

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

12:45- 2:00 VIA ZOOM

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

Senators Absent: None

Guests: Cara Kreit, Erik Dunmire

- I. **Approval and Adoption of Agenda** — APPROVED and ADOPTED (Seery/Schmidt) by all Senators present.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2022** — APPROVED (Muller/Kreit) by all Senators present.
- III. **Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items** — none
- IV. **Officers Reports**
 - a. **President (Maria Coulson):**
 - i. Kathleen Smyth approached President Coulson saying she had never felt so supported by the Academic Senate regarding the facilities and DEC issue last week.
 - ii. President Coulson attended the Academic Standards committee meeting. The Senate has overspent allotted units in both categories: for officers, and for other projects and committees. More information about this will be forthcoming.
 - iii. Faculty members are needed to serve on hiring committees. 5 hours of flex are provided, and hiring committees for staff receive fewer applicants than faculty positions. President Coulson will provide a list of upcoming hires.
 - b. **Vice President (Dave King)** — Deferred
 - c. **Committee Reports** – Deferred
- V. **Invited Guests — Cara Kreit and Erik Dunmire, Master Scheduling**
 - a. This endeavor has been renamed: Student Centered Scheduling. The committee updated the AS on progress and Fall updates, and the AS discussed and gave feedback.
 - i. SCS is a process, not a product. Senator Kreit and Professor Dunmire have been meeting with various constituents to determine problems, needs, and wants in terms of what to offer and when, each semester and over time. This endeavor comes from the Strategic Plan, and seeks to determine how our schedule can serve students better. With local and state changes (AB705, College Hour, new courses like HUM101, and other legislative changes) there is a need for an ongoing process of information gathering, which is still underway.
 - ii. Guiding questions for now: what is working, what is not working? Then, deep dive into equity: how does our current scheduling reinforce historic and systemic disparities? What are changes we could make to mitigate that?
 - iii. Already, math and sciences have made scheduling changes that support student needs and success based on early conversations with SCS. For example, students who take math and Chem 114 concurrently have much greater success, so this is being considered for scheduling. STEM labs schedules and athletes' practice and game schedules are also being taken into consideration. The Math department will implement a late start class for students who might want to change levels after the semester starts.

b. Discussion

- i. VP King asked about the desired and predicted outcome of this process. Eric Dunmire explained that he expected scheduling would be more conversational process, the right people talking at the right time and using helpful tools (i.e. Tableau) so that departments, counselors, and students can begin to visualize the schedule early on.
- ii. President Coulson commented that she went to the Guided Pathways conference last spring, where she heard conversations about packaging a guaranteed schedule for brand new full-time students. She was curious if SCS was investigating that. Senator Kreit said that yes, there is a pilot for a program like that in the Strategic Plan and that will be coordinated with guided pathways. It would include packages of courses scheduled appropriately that students can choose or not, and would be more efficient and simpler for everyone involved.
- iii. Senator France asked about providing late start courses for athletes, whether SCS had spoken specifically with the athletic department about their other concerns. SCS met with them in a Department Chairs meeting, but the department still needs to get back to them with specific course concerns. Senator Beattie added that Anthropology 101 needs to be part of conversation since it is an important transfer class but doesn't fall under STEM. Sen. France also asked whether IVC was being considered. It will be important, but nothing specific yet.
- iv. Senator Rolston asked about additional services such as cafeteria, library, tutoring, counseling, registration/bursar, the Welcome Center, and learning labs. These will be taken into account.
- v. Senator Muller commented that student learning, equity, and access to facilities were all important factors for student success, and that it seemed problematic to pose access and success as opposites on a spectrum, because both go hand in hand.

VI. CTE – Credit for Prior Learning: Fire 255. Senator Alex Jones is COM's CPL coordinator. This statewide Chancellor's Office program provides units for AP exams, credentials, portfolios, and prior learning and experience. Usually, we pick CTE programs like Auto, where faculty can sign off as experts, and people who have prior training and certificates then don't need to take basic courses at COM. COM would like to support firefighters seeking an AA degree, who already have extensive training beyond the 1.5 unit course offered by COM. They needed a faculty expert who can look at the COR. Scott Wood said that because he is a medical EMT, he wasn't able to sign off on the COR. Alina Varona, Dean of CTE, and Angela Olmanson, Program Administrator of Allied Health, pushed back and claimed that Ron Palmer (Department Chair of CTE, Professor of Auto Tech) could sign off because AP4235 states that a department chair or a faculty expert can sign off. Senator Jones disagreed and brought the matter to the Senate. Luckily, there is a counselor at COM who has volunteer firefighting experience and is qualified to sign off on the COR, so in this instance they can go forward with that. However, this is an instance of administration pushing faculty to sign their name on a document they felt ethically uncomfortable with. Senator Jones asked if the language could be changed/clarified in the AP so that both a faculty expert and (not "or") a department chair needed to sign off on the COR for CPL. Since most CPL is given in CTE, and the department chair of CTE is not an expert in all the very diverse fields that fall under their purview, this is a reasonable requirement. Furthermore, as VP King informed the Senate, an ASCCC white paper states quite clearly that the nature and content of exam for CPL must be determined solely by faculty who normally teach the subject and are experts in it. All senators agreed that it would have been unethical for Senator Jones to sign off on Fire 255 without a faculty expert's signature, and that the administrators' requests

had been problematic. President Coulson said that the Senate could pull the AP quickly, put it on the agenda, write new language, and send it directly to the Board.


VII. **Bylaws** – Senate Reviewed the new bylaws last week. King/Kreit moved to approve. No objections, approved by unanimous consent.

VIII. **Letter of Resolution on Community Use of Teaching Space.** Kreit/Muller moved to approve the letter. Approved by unanimous consent.

To: President Coon, Vice President Nelson, and Vice President Eldridge

From: Academic Senate, College of Marin

Date: September 29, 2022

Subject: Community Use of Instructional Facilities 

Recent decisions regarding the public's use of the IVC pool during instruction have raised several faculty concerns, including safety, working conditions, enrollment, the prioritization of educational programs in our facilities, and the following of board policies and procedures.

Board Policy 6700 states, "Public use of District property shall not interfere with scheduled instructional programs or other activities." Given this, the Senate urges the District to prioritize the scheduling of educational programs over other activities in existing and planned facilities.

Furthermore, in the spirit of our Mission Statement's value of cultivating "a culture of mutual respect, open communication, [and] collaborative working relationships" the Academic Senate urges the District to communicate and collaborate with faculty in a more timely manner. Our goal is to ensure that no interference with academic and professional matters takes place.

IX. **Wrap Up/Future Business** —

a. **Unit allocation**

X. **Adjournment: 2:00 pm**

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONCERNING ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT
CAITLIN ROLSTON, AS SECRETARY AT CROLSTON@MARIN.EDU
