

**Personal Ethics and Responsibilities Committee (PERC)
Santa Monica College**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2015

2.15pm to 3.15 pm

HSS 261

In attendance: Walker Griffey, Chair; Joelle Adams, Secretary; Lisa Farwell; Chau Tran; Valerie Narey; Raul Ruiz; Brian Rajski; Gina Jerry

Apologies: Christopher Stiles; Natalie Hansen

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The Committee introduced themselves and explained their roles at SMC.

II. Review of 2014-15 Goals and Focus

Previous PERC members summarized the Committee's previous mode of operation and intent.

Mode of Operation:

- ethical issues raised by faculty and presented to Committee via Chair
- Committee discussed issues
- if a Committee member felt strongly about a particular issue or if the Committee agreed that a particular issue warranted attention, then a Committee member would agree to draft an Ethical Professor newsletter/video for presentation at the following meeting
- Committee would then edit Ethical Professor output together, with Chair producing final draft
- two ideas in operation at any one time, on different stages of the production cycle

Intent:

- promote discussion of relevant ethical issues

III. Establishing Focus of Committee for 2015-16

The Chair suggested that the Committee focus on issues related to teaching and interactions with students this year.

Raul raised the issue of the role, responsibilities, opportunities, and relationships of adjunct faculty as an issue for the Committee to discuss. It was agreed that this was an important issue, with the Chair noting that the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate had highlighted adjunct roles as a priority for this year. The Committee voiced some concern that the issue was wavering into contractual and Faculty Association territory. It was agreed that Raul would bring

a draft of a piece about academic freedom to the next meeting for committee members to discuss.

The Chair noted that the Committee webpage is updated with new membership and clearly-stated functions of the PERC.

IV. Establishing Goals of Committee for 2015-16

a. Ethical Professor Revamp?

The Chair posed the possibility of the following changes to the Committee's outputs:

- more frequent outputs
- more than one issue discussed per output

b. Public Comments and Suggestions

The Committee voiced a desire for more interaction with the SMC community. Valerie suggested a survey or other response mechanism within the Ethical Professor email. Joelle suggested a face-to-face discussion of the most recent Ethical Professor issue; Brian and Valerie thought a brown-bag lunch session would work. The Committee expressed a desire to spark discussion and debate, rather than communicate passively.

The Committee reviewed the official functions of PERC to help guide discussion, action, and output.

V. Committee Roles

a. Co-Editor of Newsletter

The Committee agreed to table this decision pending further development of the possible revamp.

b. Secretary

Joelle Adams agreed to act as Secretary.

VI. Adjournment

The Committee agreed to stick to a strict finish time whenever possible.

Actions Agreed:

- Chair to circulate summary of suggestions received so far, with comments.
- Chair to circulate suggestions for revamp of PERC outputs
- Raul to bring a piece about academic freedom to the next meeting