



Career Education (CE) Committee

Tuesday March 4, 2025

HSS 261 and Zoom

1:00PM – 2:15pm

In person: Rebecca Agonafir, Ruth Casillas, Amanda Garcia, Jenna Gausman, Jeff Gordon, Jazmin Guzman, David Hall, Jenny Landa, Kelly Ledwith, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lisa Lewenberg, Jacqueline Monge, Dana Nasser, Debbie Perret, Perviz Sawoski, Steven Sedky, Redelia Shaw, Josh Withers.

Zoom: A.J. Adelman, Leigh Allen, Sheila Cordova, Drew Davis, Gillian Grebler, Sharyn Obsatz, Salvador Santana, Redelia Shaw.

Call to Order: 1:11 pm quorum

Public Comments and Announcements:

The committee received some great news from Jeff Gordon regarding the IxD program. The application cycle has closed, and there was a 25% increase in applicants, rising from 60 to 75 compared to the previous year. This increase is the result of a collaborative effort between marketing and various platforms to attract more applicants.

Approval of Minutes: October 29th, 2024 & November 12th, 2024

Dana Nasser motioned to approve, Maria Leon-Vazquez second. All were in favor, no abstentions, no oppositions.

Reports:

Chair: Debbie Perret

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky

Information and Discussion Items

a. [Perkins & SWP Application Review - Ruth Casillas](#)

We received approximately nineteen (19) applications, totaling \$1.8 million in funding requests. The Chancellor's Office has not yet informed us of the allocation amount we'll be receiving but we hope to know by April. Our cumulative application is due to the Chancellor's Office by the end of May. The presentations are scheduled two weeks from now, and each presentation will be 10–15 minutes, including five (5) minutes for Q&A. The presentations will take place over two days, and there will be a deliberation meeting if we need to reduce the amount of being requested.



b. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) – Ruth Casillas

Sometime in the fall we sent out notice we were able to procure an institutional membership to the Chronicle of Higher Education. The notice included information on how to set up your login information. We have been working with SMC's Library where they have set up a quick link to the new journal without having to set up a login.

- Go to www.smc.edu
- In the search bar type "library"
- Click on database. Look under "C" for "Chronicle"
- Click on "Chronicle" and you do not have to log in.
- These steps will lead you to <https://www.chronicle.com/institution/santa-monica-college>

c. [Community College Baccalaureate Association](#) - Estela Narrie

This will be discussed at the next meeting

d. *CE Data Walk Reflections* - Steven Sedky

The discussion highlights several challenges faced by students and staff in navigating college programs, particularly regarding financial aid, career pathways, and program requirements. Key points include:

1. **Financial Aid Issues:** Many students mistakenly select "non-degree seeking" on their applications, disqualifying them from federal financial aid. This is often not caught until later, causing unnecessary complications and delays. It's suggested that students should be informed upfront to select "degree-seeking" to avoid these issues.
2. **Certificate and Degree Pathways:** There is confusion around the process of earning certificates and degrees, especially with regards to petitioning and meeting financial aid requirements. Many students are not aware of how to pursue certificates or the value of these credentials in the job market. Additionally, students often miss the petition deadlines for their certificates and don't receive enough guidance on this.
3. **Program Awareness:** There is a lack of awareness about career options and opportunities within certain programs, especially among students working multiple jobs to support their education. The conversation suggests that providing clearer career guidance and better communication about available opportunities would help.
4. **Barriers in Communication:** There is a concern that students aren't receiving important information about their programs and career paths. Committee members suggest using platforms like Career Coach, incorporating guest speakers, and improving outreach efforts to better engage students in their educational journey.



5. **Workforce Development:** Some students work full-time jobs in low-wage sectors while pursuing their degrees, but others, like those in skilled trades, can gain more meaningful employment. There's a push to better integrate certificate programs that can help students develop employable skills while pursuing a degree.
6. **Suggestions for Improvement:** The group discuss using visual tools like flowcharts to better explain course sequences and degree paths, and enhancing collaboration between counselors, the Admissions Office, and faculty to improve the student experience. The potential for auto-awarding certificates and simplifying administrative processes is also raised.

Overall, the discussion focused on improving communication, simplifying administrative processes, and providing more targeted career guidance to help students navigate their college experience and enter the workforce more successfully.

Adjournment: 2:20 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 18, 2025, Location: HSS 261 & Zoom www.smc.edu/senate