

# COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

## MEETING MINUTES

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MARCH 3, 2022

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

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

**Senators Absent:** Erick Muñoz

**Guests:** Tonya Hersch, Lauren Servais, Barbara Bonander and Beth Sheofsky

- I. **Approval and Adoption of Agenda** — AMMENDED and ADOPTED (Perrone/Kreit) by all senators present. Agenda amended to address invited guests' discussion item first.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2022** — APPROVED (Muller/Beattie) by all senators present except Senator Muller who had been absent and abstained.
- III. **Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items** — NONE.
- IV. **Officers Reports**
  - a. **President (Meg Pasquel)** — President Pasquel reported that she needs two senators to volunteer for an employee appreciation event with Classified and Academic Senates, for current and retiring faculty members. Maria Coulson volunteered. Also, although there is no contractual obligation for midterm grades to be posted, she strongly encouraged it so students can manage their course loads. Grades can be posted in either Canvas or Banner. Finally, Senate elections are coming up, and President will report back after reviewing the bylaws — since some senators were recently appointed, clarification is needed on which seats are up for election.
  - b. **Vice President (Maria Coulson)** — Nothing to report.
- V. **Invited Guests: Tonya Hersch, Lauren Servais, Barbara Bonander, and Beth Sheofsky** — Deans Tonya Hersch and Lauren Servais, along with College Skills department chair Barbara Bonander and English department co-chair Beth Sheofsky, addressed the AB 705 Equitable Placement Plan. All colleges have been asked to submit improvement plans for AB705. The Chancellor's Office has mandated that pre-transfer classes be eliminated where data don't support use of these courses for student success outcomes. Our data did not support offering these classes for Math or English. In Math, Vice President Coulson reported that COM will eliminate all courses before transfer. The Math Department had already started doing this, but this fast and complete change has caused some consternation. Nevertheless, AB705 mandates must be followed. The student success data is good on stats courses, but the Math Department will need to bolster support for the STEM-related math courses. Students will come without Algebra II and go to Pre-Calc, which faculty fear will cause problems in terms of preparation. However, data do not suggest that taking Math 103 supports student success. Similarly, in English, Beth Sheofsky informed the Senate that English 120 will be eliminated. A 6-unit English 150 currently exists which adds more practice and support. This will be a replacement, but it moves faster than 120 did. The department is also mourning the loss of those classes. The English Department plans to increase support in the Reading and Writing Lab to support students at varying levels. In both Math and English, faculty have expressed dismay and fear that students will slip through the cracks without support courses that meet them where they are. President Pasquel suggested that students could receive instruction before coming to COM or even on the COM campus through outreach and collaboration, possibly with the Tam Adult School. Students and teachers at high schools also need to be made aware of the changes, as they will need to prepare students more (students are not currently required to take Algebra II to graduate high

