

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

Minutes

February 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM AC 303

**Senators Present:** Maria Coulson; Rebecca Beal; Gina Cullen; Dave King; Cara Kreit; Kristin Perrone; Caitlin Rolston; Ian Sethre; Kevin Muller; Ron Oxford; Kyle Beattie; Patricia Seery, Alex Jones, Logan Wood

**Senators Absent:** None

**Invited Guests:** Becky Reetz, Jon Horinek, Susan Rahman, Dana Harrison, Nekoda Harris

- I. **Agenda:** Approved (Muller/Beal)
- II. **Minutes:** Edited and approved (Muller/Beal) by all present previous meeting.
- III. **Public Requests:** Maria Coulson, in her capacity a Math faculty, read the following statement:
  - A. *I welcome the opportunity to give feedback to members of the District and I think that in principle this is a positive thing for everyone. However, faculty across the college expressed concern with sharing their names with their feedback. The answer was that identities would not be shared with the supervisor and only themes would be shared. There has been no guarantee that faculty identities would be kept confidential from other managers, administrative assistants or other persons, including the executive team. From my perspective, it seems that the District is sending a clear signal the faculty should not be treated as professionals. Student feedback on courses/faculty is anonymous and we are not allowed to see the feedback until after we've turned in our grades. Although I have not seen this in writing, I have heard that there is a sense, a fear? That faculty will punish students if they receive less than positive feedback. If our course evaluations contain "vicious personal attacks and name-calling" we are told to rise above it and ignore it. Let it go; move on. Which begs the question, should a manager receive such feedback, why aren't they instructed to do the same? And, why is there an assumption that faculty are, by and large, crackpots who will spew personal attacks instead of assumed to be professionals who will take the job seriously and offer constructive feedback. Attaching our names to the feedback puts faculty in a negative double bind – if we say something positive it could be attributed to a friendship or flattery for favors and if we say something negative, we could be seen as unprofessional if the District deems it so. I'm not sure of what to do. It feels like a trap. In both receiving and giving feedback, faculty are assumed to be, by default, vindictive toward students and unprofessional toward managers. This is a false meta-message and I am very disappointed.*
- IV. **Officers Reports:**
  - A. **President (Maria Coulson):** After a discussion with Ron Oxford and Sarah Frye, President Coulson edited the calls for OER and ZTC work and they will be activated again. Of the remaining moneys that the State will provide, which are 400k minus 80k that each College has pledged to the statewide group, COM will pay faculty by stipend. Dean Servais has allotted units as compensation for the OER librarians. The Foundation Board has plenty of funds for scholarships. The application will be open for students from May through Fall, giving Summer Bridge students and incoming students in the Fall an opportunity to apply right away. Many of these scholarships go unawarded, and the foundation will be working with donors and heirs to determine whether COM can broaden the very specific terms of some scholarships based on current students and programs offered.
  - B. **VP: VP Report for 2/6/2025**
    - i **Conferences & Learning Communities**
    - ii [AI in Education Academic Academy](#): February 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in San Diego. (ASCCC)
    - iii [Noncredit Regionals](#): March 1<sup>st</sup> in San Francisco. (ASCCC)
    - iv [A2MEND 18th Annual African American Male Summit](#): March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles. Scholarships available.
    - v [Navigating AI Together: A Community College Unconference](#): March 7<sup>th</sup> at Foothill College (BACCC)
    - vi [Spring Curriculum Regionals](#): March 14<sup>th</sup> at Folsom Lake College. (ASCCC)
    - vii [Part-Time Faculty Institute](#): April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in San Diego (ASCCC)
    - viii [Spring Plenary](#): April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Irvine (ASCCC)

ix **Webinars:**

x Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-10:30am: [Enhancing Diverse Faculty Engagement through Effective Communication](#) (ASCCC)

xi Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm-1:30pm: [Empowering Educators: Navigating AI in the Community College Classroom](#) (ASCCC)

xii **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm-7:00pm: [Introduced Bill Overview](#) (ASCCC)**

xiii **Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm-1:30pm: [Teaching and Learning with AI Bots](#) (ASCCC)**

V. **Invited Guests:** Becky Reetz, Jon Horinek, and Susan Rahman attended to explain their work on a continuation grant for Rising Scholars. 50-60 students are currently involved in this program that provides emotional support, a club and community, mentorship opportunities, and grants. The Senate approved their work and application for the grant enthusiastically.

VI. **Committees Reports:**

A. Curriculum (Gina Cullen): CC met last week and approved some Math changes, including extra units and a companion course. CC also approved ADTs in Biology and Sociology.

VII. **AP7212: Temporary Employees // Invited guests: Dana Emerson and Nekoda Harris.**

- A. There is a new paragraph in the AP about a pathway to fast track finalists for FT job into PT pool. Senators expressed support for the spirit of this effort but concerns about wording and potential loopholes, as well as opposition to the idea of the President appointing faculty to the temp pools, which is not currently the practice.
- B. Senators suggested that the department should be involved.
- C. Senators also asked if the evaluations of the screening committee were confidential, and at what point in the process this would happen? VP Harris said that the application would be updated, and Senators said that feedback from the screening committee regarding temp pool appointments should be sought after final teaching demos.
- D. VP Harris and VP Emerson will continue to work on the AP.

VIII. **AP/BPs:**

- A. **4250 Probation:** In September 2021, the Senate approved a motion to replace the term **Probation** with **Restoration**. Maria will go through the AP and make changes.
- B. **4100 Graduation Requirements:** There is still an issue with wording (semester or term). Deferred.

IX. **Adjourned 1:58.**

For more information about College of Marin Academic Senate Minutes, please contact Caitlin Rolston, Academic Senate Secretary, at [CRolston@marin.edu](mailto:CRolston@marin.edu) or 628-234-7695