

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2020

12:45 – 2:00 pm via Zoom Meeting

Senators Present: Meg Pasquel, Karen Robinson, Peggy Dodge, Patricia Seery, Jeff Cady, Patricia France, Kristin Perrone, Dave King, Maria Coulson, Kofi Opong-Mensah, Joe Mueller

Senators Absent: Shawn Purcell, Kevin Muller, Paul Cheney

Guests: NONE

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM – Zoom Meeting

- I. Approval and Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED (Robinson/France) by all Senators present**
- II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of November 19 – **APPROVED (Robinson/Perrone) with corrections by all Senators present**
- III. Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items - **NONE**
- IV. Officers' Reports
 - a) President (Meg Pasquel): President Pasquel noted that there is only one week of classes left and encouraged faculty to indulge in self-care during this stressful time. President Pasquel reminded Senators that Spring 2021 Canvas course shells will open to students on 1/13/2021. President Pasquel also reminded the AS that the MyCOM portal interface will be changing over the holidays. It will look different but all the functions should be in the same places. It would be a good idea for all Fall 2020 faculty to post an announcement about the anticipated changes for their students. President Pasquel also urged Senators to help spread the word for students to return library books from this semester. President Pasquel also reminded the AS that students can petition for grade change to Pass/No Pass until December 6. Students are encouraged to consult a counselor before making that choice. UC allows a maximum of 14 units P/NP. Counselors advise that classes for a student's major should always be taken for a letter grade.
 - b) Vice President - **NONE**
- V. Committee Reports
 - a) Curriculum: **NO REPORT** – More frequent reports during Spring 2021 were requested by Senators.
 - b) Academic Standards – President Pasquel reported that the AS recommendations for changes to AP4231 were being incorporated. The Academic Standards Committee is developing criteria for grade change and will bring that proposal to the AS in Spring 2021.
 - c) Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports
 - a. PRAC: Several departments made reports and requests to PRAC.
 - i. The Library submitted a new position request for a Director to help manage the multiple functions of the library. Librarian Sarah Frye also included a request for \$10,000 to support the COMmon Read program for 2021/22. A unit allocation for a faculty member to handle the added responsibilities of maintaining a ZTC library was also requested.
 - ii. Director of Student Services Activities & Advocacy, Sadika Sulaiman Hara reported to PRAC that a grant that had funded basic needs for students and part of COMCares is ending. Director Sulaiman Hara was requesting funds for a Basic Needs Specialist position. She also reported that the Emergency Fund

- has been refilled.
 - iii. Enrollment and other Student Services reported to PRAC that 40% of students eligible for financial aid based on FAFSA submitted never receive the funds. After FAFSA are filed, a random selection of submissions are chosen for requesting additional information. Those students often stop the financial aid application process there according to a Financial Aid Equity Study. Money for EOPS student grants, commonly known as "book grants" were requested. It was reported that COMPASS may need another ½ time Coordinator to be funded by outside sources.
 - iv. Humanities has several faculty retirements coming. The future of Dance and Photography disciplines are uncertain.
 - v. Dean Carol Hernandez discussed a proposal for a new full-time faculty position for Ethnic Studies. CSU Area F (Ethnic Studies) requirement for graduation is an impetus for this request. Dean Hernandez also requested more units for the Natural History major so students can complete more quickly. Records indicate 145 declared Natural History majors.
 - vi. Senate discussion ensued regarding updates needed to the COM Course catalog in regard to Natural History and the certificate standards. In general, Senators expressed interest in streamlining the process for updating the COM Course catalog. It was agreed to invite OIM and Curriculum Committee representatives to the AS in Spring 2021 to discuss this issue
 - d) UPM – Senator Mueller reported that the UPM Executive Committee authorized the donation of \$15,000 to support student needs. Eighty percent of the funds will support meeting technology and hardware needs and 20% will support food programs for students. EXEC.
- VI. Consent Agenda – **APPROVED (King/Robinson) by all Senators present**
 - a) ECE Resolution from ASCCC
- VII. Invited Guests: **NONE**
- VIII. Action Items **NONE**
- IX. Discussion
 - a) Policies: absentee Senators / President’s communications – Senators made recommendations to President Pasquel for minor improvements to the draft document presented to the Senate on November 19. Changes centered on the first paragraph. **A motion to approve the revised Absentee Senator Policy (Coulson/Perrone) will move approval of this document to the action agenda for 12/3.** The issue regarding President’s communication was briefly discussed with concerns regarding the emphasis currently placed by the COM Administration on consultation with the leadership of constituent groups (AS and UPM) expressed. Representations were made in the Chairs/Coordinators December meeting that the 1/13 deadline for faculty having Welcome Letters and Orientation modules available for students on Canvas had been vetted through the AS. The information had been part of the President’s report but had not actually been deliberated on by the AS, and it was speculated that the presentation to the Chairs/Coordinators left the impression that the AS had actively endorsed the proposal for the 1/13 deadline. The discussion concluded with a plan to review current documents and, if necessary, develop a document that clearly describes areas where the Academic President has the authority to make agreements on behalf of the AS and areas that should come to the AS for deliberation during Spring 2021
 - b) Union Bank Purchase COM purchase of the Union Bank building on College Avenue will be completed. The building is large, comes with parking, and was available at a great price. The acquisition of that amount of square footage for the price is considered an excellent deal and provides more square footage than the same dollars could get from new construction. Consequences of the purchase of the Union Bank Building with bond funds are that the new LRC blueprint is likely to be downsized. Concerns about how decisions

regarding adjacencies and occupancy of the LRC will be made in light of the Union Bank building purchase were raised. Senators agreed that a formal agreement (MOU?) needs to be established that states that AS and UPM must agree on the occupancy of the building before decisions are made. It is important that we return to the original intent for the new LRC as presented in the bond and track how that intent will be satisfied with the new LRC and the Union Bank building. Concerns still persist about the classroom capacity that has been lost between the last bond and plans for spending of the current bond. President Pasquel has already requested that Director of Capital Projects, Isidro Farias prepare a list of dislocations as a result of the tear down of the old LRC and other bond activity. Director Farias will be invited to the first AS meeting in Spring 2021 to present his list and respond to AS concerns.

c) Covid 19 response – **NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION**

d) Institutional and systemic racism at COM – **NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION**

X. New Business –

Discussion of obtaining raw data in regard to Stretch Goals for degrees, certificates, and transfer presented at 11/19 AS meeting was requested by a Senator.

XI. Adjournment: 2:10 pm

For questions or information concerning the Academic Senate Minutes, please contact: Peggy Dodge, Acting AS Secretary: pdodge@marin.edu