The Santa Monica Community College District Honor Council was held
Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Santa Monica College
Vice President of Student Services Conference Room
1900 Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica, California.
Minutes prepared by Dawna Kemper

I. Call to Order: SMC Honor Council Meeting – 1:07 p.m.

II. Members Present:

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

   Staff Members:      Lisa Burns

   Students:           Brenda Sanchez

III. Review of Minutes
(Review of minutes from Oct. 2 meeting pending the return of Tamorah Thomas.)

IV. New HC Members Welcome - welcomed student Brenda Sanchez to the HC.

V. Update on Honor Board Hearings
   A. Dawna reviewed summaries of the three pending cases. Agreement to split the cases into
      two hearings: two on Nov. 14; one on Dec. 5.

   B. Discussed a need to review the Code of Academic Conduct (AR 4411) prior to hearings so
      that participants are clear regarding the nature of the alleged code violation.

   C. Discussed whether HC member Lisa Burns could serve as a student participant on the
      Honor Board since she is a full-time student and part-time staff. Esau felt it was permissible.
      To confirm, Dawna will discuss with Judy.

   D. Dawna has contacted the Corsair regarding publication of ongoing HB hearing outcomes.
      Will follow up.

   E. Discussed, again, the need for a Hearing Board prep handbook for students and faculty; will
      add to the agenda for the next meeting with a goal of initiating in the Spring.
VI. Upcoming Student Workshop Planning

A. Oct. 23 – “Cheating: How It Affects You And What You Can Do About It”. Dawna will email faculty with request to announce to classes. Dawna will present. Others are welcome/encouraged if available.

B. Skit for Spring: Discussed David Finkel’s suggestion/conversation with Bruce Smith re: writing a skit to be performed during Spring semester. David (via email) also suggested involving the SMC Theater Dept. Discussed possible venues that would be convenient for students such as on the quad during activity hour or in the “Club Row” area in front of the Library. Also discussed turning it into a video / web clip for the web site. Suggested timetable for performances: early in the semester, at mid-terms and again just prior to finals. Dawna will invite Bruce Smith to the next HC meeting to brainstorm.

VII. Student Outreach

Audrey reported on her contacts re: HC presentations in Counseling courses. Linda Webster, faculty leader for Counseling 20 is open to us scheduling presentations, as is Peggy Kravatz for Counseling 11 (International). The large number of sections – 66 for Counseling 20 alone – means we will only be able to reach a portion of the classes, but this would be a good start. Also, according to Audrey, Peggy said they use a video for International student counseling classes; they plan to update the video and are open to involving the HC. Counseling 11 dedicates a class meeting to “academic honesty” – so this is a good opportunity for us to work with them. Dawna will email Linda and Peggy to begin scheduling short presentations. These would be 5-7 minutes with a few minutes for Q&A. Need HC members to volunteer. Need to determine content; Dawna will forward to HC the Student Workshop outline as a template we can reduce to a shorter format.

VIII. Turnitin

Esau reported that beta testing for Turnitin is imminent. Six instructors have volunteered and beta accounts are being set up for testing.

IX. Other Items

A. Discussed the suggestion from the last meeting re: establishing an SMC Honor Council scholarship. General consensus at this time was that it may need to be tabled due to: a) the challenges of establishing criteria and b) determining a funding source.

B. Dawna emailed Jim Stramel re: the Ethical Professor suggestions from the last meeting.

C. Zorica mentioned her daughter’s school is hosting Michael Josephson (of the Josephson Institute of Ethics) as a speaker. Discussed opportunities to have him speak at SMC; Zorica will research fees and availability to see if we can invite him to SMC, possibly with Associated Students as a co-sponsor, to assist with funding.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 1:00pm.