

**Minutes – Miramar College Academic Senate**  
3:30-5:00pm      **Mar 05, 2019**      Location: L-309

**Senators Present:** Marie McMahon, Alex Mata, Josh Alley, Alex Sanchez, Lisa Clarke, Kandice Brandt, Barbara Clark, Mark Dinger, Kevin Gallagher, David Halttunen, Darrel Harrison, Mary Hart, Patricia Hunter, Shawn Hurley, Dan Igou, Mary Kjartanson, April Koch, Ryan Moore, Wheeler North, Jordan Omens, Nam Sinkaset, Melissa Wolfson, Valerie Chau, George Kallas, Melissa Martinez, Kyleb Wild

**Absent:** Laura Murphy, Sabrina Menchaca (proxy: L. Clarke), Adrian Arancibia, Gina Bochicchio, Otto Dobre, Rich Halliday (proxy: D. Igou), Andrew Lowe, Pablo Martin (proxy: D. Igou), Patty Parker (proxy: L. Clarke), Kevin Petti, Jerry Benson (proxy: A. Mata), Gabriela Mansfield (proxy: S. Tamrakar)

**Other Attendees:** Adrian Gonzales, Duane Short, Juan Rivera, Sama Tamrakar, Juli Bartolomei

Meeting called to order at 3:35pm.

**A. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes**

The agenda was unanimously approved unchanged. (Sanchez/Koch)

The previous two sets of minutes were approved unchanged, with one abstention. (Sanchez/Koch)

**B. Old Business**

i. Additional Options for Academic Senate Actions to Safeguard the Integrity of Our Institution – M. McMahon

- Review to clarify what happened at the previous AS meeting. These are the options that are available to the Academic Senate. These are contingency plans, depending on the anticipated resolution offered by the Chancellor by the end of March. The Academic Senate is taking the commitment made with CIA very seriously and is only listing these steps as *possibilities* for future steps after resolution is presented. Complaints would be made to get positive resolution.

- As highlighted previously, there are some possible AS options:

- 1) File our complaints with other agencies than the College, such as at the District level and to Accreditation bodies.
- 2) Take our 10+1 business and issues directly to the Board of Trustees.
- 3) Vote of No Confidence in the Miramar College President.
- 4) Vote of No Confidence in the Miramar College Vice President of Instruction.
- 5) Go to the media with our concerns.

- Suggestion made to “get ducks in a row” in advance so we are ready for Vote of No Confidence, should it become necessary. Senators indicated a need to take this back to departments and discuss all options with their colleagues. McMahon can provide summary options of a contingency plan for senators to take back to their departments and for other relevant committees to discuss at their meetings.

ii. Governance Review Steering Committees – L. Murphy and M. McMahon

- At the last AS meeting, two Governance Review steering committees were approved. McMahon, Murphy, North, Harrison and Kjartanson represent faculty on the Participatory Governance and Operation Committee, as they are the faculty currently serving on the College Governance Committee. The Academic and Professional Matters Committee has eight faculty positions; currently, four more faculty are needed, in addition to McMahon, Murphy, North and Chau. McMahon encourages faculty representation from CTE, Math, LA, etc.
- Senators should take this back to departments and ask for volunteers to serve on these committees. McMahon will send out calendar of meeting dates and times. McMahon will also send out PowerPoints for more information.

**C. New Business**

i. Learning Technology Instrument (LTI) Accessibility Issue – D. Igou

- Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) is a standard created by the IMS Global Learning Consortium that links content and resources to learning platforms. Its primary purpose is to connect learning systems, such as a learning management system (LMS) with external service tools, in a standard way across learning systems. Current state of LTIs as they relate to our transition to Canvas: all LTI must be approved for accessibility based on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance/regulations. Faculty were under the impression that by using the big vendors/publishers for online learning tools (think mind tap, for example), they were meeting ADA requirements. However, in the last couple of weeks, Igou and his colleagues have been receiving emails from Kats Gustafson announcing that all LTI will be suspended until the District can verify them as meeting the necessary requirements. When Igou and his colleagues asked for more details, as their courses will be greatly impacted by this change, Gustafson said that the District is creating a form that faculty must submit to get their publisher tools/materials approved. These tools/materials will not be uploaded until they are approved by the District. Someone at the District will review all of these tools for approval. Everything related to that LTI will have to be approved, from e-books to test banks. Faculty continue to ask for clarification, as these materials will be necessary for instruction. No answers are being given and no clarification or guidance is being shared. Faculty are being told to “be patient.” As of now, nothing is approved to be used on Blackboard or Canvas.

