

Student Affairs Committee
Minutes Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Attendees: Alexandra Tower - Chair, Esau Tovar - Vice Chair, Laurie Guglielmo, Deyna Hearn, Denise Kinsella, Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones (left at 2pm), Karen Legg, Alicia Villalpando, Betty Wong, Benny Blaydes, Gail Fukuhara, Nathalie Laille, Johnathon Hughes (Student Rep- (left at 2pm)).

Excused/Absent: Dione Carter

Guests: Robert Myers Esq. (left at 2:40), Fran Chandler (left at 2pm), Sam Ross (student (left at 2:40)), Heather Haro (student(left at 2:40)), Jonathan Eady (student - (left at 2pm)), Jesse Randel (student(arrived at 2:30; left at 2:40)).

1. Call to order: 1:00 pm

2. Public Comments

- a. Johnathon Hughes was introduced as the replacement for Kymia Mahjouri (Student Rep). Steve Maldonado's (Student Rep) seat continues to be vacant.

3. Old Business

- a. AR 4420 Enrollment and Scholarship Standards for Participation in SMC Student Government

- i. Alex Tower and Esau Tovar reminded the Committee that when this AR was addressed on 12/9/15:
 1. The Committee asked the students to examine their own Constitution and Bylaws, which require they commit 15 hours a week to serve in student government, and consider decreasing this requirement.
 2. The students asked the Committee to consider lowering the unit requirement for participation and enrollment priority for student government members.
 3. The Committee had also previously discussed that many groups at SMC have unit requirements for participation such as Financial Aid (most aid requires 6 units), Athletics (12 units), EOPS (9 units), DSPS (9 units), President's Ambassadors (12 units), Scholars (12 units).
- ii. Robert Myers, College Legal Counsel, shared that the legal opinion from the Chancellor's Office citing 5 units as the minimum requirement for student trustees serves as a basis for the College's policy on students serving in student government. While we would not go under the minimum requirement, it is the legal opinion of the College that we do have the discretion to impose a higher unit requirement to Associated Student's elected positions. Mr. Myers noted that the unit requirements for participation in student government varies between 5 and 12 units throughout California Community Colleges.
- iii. Alex Tower suggested that perhaps the students could receive experiential learning credits for participation in student government in order to help them maintain the minimum number of units currently in place. Internships through the Career Service Center can offer up to 4 units per semester.
- iv. Heather Haro mentioned that STEM students receive priority registration for up to 90 units and adding extra nontransferable units could affect priority registration.
- v. Fran Chandler stated that:
 1. By requiring 8 units, the College is actually imposing 9 or 10 units on the students, as most courses offered at SMC are either 3 or 5 units.
 2. College governance learning opportunities are just as important as classroom learning.
 3. Shared governance responsibilities have greatly increased over the last five years. Students cannot cut that.
 4. Students should be able to make their own decisions.

