

Department Chairs & Coordinators Committee Summary Report for 2015-16

The Department Chairs and Coordinators Committee is a faculty-only committee comprised of all department chairs, faculty leaders and coordinators. The meetings are open meetings and faculty members appointed to the leadership positions on the campus attend the meetings on a regular basis. The committee meets monthly during the Fall and Spring semester and discusses matters that affect academic, professional, and organizational aspects of the departments and special programs and facilitates the flow of information between departments and programs, the Academic Senate, and the District.

In addition to monthly reports from both the Academic Senate President and from the Office of Academic Affairs, the committee addressed the following topics in 2015-16:

Discussions:

- Conversion of the library faculty leader position and Health Sciences faculty leader position to a department chair position
- Cost of textbooks and looking at the open sources in adopting text books
- Making TIMS report available on m-professor for individual faculty members
- Objective from the district Master Plan, Board of Trustees Goals and Priorities, and Academic Senate Objective on having a plan to increase the percentage of full-time faculty
- 75/25 Full-Time Faculty hiring plan
- Time line for 2017-18 full-time faculty requests
- Full-time faculty hiring application process – discussion with Sherri Lee-Lewis
- Global Citizenship requirement

Reports & Presentations:

- Presentation from Crisis Prevention Team
- Grit- Center for Teaching Excellence Engagement Tool Kit – Eric Oifer
- Global Citizenship Initiative - Research Symposium – Gordon Dossett
- Presentation on MYTime – Chris Bonvenuto
- Update on special programs on campus – Sherri Bradford, Maria Martinez, Teresa Garcia
- LA Times free electronic subscription for students – Gary Olszewski, LA Times
- Presentation on Gender Equity Resource Center – Eileen Rabach

Resolutions & Motions passed by the Committee:

- Resolution related to Full Time Faculty Ranking Committee:

Department chairs are requesting to have the ability to clarify and or answer any question raised by the ranking committee members, and furthermore department chairs are requesting that the ranking committee establish an approximate timeline for discussing each department's request.

As a result of the this resolution, the full-time faculty hiring committee agreed to pilot department chair engagement with the committee by giving them the opportunity to speak to the misinformation once the committee members finish their discussion.

This pilot program was very successful and resulted in creating more trust in the process.

- Resolution on Global Citizenship Requirement:

Department Chairs request that courses of less than 3 credit units be combined to satisfy the Global Citizenship requirement.

As a result this resolution, the curriculum committee voted to change the requirement for Global Citizenship to successful completion of a minimum of 3 units from a list of courses approved with the Global Citizenship designation. Additionally, successful completion of an SMC Study Abroad will satisfy the Global Citizenship requirement.

- Motion on Class Scheduling:

To support sustainability efforts on campus, increase productivity, decrease errors, and minimize scheduling conflicts for students, Department Chairs insist that the College give highest priority to the conversion of program scheduling from a physical to an electronic format.

This motion has received full support of office of Academic Affairs and will be sent to the DPAC for inclusion in Master Plan Objective for 2016-17.

- Resolution on Gender Center:

Whereas, the safety, well-being, and success of students must be high priorities for Santa Monica College, as evidenced by the efforts of the Crisis Prevention Team and the Title IX Task Force, in support of the mission to create a safe and inclusive learning environment and campus;

Whereas, safe spaces on campus, exemplified by current centers, have been an integral part of the institutional initiative of Santa Monica College and driving forces for student safety, support and success, and nationwide concerns about harassment and violence against women and LGTBQA persons make creating a safe space for such students an urgent priority;

Whereas, the Associated Students have found, through open town hall forums and numbers of concerned students that have signed petitions, that the need for a Gender Center is a compelling concern for the student body, and these engaged students are supported in their concerns by faculty from all disciplines;

Resolved, the Department Chairs and Coordinators support the establishment of a Gender Center with appropriate space and staffing as an integral part and high priority of the development plan for Santa Monica College; and

Resolved, the Department Chairs and Coordinators support the implementation of a Gender Center by January 2017 in order to serve all our students, regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation or expression.

Submitted by Mitra Moassessi

Department Chair- Mathematics

Chair of Academic Senate Department Chair and & Coordinators Committee