

COLLEGE OF MARIN THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2022

12:45-1:43 PM IN SMN 305

Senators Present: Maria Coulson, Caitlin Rolston, Kevin Muller, Dave King, Kristin Perrone, Patricia Seery, Kyle Beattie, Alex Jones, Sung-Ji Schmidt

Senators Absent: Cara Kreit, Patricia France, Eric Muñoz

Guests: None

- I. **Approval and Adoption of Agenda** —APPROVED and ADOPTED (Perrone/King) by all Senators present.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2022 (first meeting)**— APPROVED (King/Muller) by all Senators Present.
- III. **Reading and Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2022 (second meeting)** — APPROVED (Muller/King) by all Senators Present.
- IV. **Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items** — Patrick Kelly spoke about cuts to units in various departments. No one consulted the union about this, and it is his understanding administration didn't consult the AS either. After further investigation, he was told these cuts are based on lower enrollment numbers experienced last Spring, which he views as a flawed source of data given the difficulties presented by the pandemic. Professor Kelly is concerned that since administrators have said they will only add units back if students want the classes, there is a risk that students will simply go to other schools that offer the right classes at the right times, and COM will never see growing waitlists or other indicators of the need. He asked if the AS was interested in cowriting a letter asking for clarification of process and to backtrack some of the cuts. President Coulson said she would add this to discussion agenda next week.
- V. **Officers Reports**
 - a. **President (Maria Coulson)** — President Coulson reported that she has met with Mici Benet to talk about a backlog of APs and BPs. Legal and substantive changes will be coming soon. She introduced a newly appointed Senator, Sung-Ji Schmidt (Biology). She also reported that she had attended a meeting with Gina Cullen, Cari Torres, Alina Varona and others at the Golden Gate Transit Authority. This was a meet and greet tour. They are very excited about the potential partnership. The Director of Safety and Maintenance explained they are having difficulty recruiting and training drivers, and hope that tying the career to the college will provide some prestige. The curriculum, which is being written by Ron Palmer, hasn't been presented yet to Curriculum. There will be another meeting between General Counsel Mia Robertshaw, AS President Coulson, and Curriculum Committee Chair Gina Cullen soon.
 - b. **Vice President (Dave King)** — VP King reported that he had gone to the Covid Oversight meeting. The vaccine mandate is still in place, and the mask situation will still follow county regulations — currently strongly recommended but not required. Greg Nelson has said that rapid tests will be available. The state of emergency will remain in effect for California through 2024. This semester, search committees will hold first interviews via Zoom, and second interviews in person. Finally, VP King explained that if Senate continues to teleconference, the Brown Act requires that votes be taken by rollcall. Therefore, the AS should use the consent agenda more. COM's AS Bylaws were last revised in 1995, and reference outdated information and rigid rules, such as a

requirement to discuss an item one week before including it as an action item the following week. He recommends we revise the Bylaws to leave more protocol at the Senate's discretion.

VI. **Committee Reports**

a. **Curriculum** — Deferred

b. **Academic Standards** — No meeting

c. **Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports**

- i. **DEC (Maria Coulson)** — President Coulson reported that many faculty members are still requesting HyFlex. There is no institutional definition or approval for that delivery format at College of Marin. The deadline to POCR a course for Spring is coming up 9/1/2022. Grandfathering of DE courses approved pre-pandemic is still in place.

VII. **Invited Guests:** None

VIII. **Consent Agenda — APPROVED (Beattie/Perrone) by unanimous consent**

a. **Governance Committee Appointments** — None

b. **Ongoing Emergency/Brown Act** — 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 monthly to consent that conditions require meetings to continue via Zoom.

IX. **Action Items** — None

X. **Discussion**

a. **AP4020 (Curriculum Committee)**— Legal changes have been updated for this AP. The new plan is that area representatives will meet rather than each department being represented on Curriculum. Senate approved this and sent it to the College Council and Board, but the wrong document got approved accidentally. Currently, the website does not reflect the new criteria. Over the summer, the Classified Senate President expressed concern over the removal of a voting classified staff position. She believed this did not provide equity to classified staff in participatory governance. Senators unanimously confirmed that Curriculum is a subcommittee of AS, not participatory governance, that classified staff should have non-voting seats on the committee as resources, and that there was no pedagogical reason to have a non-faculty member with a vote on the committee. The chair of Curriculum is reaching out to make various 2-year appointments. President Coulson will speak with the Classified Senate VP and explain the above decision. It is about streamlining Curriculum membership for efficiency and the new format is in compliance with all regulations.

b. **AB 361: Schedule for future meetings** — Recent Brown Act amendments require all attendees at meetings be either on Zoom or in-person. Therefore, going forward, guests will be invited via Zoom only, and all Senators will attend meetings via Zoom. AC303 will be reserved and has updated Zoom technology, so any Senator (but not a guest) who wishes to avail themselves of that Zoom location may do so, and the whole group could even Zoom from one location if they wanted to, as long as the Zoom link is open for guests.

XI. **New Business** — none

XII. **Future Business** —

a. Senator Beattie asked if COM intended to discontinue the vaccine requirement for online courses. Other Bay Area CCs do not have this requirement; instead, students must be vaccinated to attend events or use resources on campus and do a symptom check daily with a QR code screening system.

b. Senator Muller expressed concern about some assumptions being made in the new Master Schedule. He requested Senate be presented with a clear definition and goal of the MS, and an explanation of a perceived assumption that we are starting out with a deficit, the idea that we are scheduling wrong and not being student-centered. If this could be used as a

justification for rescheduling and cutting units, this would be a problem. President Coulson said she would invite the MS committee to attend next week.

- c. VP King said that he is looking at how the AS can more effectively assert authority over 10+1 when interacting with Administration. President Coulson will meet with the College Vice President every Monday, and with the College President once a month. They will both be informed that chatting with her does not constitute consulting The Academic Senate.
- d. AS will continue to look at processes related to new programs and curriculum, as well as draft a statement on academic freedom.

XIII. **Adjournment:** 1:43 pm

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES, PLEASE
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