

The logo for Santa Monica College Academic Senate. It features a stylized building facade with three columns and a pediment above them. Below the graphic, the text "SANTA MONICA COLLEGE" is written in a small, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "ACADEMIC" is written in a larger, bold, serif font. The word "SENATE" is the largest and most prominent, written in a bold, serif font with wide letter spacing.

Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

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

[Attendance and Voting Sheets](#)

I. Call to Order: 11:18 a.m.

II. Public Comments --none

III. President's Report/Information Items

- a. SMC is currently about 1 percent down on FTES, which means we will probably make our enrollment target this year. If these enrollment projections are accurate, the college should not lose per-student money this year.

In accordance with the Senate's goal to increase the percentage of full-time faculty, both the Board of Trustees and DPAC have passed similar objectives. DPAC's objective requires the Senate and Academic Affairs to develop a plan for increasing the net number of full-time faculty as well as the percentage of full-time faculty. The plan will develop a timeline and benchmarks and will include both instructional credit hours as well as ratios for counseling and librarian support service hours. Fran Chandler, Mitra Moassessi and Jason Beardsley will represent the Senate on this 75/25 Full-time Hiring Task Force. Other faculty will be brought into the discussion when appropriate. The eventual goal will be a ratio of 75/25; the last percentage reported by the Chancellor's Office was 45.1%.

AB1725 established standards for instructional credit hours; however, it did not do so for counselors and librarians. Therefore, Fran asked for standards and guidelines from the representatives of those departments to help in this effort.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President/Superintendent Jeff Shimizu asked the Senate to take on the issue of textbook cost containment. Fran agreed, on behalf of the Academic Senate, to do a survey to determine the textbook and materials adoption practices of faculty. In her October Board address, she will challenge the Board of Trustees to do what it can to address the issue and will inform them that concerns for the academic integrity of courses and for academic freedom will guide this study and its conclusions. It was noted that last year a Senate subcommittee developed a best practices document, which will be incorporated into this study. It

was also noted that the library recently installed two new scanners which will allow students to copy pages and save them to a USB.

A Canvas workshop will take place next week on campus, and a resource list on this new course management system will be distributed. The resolution related to Canvas will come to the Senate at the next meeting.

IV. Action Items:

- a. Approval of the [Minutes for September 22, 2015](#)

Motion: Michael Strathearn

Second: Marc Trujillo

Passed unanimously at 11:21 a.m.

- b. Motion from Executive Committee: The Academic Senate supports the following motion from the Professional Development Committee and recommends that it become effective immediately: The Professional Development Committee recommends that the Academic Senate increase the maximum amount of professional development funding from \$500 to \$1,000 per faculty member per year.

Background was given by Professional Development Co-Chair Kevin Menton. He and Co-Chair Nate Donahue discovered that the District has been paying for speakers from the \$45,000 of yearly professional development funds negotiated into the contract by the Faculty Association. With funds rolled over from previous years, the fund total is approximately \$70,000. The belief is that faculty members are not applying because \$500 doesn't pay for much of the cost of a conference which can easily run \$1,200 and up depending upon location.

One issue might be that some stipends have already been awarded for 2015-2016. Additional funds cannot be given retroactively, but faculty can apply to attend additional professional opportunities this academic year. Faculty Association leadership revealed that the FA will investigate the inappropriate use of PDC funds to pay speakers, which is a violation of the intent of that provision of the contract.

Motion from Exec

Second: Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones

Carried unanimously at 11:29 a.m.

V. Announcements

- a. Transferability Timing Issue for Reinstated Hebrew 3 & 4, Guido Davis Del Piccolo

The need exists to offer Hebrew 3 and 4 in the spring semester for a dual enrollment program with a private Jewish high school. These courses are currently not active. Curriculum will discuss the courses tomorrow, but they cannot be brought to the Senate for a vote before the October 11 deadline for UC transferability. Curriculum will submit the request for UC transferability, but the courses will be pulled if for some reason the Senate does not approve the two courses at its October 20 meeting.

b. [Bachelor's Degree Task Force](#), Guido Davis Del Piccolo and Jenny Merlic

Fran Chandler and Georgia Lorenz appointed a bachelor's degree task force to support SMC's Interaction design BA. The task force has been meeting to consider ideas before they go to Curriculum or to the Senate. Their timeline is compressed since applications must be ready for students in less than a month. There are 4 task force subgroups—curriculum, technology, admissions criteria, and student services (tutoring, library). An admissions priority proposal will go to the next Exec meeting.

SMC submitted its required substantive change report to ACCJC.

On another issue, the State Senate is recommending a statewide GE pattern that would be similar to that of the CSUs. However, the required 9-unit upper division GE pattern used by the CSUs for most of their nontechnical majors (with engineering being a notable exception) has been reduced to six. The task force's proposal is to follow the CSU GE pattern but reduce the units to 39 total, which *includes* 6 upper division GE units.

Other states with community colleges bachelor's degrees were studied by SMC Dean Jennifer Merlic. This study revealed that high-unit GE patterns are not common everywhere and that they will have two effects on California's community college baccalaureates: students won't be able to complete them with only 120 units, and in some cases students will not be able to take the major courses their colleges believe they need. It was noted that UC schools do not require upper division GE units.

[Jenny Merlic prepared a resolution for consideration by the 15 community colleges awarded baccalaureate degrees in the hope that they will sign the resolution and help to vote down the ASCCC's resolution, which will require SMC students to take more than 120 units to complete their bachelor's degree.](#) Total credits would be far higher for many of the other colleges because they developed career technical programs with even fewer GE units, opting in favor of having students take more of their CTE majors' content courses. Fran will contact the Senate presidents of the other 14 colleges to garner support for the resolution requiring a different GE pattern than the pattern recommended by the ASCCC bachelor's degree task force.

The Curriculum Committee will bring relevant information to the Senate at its October

20 meeting for action. This fast turnaround will fall in line with the October 24 Area C meeting and the November 5-7 fall plenary.

c. [Legislative Action Report](#), George Davison

In an unprecedented move, the State Chancellor's Office Taskforce on Accreditation has issued findings and recommendations that, in effect, condemn ACCJC for its actions of recent years. The task force advocates that the state find other accrediting bodies (such as WASC) that might provide better, more responsive accreditation services for California's community colleges, 2/3 of which have been under some kind of sanction with 50 percent being currently under sanction. Comparison of other accrediting agencies in other parts of the country reveals the high number of sanctions to be out of line. The ASCCC has already endorsed this report as has FACCC.

A resolution regarding this will be presented at the ASCCC Fall Plenary, and the Legislative Action Committee recommends our delegates support it.

VI. Adjournment: 12:17 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting, 10/20/15, 11:15-12:35, in B144