- This is an Academic and Professional matter; therefore, there needs to be a process in place and the AS President should get involved. There must be a due mechanism established by the District to allow for a fair and equitable way for issues to be handled.
  - We do not know what Mesa and City are doing. McMahon will look into this to give more guidance.
  - Section 508 is what we must follow for accessibility.
  - The question was asked: Will Canvas be postponed while this is being sorted out? The answer so far has been “no.”
  - There is a concern for those being evaluated in the fall: Should their course not be approved in time, will this impact their evaluation? For those teaching in the summer, how will this impact them? There has not been an answer provided. McMahon will contact Gustafson for clarification and assistance regarding this issue.
- ii. Response to ‘General Education Taskforce’ re: Title 5 Am. Institutions Requirement (**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**) – D. Igou
- The General Education Taskforce is proposing that American Institutions credit requirements be reduced from six to three units. The CSUs have not seen it yet, nor has it been formalized, but it has been published. This could be in response to trying to streamline and get students out more quickly.
  - Clarke pointed out that the requirement dropped to one class in the past and then returned to two.
  - Igou is asking that the Senate sign on to a letter being sent to the legislature opposing recommendation and keeping the requirement at six units.
  - This is a cross-district effort and Igou hopes to get the letter to the legislature and CSUs as soon as possible, before they consider the proposal.
  - Motion to suspend the rules to vote on supporting this letter today passes unanimously. (North/Chau)
  - Motion for the Miramar College AS to support this letter passes unanimously. (Igou/North)
- iii. “Open Dialogue” Sessions at Miramar College – M. McMahon
- Last semester, concern about these meetings was expressed from the AS President to President Hsieh and the Chancellor. Both Hsieh and Chancellor Carroll indicated last semester that Hsieh has a right to “free speech.” McMahon stated that this was never in question, as we all agreed that free speech is highly valued by all of us.
  - The primary concern is that President Hsieh continues to fail in her fiduciary duty to engage collegially with the Academic Senate in Academic and Professional matters. As such, we have not been able to schedule even one meeting with her in Spring 2019, and yet she continues to conduct these sessions as if this is a means of addressing Senate issues. Since Fall 2018, there’s been an increase in the scheduling of “Open Dialogue Sessions,” coupled with a complete shutdown of the lawful engagement with the AS. McMahon noted that it is important to realize that these public meetings are not a substitute for genuine collegial consultation.
  - A senator asked why there was still no meeting schedule for this semester with the College President. McMahon indicated that, despite 15 or so emails back and forth, the dates and times could not be resolved and confirmed. This was curious, compared to the ease with which the schedule was set for 6 or so “dialogues” for the spring by Hsieh.
  - McMahon summarized the greatest concerns with the “open dialogue sessions”: Meetings are public with almost all administrators present – far from an ideal forum to ask faculty to share instances in which administrators are conducting unethical or retaliatory acts. There is still a fear of retaliation and retribution, making these meetings unproductive for positive movement towards collegiality on campus. Hsieh talked for over 82% of the meeting (Oct ‘18); this is not “listening to faculty concerns.” Hsieh’s answers are rambling and incoherent, hardly informative, nor do they address any specific concerns. Hsieh indicated she only had generic information and was not aware of any details of the concerns from the AS. However, Hsieh had already been furnished with very specific details (including breaches in policies, Title 5, conduct, practices, etc.); therefore, she is being untruthful in these meetings.
  - Furthermore, in the first meeting in Spring 2018, McMahon and Murphy were refused participation; thus, it is not truly an open dialogue that allows participation for all. Neither is it informative; the routine evasion of disclosure of information prevents any meaningful engagement. Finally, the summaries sent out by Hsieh are completely out of touch with what occurred in those meetings. Despite our (AS) main objection that the first priority should be to engage the AS effectively and to address the significant problems we have already identified and presented, in response, Hsieh has continued to disingenuously ask for more input in this unprotected environment.
  - McMahon emphasizes that she is not discouraging any faculty from attending; this is to outline why AS leadership is not attending. McMahon asks for guidance on how to proceed. Would an official statement be advised?
  - An official statement recommended by AS Exec was presented; senators are encouraged to bring it back to their departments. This statement is an effort to share the reasons for AS leadership not attending, so as to not leave the impression that the AS leadership or others are not attending because there are no problems on campus, but because these dialogues are not effective in allowing faculty to share openly or attempt to solve these problems.
  - Suggestions for revisions were shared. McMahon will send statement out to all senators with a deadline and then send out as an official statement from the AS. North suggests that AS Exec give guidance on final statement before sending out.

