

The logo for the Santa Monica College Academic Senate. It features a stylized building facade with columns above the text. The text reads "SANTA MONICA COLLEGE" in a small font, "ACADEMIC" in a medium font, and "SENATE" in a large, bold font.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
ACADEMIC
SENATE

Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

11:15am-12:35pm, Business Building Room 144

[Attendance and Voting Sheets](#)

- I. Call to Order 11:17 a.m.

- II. Public Comments
 - a. Hari Vishwanadha announced the fall literary series, which will begin Sept. 15 at 11:15 a.m.; speaker is Geoff Dyer. This year lectures will also be given at night. The first night lecture will feature Robert Scheer on Monday, Sept. 21.

 - b. David Burak announced a program sponsored by the SMC Associates, SMC Black Collegians, SMC English Department, and SMC Veterans' Resource Center. Titled "Reconfiguring the Contexts of Violence, Anger, and Fear: Challenges and Opportunities," it will feature a panel discussion with Phillip Sanchez, Pasadena Police Chief, Kristann Loken, actor in *Terminator 3* and *Darfur*, and Alci Rengifo, former SMC Corsair editor-in-chief. The program is scheduled for 9/17 at 11:15am in HSS 165.

 - c. Keith Graziadei announced the fall technology workshops, which begin Monday, September 14. Keith also handed out copies of the schedule.

- III. President's Report/Information Items
 - a. Introductions of Senators

 - b. [Credo](#) and Senate and Senator's Responsibilities

The Academic Senate Credo supports the college's vision and identifies the specific rights and responsibilities ascribed to the Senate by California law. The 10+1 responsibilities and rights were identified.

The importance of senators representing the views of their department colleagues was emphasized as was the importance of their keeping their departments and colleagues informed of what the Senate is doing.

 - c. Call for Volunteers for Senate Committees and Responsibilities

In keeping with the requirement that Senators serve on Senate committees, Senators will let the President know which committees they would like to be appointed for. Exceptions are Curriculum, which is for elected reps only and Chairs, which is for Department chairs.

A committee must be approved by the body of the whole before votes can be taken. Committees will be officially approved at the next Senate meeting. All committee votes taken before that time will have to be reaffirmed after committees have been approved by the Senate.

d. Dues Update

Dues letters were mailed out. Senators who are not yet contributors should fill out the paperwork immediately. Dues are our only source of revenue, bringing in about \$14,000 per year. Last year, the Senate spent approximately \$16,000. It is important that we increase the number of our contributors beyond the 43 percent of full-time faculty and the 14 percent of part-time faculty who belong. At least 2/3 of the newly hired full-time faculty handed in their dues forms to Fran at their orientation.

The \$50 per year contribution amount is the same for full and part-time faculty because both classifications get equal votes in the Senate.

e. Accreditation

Past president Eve Adler has agreed to continue co-chairing the steering committee. Most of the work on our self-study is being done by volunteer writers. SMC's accreditation team is scheduled to visit Oct. 2016. Your input is essential to accreditation. Senator Eleni Hioureas is one of the editors.

f. Presidential Search

Four faculty members serve on the search committee: Eve Adler, Mitra Moassessi, Fran Chandler, and Peter Morse. On-campus candidate visits will be held on November 11-13.

g. DPAC Update

DPAC is determining the extent to which last year's goals were achieved. New goals for 2015-2016 being formulated include developing a plan to hire more full-time faculty so that a greater percentage of credit hours is taught by full-time faculty, a reflection of the importance of the 75/25 ratio established by AB1725 in 1988. DPAC is also looking at improving the percentage of all full-time faculty to all part-time faculty (which would include counselors and librarians) as well as a greater net number of full-time faculty (which would take into account retirements).

In 2009, the first year the Board of Trustees made a commitment to hire a greater percentage of full-time faculty, SMC had 46% full-time faculty. We are now at 45%. Clearly, progress is not being made so a renewed commitment with clear, aggressive goals is necessary.

IV. Action Items:

a. Approval of the [Minutes for June 2, 2015](#)

Motion: Michael Strathearn

Second: Brenda Antrim

Vote: Carried unanimously 12:00 p.m.

b. Approval of Parliamentarian, Senator Jacquelyn Scott

Motion: Alan Buckley

Second: Kimberlyn McBride

Vote: Carried unanimously at 12:36 p.m.

c. [Senate Goals and Strategic Objectives](#)—First Read

Motion from Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommends adoption of the 2015-2016 Academic Senate Goals and Strategic Objectives.

1. Foster a campus culture of lively, informative debate on important issues.

Motion to delete the word “lively” was voted on and passed with 7 Noes at 12:08, but was later reversed.

Motion: Guido Davis Del Piccolo

Second: Donna Davis-King

Vote: 52 Ayes, 7 Noes, 0 Abstentions

Motion passed at 12:08 pm

1a—The full Senate should be able to weigh in on committee work as recommendations are being considered. This will be accomplished by having committees report frequently to the Senate. In addition, the entire faculty could be brought into discussions via email. The Brown Act would allow committees to accept information from outside their members as long as they do not respond to what would be, in effect, opinions offered to the committee for its consideration.

The Senate will experiment with a consent agenda to see if that would allow more time for debate on important issues. Non-controversial items will be placed on a consent agenda. However, senators may pull items off a consent agenda if they decide they wish to discuss them instead of consenting automatically to their passage.

Suggested wording change in 1e to “*Encourage and welcome* different perspectives on agenda issues and *make* pros and cons integral to discussions and part of the minutes.”

2. Provide leadership on all 10+1 issues.

Sponsorship of the yearly retirement-longevity event for faculty, classified staff, and administrators is very expensive; the District should honor its employees by funding the

event. The Senate cannot afford to spend such a large percentage of its dues dollars on this single event when it has so many other pressing needs.

Bylaws changes require 2/3 of senators (not just those present). This might make updating the bylaws difficult. If necessary, the development of standing rules for the Academic Senate might be necessary.

Converting the library and nursing faculty leaders to department chairs was discussed as being within the purview of the Academic Senate.

3. Secure financial independence and stability for the Academic Senate.

In addition to securing District funding of the retirement-longevity event, we must increase the number of dues-paying faculty. More reassigned time is needed as is more funding for travel, supplies and other office expenses, etc.

Lesley Kawaguchi suggested that the State Academic Senate has done surveys to determine how other colleges support their Academic Senates. She will find this information for Fran. The Senate is funded by 43% of full-timers and 14% of part-timers. We must look like WE are backing the Senate.

4. Provide leadership in ensuring progress over time toward the 75/26 full-time hiring goal.

See the discussion of DPAC goals.

5. Improve shared governance on joint committees, on DPAC, and on DPAC subcommittees.

Joint committees need training to go to the next level of shared governance. Last year three joint committees had problems with the concept of mutual agreement as established by Board policy. For two committees, Environmental Affairs and Global Council, problems with control of budgets and decision making authority were encountered. For the Personnel Policies Committee, all their unanimous decisions for the year on several different administrative regulations were stonewalled by senior management even when senior management was kept informed as the regulations were being developed. The hope is that training in decentralized decision making and delegation of responsibility and authority will enable committees to reach mutual agreement without undue interference.

Motion to accept the goals and strategic objectives with changes as a first reading.

Motion: Donna Davis-King

Second: Guido Davis Del Piccolo

Vote: carried unanimously at 12:35 p.m.

V. Adjournment 12:37pm

Next scheduled meeting, 9/22/15, 11:15-12:35, in B144.