after being presented with the history and current information, he concluded that:

For now, I believe a "catch-all" senate seat may be the way to go.

A couple months later, I asked Dean Orgera if Academic Services would be a good fit for Career Counselors, and his response was:

I spoke with VP Odu about this question and we are recommending an At Large Senator for Career Counselors and Articulation. The Academic and Career Pathways as a campus structure are within my school and include 7 different ACPs... and my role is to institutionalize this affiliation for our students through connection to an ACP Success Coach. The career counselors support all the ACPs through career ambassadors and job fairs but also serve students across the campus with several services and resources that are outside the scope of the ACP structure. I hope this makes sense and happy to chat further.

And that's where we are now... with Dean Orgera and VPI Odu both agreeing with my own personal opinion that the best course of action is to have the body vote to reestablish the Instructional At-large senate seat that we had until 2004-05 and that City College currently utilizes as their own solution for otherwise unrepresented contract faculty.