

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

12:45-1:55 PM IN AC 303 AND VIA ZOOM

Senators Present: Maria Coulson, Meg Pasquel, Caitlin Rolston, Dave King, Cara Kreit, Patricia Seery, Kyle Beattie, Kristin Perrone, Patricia France, Kevin Muller

Senators Absent: None

Guests: None

- I. **Approval and Adoption of Agenda** — AMENDED and ADOPTED (Kreit/Seery) by all Senators present.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2022** — APPROVED (Coulson/Seery) 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 reported she had met with the Distance Education Committee. DEC is working on policy, guidelines, and its AP/BP. The committee will attend Senate next week to discuss these and ensure they are in line with academic standards. President Pasquel will send out the old AP/BP for reference. She asked senators to consider issues related to DE that need attention and bring them to the table. President Pasquel also informed about and asked for the Senate's reactions to a new grant partnering with Golden Gate Transit (GGT) and SRJC to provide college credit for bus driving classes. The Academic Senate and Curriculum Committee were not involved in seeking out this grant or approving the plan for it. College of Marin does not currently have these courses or curriculum, and COM will not be involved in teaching the classes. The Senate identified various questions that need to be answered regarding the GGT grant: whose purview is it to create a discipline/curriculum? How does CTE curriculum come into being? Senator King informed the Senate that this had been a murky area he had noticed as Curriculum Chair, and suggested that Gina Cullen be involved in the discussion. Senator Perrone added that usually COM offers high school students college credit for courses we offer, and tries to support students as they are looking for career advancement and a pathway in college. She wondered whether this grant fit in with the college's goals regarding pathways to success. Senator Rolston mentioned that to her knowledge, GGT does offer a relatively high-paying career and a stable union job with benefits and pension. It remains unclear why COM is involved in this partnership and how this project came into being, and the Senate would like more information, especially because curriculum is a 10+1 issue. CTE will attend Senate in two weeks (March 3) to discuss the grant. Next, President Pasquel reported that the Board will be meeting to talk about housing — specifically purchasing apartment rental properties around campus, and that interested parties should attend the Special Meeting next week. Lastly, President Pasquel gave an update regarding free tuition and ESLN not receiving a benefit from it. Greg Nelson informed Senator Pasquel that ESLN received the bulk of the CARES Grant funds last semester, in the form of computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, and other forms of technology access. Senator Seery mentioned that this was helpful while classes were online but that online classes were over. President Pasquel said that she would get the exact numbers on funds received to support ESLN and funds spent on free tuition and report them next week.
 - b. **Vice President (Maria Coulson)** — Vice President Coulson reported that availability of make-up tests now that there is no testing center at COM is becoming an issue in disciplines with a high

ratio of tests, like math and sciences. She said that the testing now falls upon one person in SAS, which seems burdensome. She mentioned a student who had to miss a test and could not get a make-up appointment for over a week. This delay in testing impacts learning in that the instructor cannot give timely feedback to the whole class while awaiting the missing results of one student. She fears that the practice of testing in the hallway will return if testing is not readily available. With COVID complications like students isolating, waiting for results, and seeing doctors, we will see more need. President Pasquel and Vice President and Maria will compose an email to VP Eldridge informing him that this issue has now passed from theoretical concern to practical problem, and requesting he address solutions.

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Curriculum** — No report
- b. **Academic Standards** — No report
- c. **Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports**
 - i. **DEC (Maria Coulson)** — No meeting
 - ii. **Technology (Caitlin Rolston)** — No meeting

VI. Tech-quity (Kyle Beattie) — Senator Beattie reported on the first conversation of the new Tech-quity Task Force. He explained that the Task Force has identified two areas of concern. One is non-credit ESL and ability to access the college when technology and language skills make certain activities difficult, especially the transition from paper applications to CCCApply. Senator Seery said that Sara McKinnon had written a detailed email about why CCCApply is necessary, and the challenges facing the ESL office regarding paper-based applications and said she would forward it to President Pasquel and Senator Beattie as context for the ongoing Tech-quity discussions. The other area of interest for the task force is related to access and infrastructure for access — Wi-Fi, computers, library, and support. Senator Beattie will report regularly to the Senate about solutions researched and proposed on the Task Force. Additionally, President Pasquel commented that the Task Force should look for places where resources and personnel at the college can be directed toward facilitating equitable use of and access to technology, and ways the Senate can support that.

VII. Invited Guests: None

VIII. Consent Agenda

- a. **Governance Committee Appointments** — None
- b. **Continued Virtual Meetings** — The College of Marin Senate finds that conditions still exist which restrict our ability to meet in person (ability to social distance, individual health concerns). The Senate will vote weekly to consent that conditions require meetings to continue via Zoom. APPROVED (King/Kreit) by all Senators present.

IX. Action Items — None

X. Discussion

- a. **Senate website/minutes adjustments** — Secretary Rolston informed the Senate about some housekeeping minutiae, explained how to name files and how they are linked to and labeled on the website. She asked that Senators who send her documents regularly do their best to name and date files consistently and precisely to help her stay organized and maintain an accurate website. President Pasquel reiterated that this mattered for accreditation.
- b. **Sabbatical Returnees — possible presentations** — All senators agreed that they should create a space for their returning presentations. It could be a college hour, a video, or a different kind of presentation, but regardless, the Board has requested presentations after sabbaticals. Senator Muller suggested that they be brief and scheduled together — 10 min each, 3-4 at a time. Senator King suggested an hour be set aside during flex week every semester. Senator Kreit mentioned advertising for more turnout in a short pitch. Senator France suggested that

announcements be posted in email and on the website to garner interest, and that encouraging announcements be posted for marketing purposes. Announcements and previews at convocation and department meetings during Flex Week could also remind faculty to attend Sabbatical Presentations. Senators King and Coulson will liaise with the Sabbatical Committee to make this happen. President Pasquel will reach out to Beth Patel to begin planning. This will be an invitation to honor and celebrate sabbatical work and encourage faculty to engage with colleagues about their projects. It will be purely optional and not in any way related to accountability or contractual obligations.

- c. **Juneteenth** — It is indeed a holiday. The holiday is not listed on the current PDF of the Academic Calendar. Senator Pasquel will take care of this.
- d. **Chairs** – President Pasquel mentioned the issue of part-time, adjunct faculty serving as chairs and asked if Senators had any input. It is indeed permitted by the contract that part-timers serve as chairs. However, there have been some issues related to availability on campus of chairs who teach elsewhere. Additionally, part of a chair’s responsibilities is evaluation, but if a part-timer cannot evaluate, that would mean a part-time chair could not fulfill that role and those duties would fall upon other departments’ full-time faculty and chair. This seems like a contradiction. The Senate agreed that this warranted a revisit of policy and would be discussed further at Senate and raised with the union.

XI. **New Business:** None

XII. **Adjournment:** 1:55 pm

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONCERNING ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT
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