school). Vice President Coulson said that she has told high school teachers she knows personally that, contrary to our desire, COM is no longer allowed to teach high school level courses, and they will have to pick up the slack. President Pasquel brought up the draft of a plan (hopefully to soon receive IR&D funding) for an English 150 adhering to universal design principles for equity. Finally, in ESL, Barbara Bonander said that the ESL questions on the plan have to do more with freshman composition than ESL. She had answered that ESL teachers are indeed teaching English 150, even if they are not part of the ESL department (Klinger, Woodlief, Kreit). She also mentioned that the documents from the Chancellor's Office state a difference between ELL and ESL. High school graduates who are ELL (English Language Learners) must be told they can go to English 150. ESL students are students enrolled in English as a Second Language courses. However, at COM we have observed that many students come as high school graduates but with minimal English development nowhere near 150 level. They should complete the Noncredit CCCApply application — then they aren't governed by AB705 and can be placed in an appropriate level ESL course to bolster language skills. President Pasquel said the issue would be how to identify these students before they get lost in the system or fail courses. Dean Hersh said that COM will continue with the ESL Summer Bridge pilot, which will be in-person as opposed to remote for the first time in Summer 2022. Also, more outreach conversations can happen with local high schools. Data is needed to see how these students are performing after Summer Bridge. In response to a question from Senator Kreit regarding the viability of English 150C (the 6-Unit support course), Dean Hersh said that such courses would likely be in the Chancellor's Office crosshairs soon, depending on data-driven evaluation of their success. Dean Servais added that we were originally unsure if co-requisites would be allowed in the current implementation of AB705, and we should certainly expect that corequisites will be eliminated if they "are not producing better throughput." President Pasquel confirmed that this is the rumor in statewide Senate. Furthermore, effectiveness of 150C, which has been taught since Fall 2019, should be evaluated. Curriculum and best practices which are not currently universal should be implemented to create consistency. The English department has discussed AB705 implementation issues, but not evaluated the course specifically. Apparently, student success and learning outcomes in this class "depend on the teacher," which is unsustainable and inequitable. Senator Beattie said that students tell him the courses are drastically different depending on the professor; sometimes they just get extra class time, but in other cases the instructors provide helpful instruction and remediation. Students who have dropped or failed, and retaken the course with a different instructor, report that the difference in teaching styles and curriculum can be the difference in passing or failing. Dean Servais said that companion courses were part of the statewide validation data, and that COM's were slightly lower for students in 150C versus 150. Statewide, students typically do better in the co-requisite courses than without, so we need to see why COM data are different. Dean Servais said that according to the Chancellor's Office, all schools were in the same situation while remote during the pandemic, so difficulties of remote learning will probably not be seen as an excuse for COM data showing lower-than-state-average success rates in supplemental or corequisite courses.

VI. **Consent Agenda (Perrone/King)** — APPROVED. Treasurer Seery abstained.

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. Advance approval of the consent agenda through March 31, 2022 APPROVED (Coulson/Muller) by all senators present.

c. **AB705 Equitable Placement Plan** — see discussion above and separate document posted.

VII. **Committee Reports**

a. **Curriculum** — No report

- b. **Academic Standards** — No report
- c. **Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports**
  - i. **DEC (Maria Coulson)** — No report.
  - ii. **Tech-quity Task Force (Kyle Beattie)** — Senator Beattie reported that the task force is primarily occupied with figuring out a paper ESLN application. President Pasquel commented that the ESLN department is not all on board with this; there are concerns. This committee is not speaking for the whole department and needs to consult with the department and reach a consensus.
  - iii. **PRAC (Kristin Perrone)**— Greg Nelson brought budget assumptions for the upcoming year. Highlights: fixed costs have increased 10% and this has not been mitigated by energy-saving measures such as solar panels and thermal heating. Materials fees for students have been eliminated, and departments will receive funding for materials going forward. Transportation fees are going up.
  - iv. **Technology (Caitlin Rolston)** — Secretary Rolston reported that the tech committee met and is almost done with the technology survey for faculty. The next step will be to test out the survey for flaws and she will advocate to test it out with Senate first for a more diverse range of feedback.
- VIII. **Action Items** — None
- IX. **Discussion**
  - a. **Testing Services** — deferred
  - b. **Accreditation Overview** — President Pasquel advised that the WASC/ACCJC accreditation process is on the horizon and preparations are underway. COM will prepare its Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) for WASC and ACCJC and prepare for their visit. COM’s plan will require faculty participation at many levels, and calls will go out for faculty leads (formerly known as co-chairs) to work with administrator leads for the seven standards that are evaluated. President Pasquel encouraged senators to participate in preparation, and to be available during the campus visit. President Pasquel asked for feedback on alleviating the burden for department chairs by identifying other faculty members who can help. Senator Muller advised that this would be difficult since the chair would inevitably have to be the point person regardless. Next, President Pasquel asked about students serving on each standards committee. Statewide, the senate is encouraging this addition to the process. Senators agreed that having students would be beneficial. Senator Perrone added that learning communities and Transfer Club could recommend student candidates for these positions. Senator Kreit advised that since the work was divided up on these committees, faculty would need to be connected to students to help them navigate the tasks.
- X. **New Business** — None
- XI. **Future Business** — Gina Culllen will attend talk about AP and curriculum. President Pasquel will bring in more accreditation information and questions for feedback. Tonya will be back for a Guided Pathways report. The Senate may need to look at AP/BP process again. GGT will be at curriculum next week.
- XII. **Adjournment:** 1:55 pm