- vi. Student rep Johnathon Hughes stated that a lower requirement would allow for greater diversity among the representatives.
- vii. Benny Blaydes mentioned that many transfer universities hold part time enrollment status against transfer applicants.
- viii. Alex stated that there is no way to ensure that students will understand the implications part time enrollment status will have on their transfer applications.
- ix. Deyna Hearn mentioned that student can serve as Associated Students Commissioners; they do not have to be on the AS Board. She mentioned that the student's first priority is their academic work and they should not forget their priorities. Students need to address the stresses their own Constitution imposes on them, before trying to adjust their unit requirements.
- x. Esau Tovar also mentioned that students are first and foremost attending SMC for academics, extracurricular activities likely come second. Research has shown part time enrollment to have a cooling effect on students, leading to the students delaying and/or dropping their primary educational goals.
- xi. Student Sam Ross stated that he has learned a great deal of public speaking skills from serving on student government.
- xii. Student Heather Haro mentioned that a 5 unit STEM class such as biology meets every day for 3-4 hours and that the statistics classes are 4 units but they are equivalent to 8 unit classes. Heather also mentioned that adding extra units can effect financial aid.
- xiii. Benny Blaydes revisited the suggestion put forth in the prior meeting about allowing students to make up required units by enrolling in winter or summer classes. Benny also suggested that the student government could share the work they impose on themselves with the ICC to alleviate some of the strain they are feeling. Benny also mentioned the possibility of financial aid being impacted by the lowering of the units.
- xiv. Deyna Hearn suggested that directors should not have to participate in DPAC.
- xv. Student Johnathon Hughes would like to see more continuity on the board of directors to empower the students.
- xvi. Student Sam Ross stated that they are asking to make an exception for 15 students out of thousands of students attending SMC.
- xvii. Student Heather Haro said that the high unit requirement prohibits student involvement when you take into account student's family, work, and school obligations. Heather also stated that taking extra units during the intersessions that may not be major applicable, just to participate in student government should not be necessary. Heather also mentioned that extra unit requirements can have a greater impact on foreign students who's fees are much higher.
- xviii. Esau Tovar asked if AS could provide a stipend that could be applied toward the cost of the internship or leadership class that could give students the added units needed to maintain a minimum threshold.
- xix. Alex asked the students if they had taken a look at the self-imposed commitments mandated by their constitution, as they were asked to in the 12/9/16 meeting and by email a few weeks ago. Students noted they had not.
- xx. Alicia Villalpando spoke in favor of the reduction of unit requirement for the students. Alicia stated that she supports the efforts of the students to have continuity on their board because it is very hard to learn their roles. Alicia also mentioned that it would be rather challenging for STEM students to take a major applicable classes over the intersessions.
- xxi. Alex again asked if the AS is considering changing their constitution. Students Sam Ross and Jonathan Eady said they have no changes planned for their constitution.
- xxii. Laurie Guglielmo moved to vote on whether the Committee was interested in reducing the required units for the students.
- xxiii. Esau Tovar requested an administrative caucus prior to the vote.
- xxiv. Deyna Hearn requested to hold off on the vote so that the Student Representative could participate in the vote, as he had left the meeting at this point.

- xxv. Laurie Guglielmo withdrew her motion.
- xxvi. Jesse Randal arrived at 2:30 pm and verbally nominated two new students to serve as representatives on the Committee.
- xxvii. Alex advised Jesse that his motion was out of order. This was not an agenized item, and students cannot be nominated as representatives mid meeting. She advised Jesse that he must submit his nominations to her prior to the commencement of the meeting and his nominations will be included in the posted agenda. Esau asked that Jesse submit his nominations in writing before the next meeting.
- xxviii. Motion to postpone the vote on AR 4420 by Alicia Villalpando, 2nd by Denise Kinsella. The Committee voted 8 yes - 0 no - 0 abstain, to postpone the vote on AR 4420.

c. AR 4342 Standards of Student Success - Probation and Disqualification

- a. Because the data presented by Hannah Lawler was not conclusive enough to support status quo or to make a change in reducing the course completion rate from 60% to 50%, the counseling department recommends we remove the tiered percentage completion rate. The regulation will be updated to include a uniform 50% completion rate.
- b. Alicia and Karen will update this AR and put it up for a vote in the next meeting.

4. Motion to approve minutes from March 2, 2016 by Esau Tovar, 2nd by Karen Legg. The Committee voted 8 yes - 0 no - 0 abstain, to approve the minutes as presented.

5. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

6. Respectfully submitted by Ann Marie Leahy

Date: <u>4/6/16</u>			Vote 1			Vote 2		
			2:40 AM			2:45 PM		
			postpone vote on AR 4420			mins: 3/2/16		
			yes	no	Abstain	yes	no	Abstain
Voting Members	arrival	depart						
Alexandra Tower, Chair	1:00 PM		x					
Esau Tovar, Vice Chair	1:00 PM		x					
Laurie Guglielmo	1:00 PM		x					
Deyna Hearn	1:00 PM		x					
Denise Kinsella	1:00 PM		x					
Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	x					
Karen Legg	1:00 PM		x					
Alicia Villalpando	1:00 PM		x					
Betty Wong	1:00 PM		x					
Student Reps								
Johnathon Hughes	1:00 PM	2:00 PM						
Interested Parties (non-voting)								
Benny Blaydes	1:00 PM							
Dione (Dee Dee) Carter								
Gail Fukuhara	1:00 PM							

Nathalie Laille	1:00 PM							
Total			9	0	0	0	0	0
1st			Alicia Villalpando			Esau Tovar		
2nd			Denise Kinsella			Karen Legg		
notes:						minutes approved as is.		