- iv. Faculty and Classified Get-together in the Spring? – M. McMahon
  - In lieu of the BBQ, recommendation made to get together off-campus with classified staff near the end of spring.

#### D. Committee Reports, Senate Updates and Information

- i. NextUp Program – B. Litoff and M. Demcho
  - Four programs in the areas to serve student populations: EOP, CARE, NextUp, CalWORKs. The over-arching goal of these programs is retention, completion and transfer. EOPS has been around for 50 years and was born out of the Civic Rights movement. Students are provided with “wrap-around services,” helping them from the driveway to the podium.
  - Asking that faculty help share the NextUp Program with their students. If you know that a student is current or former foster youth, help point them in the direction of this program. Folders were passed out with resources. Please send any students that might qualify for these services to EOPS.
  - Senators, please share with your departments.
- ii. Requirements for Multiple Degrees – D. Short
  - Curriculum Committee is a direct subcommittee of the Academic Senate and has been delegated with decision making.
  - When a student wants to earn more than one degree, a student must have 18 unique units housed within the major of that second degree (78 total units). In the region, we are the only college with that strict of a policy on it. The District has asked the committee to consider this and to provide feedback. Committee agrees that, for the ADT degree, even if the ADT degree overlaps with the second degree, the ADT should be awarded. Second question is how much overlap should be allowed for multiple degrees. Committee discussed new criteria; no one on the committee believes that there should be more than 12 unique units required and at least one person believes 0 unique units should be required. Title 5 requires 18 units within major; we interpret that as 18 *unique* units. Discussion ensued.
  - Discussion will occur at Curriculum Committee. Please share thoughts with Short via email or attend a Curriculum Committee meeting. Curriculum will bring any decisions back to Academic Senate.
- iii. Proposed Additions to Courses Clearing Math Competency District Requirement – D. Short
  - Tabled until next meeting.
- iv. Support for ASG and Student Issues – A. Bermodes and M. McMahon
  - Bermodes would like to share two letters with senators regarding the ASG election process and concern for the state of advisement for students participating in ASG. McMahon will forward letters via email.
- v. Guided Pathways Update – M. McMahon and L. Murphy
  - a) Agreement to Develop Faculty Coordinator and Faculty Leads for Design Teams with Pay
    - 2/22 IEPI Workshop Team of 16 from Miramar.
    - 2/25 GPSC Meeting: Re-introduction of GP Plan.
    - Reassign time for faculty coordinator leads.
    - Creation of design teams, review of committee structure/function. Contact McMahon if you would like to join committee or for information about these positions.
  - b) District-wide GP Discussions and Future Meetings with Credit and CE SDCCD Institutions
    - Report of progress from all three District colleges.
    - Necessity for common language and definitions.
    - Intro discussion about looping in Continuing Ed. to all GPs.
  - c) AFT Guided Pathways Meetings and Efforts
    - Brought up concerns for workload, particularly for Classified.
- vi. Website Survey Update – M. McMahon
  - Questions were converted to SurveyMonkey by Research Office.
  - Want to send out professional and quality work.
  - McMahon will send senators final version.
- vii. AS Travel Budget and Upcoming Events – M. McMahon
  - Professional Development money can be used. Faculty are encouraged to apply for PD funds for these events.

#### E. Senate Reports

- i. Adjunct – S. Menchaca had no report.
- ii. Treasurer – J. Alley reported a balance of \$1,545.27.
- iii. President’s Report – M. McMahon had no report.
- iv. President-Elect – L. Murphy had no report.

#### F. Announcements

- i. Academic Senate Scholarship Application Evaluation Committee: Two volunteers needed to help evaluate submissions. (Clark and Omens volunteered.)
- ii. Upcoming District-wide Academic Senate retreat.

iii. Presentation to Board of Trustees on shared governance on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm. The next meeting will be on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please submit agenda items to both Marie McMahon and Juli Bartolomei.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex Mata and Juli Bartolomei