The Santa Monica Community College District Honor Council was held Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Santa Monica College Vice President of Student Services Conference Room 1900 Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica, California.

Minutes prepared by Tamorah Thomas

I. Call to Order: SMC Honor Council Meeting – 1:02 p.m.

II. Members Present:

Dean: Judy Penchansky

Faculty Members: Dawna Kemper, HC Chair
Audrey Sandoval
Esau Tovar

Staff Members: Lisa Burns
Tamorah Thomas

Students: Leslie Baker
Adrianna Moody
Samuel Nganga

Interested Parties: Trustee David Finkel

III. Review of Minutes
Approved minutes from the August 15, 2008 Meeting

IV. New HC Members Welcome
Welcoming Lisa Burns Administrative Assistant from the Academic Senate.

V. Update on CCC Legal Position Esau and Judy
A. Chancellor’s opinion on failure of courses – Esau updated us on the Academic Senate Committee’s position and is interested in crafting a resolution to take to the Regional Academic Senate Plenary in November – Draft of resolution to take to the SMC senate meeting next week.

B. Judy noted that there have been very few cases in the last five years of instructor’s “who have reported” failing students for an entire course based on alleged academic integrity violations. Judy also noted that a revision will need to be made on the Academic Dishonesty Report to include the Honor Board hearing rights options/info.
VI. Honor Board Update
A. Hearing update on cases that went before the Honor Board and are now in the appeal to the Superintendent/President still pending outcome.

B. Question came up about, “what is in existence in mentioning the Honor Council as part of a procedural process in requesting a hearing?”

C. A potential hearing request was brought to the Honor Council’s attention by an instructor – a discussion brought us to question with aspects concerning the Council of:
   1. Instructor’s conditions on grading procedures and communication
   2. Due process for students
   3. Appropriate venue for this particular instructor’s request

Outcome of discussion:
   a. Recommendation that the instructor contact student to have the student go through the Campus Ombudsperson
   b. Dawna to communicate to Jim Stramel, Chair of the Ethics Committee as this scenario would be a good example for an ethical professor’s piece.
   c. Update sample syllabus

D. Assignment of regular time slots to have Honor Board convene. Times determined were for Fridays, October 10th and November 14 from 9:30/10:00-11:00am

VII. Upcoming Student Workshop
Cheating: How It Affects You And What You Can Do About It.
Workshop is scheduled in MC 9 on September 25 at 11:15am – 12:30pm.
We reviewed the workshop outline that Dawna prepared and discussed the participants – Greg, Dawna and David agreed to be presenters. Lisa will greet students at the beginning of the workshop.

VIII. Associated Students Meeting – Audrey and Dawna
In the interest of time – Dawna will be emailing the Council to give us the update on the meeting with the Dean of Associated Students, Deyna Hearn.

IX. Turnitin
An integration process needs to take place before the college is able to use the Turnitin program. MIS is working with ECollege to make this happen.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 1:00pm.