



Career Education (CE) Committee

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Loft - Drescher Hall and Zoom

1:00 - 2:15pm

In person: Javier Cambron, Ruth Casillas, Sheila Cordova, Gary Huff, Laurel Joe, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Dana Nasser, Debbie Perret, Steven Sedky.

Zoom: Tracy Beidleman, Kevin Benitez, Mario Franco, Amanda Garcia, Gillian Grebler, David Hall, Jo Hao, Jose Hernandez, Jenny Landa, Lisa Lewenberg, Ming Lu, Samantha Manuel, Esmeralda Martinez, Sharyn Obsatz, Cindy Ordaz, Howard Stahl, Josh Withers.

Call to Order: 1:01pm

Public Comments and Announcements:

The Architecture program participated in Design by Diversity Day, an architecture fair hosted by the Architecture Community of Los Angeles (ACLA), drawing over 300 students - primarily high schoolers, with a notable turnout of elementary students as well. The event featured approximately 60 vendors including architecture firms, organizations, and universities, with strong SMC student volunteer participation. The program noted interest in leveraging the event as a recruitment opportunity and exploring the possibility of hosting their own outreach event for elementary and middle school students in the future.

Reports:

Chair: Debbie Perret

Debbie opened by mentioning the next meeting will be our last regular CE meeting of the year, with the following gathering being the annual retreat, which we will discuss later today.

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky

Steven expressed appreciation to all faculty for their time and effort contributed to the grant application process and for their work envisioning future directions to better support students and programs. Special recognition was given to Ruth for her leadership on the Perkins application, Jenny for her extensive behind-the-scenes contributions, Mario, Maria, and the broader Workforce team highlighted as a strong asset to the college.

Approval of Minutes April 7, 2026

Maria Leon-Vazquez motioned to approve the April 7, 2026 minutes. Dana Nasser second. All were in favor, and there were no abstentions, and no oppositions.



Action Items and Voting:

[Perkins & Strong Workforce 2026-27](#), Ruth Casillas

Ruth opened by acknowledging Teacher Appreciation Week and thanking faculty for their efforts, noting that Perkins funding is a direct result of their program leadership and student-centered focus. Ruth reported positive news regarding the upcoming funding cycle where we originally estimated an allocation of \$1,000,000 and was revised to \$1,102,368.

After applying the standard 5% indirect cost, the previously reported \$140,000 over-budget figure was reduced to about \$40,000. Through behind-the-scenes conversations involving Lottery funds, Academic Affairs, CMD Budget, and IT, the remaining funding gap was further reduced to \$5,920. Ruth proposed covering the remaining shortfall by reducing conference requests or stipends set aside under the new program development bucket, allowing nearly all requested items to be submitted to the Chancellor's Office through the grant proposal.

Dana Nasser motioned to approve the Perkins and Strong Workforce budget as presented for 2026/27 fiscal year, Gary Huff second. All were in favor, and there were no abstentions, and no oppositions.

Information and Discussion Items

[Accounting & Diversity Conference](#), Ming Lu

Now in its 9th year, the Accounting Diversity Conference brought together students for a full-day event aimed at increasing interest and representation in the accounting field. This year's keynote speaker was Corey Ramsey, former chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, who shared his journey from humble beginnings to leading the national organization. The day also featured two panels, one with early-career accounting professionals, including several former SMC students, and an executive panel with managers, partners, and directors, along with workshops hosted by Robert Half on job placement resources and an author presenting a personal finance book geared toward young people on building wealth. A picture slide was shared to highlight the day's events.

Cosmetology Event, [IG Link](#), Samantha Manuel

The Cosmetology department held its first-ever Beauty Industry Business Engagement event with great success, drawing 111 students and 24 industry vendors and professionals representing a range of businesses including barbers, nail salons, hair spas, and waxing services. Students engaged directly with salon owners and hiring managers, with one business, operated by a former SMC student, collecting 23 student names for potential employment. A highlight of the event was a "passport" activity requiring students to engage with at least six different professionals to earn stamps and raffle entries, encouraging meaningful networking. Plans for a future event are already underway, with ideas to expand the venue, incorporate digital resume



books, structured Q&A panels, and interactive demonstrations.

[Real Estate Program](#), Dana Nasser

A new Real Estate Certificate program, effective Fall 2025, is now available to students and consists of 9 units covering Real Estate Principles, Real Estate Practice, and either Business Law or Real Estate Finance. The certificate is designed to prepare students for the real estate licensing exam or entry-level positions in the field. Two additional certificates in Affordable Housing and Property Management are also being offered, with a Nonprofit Management certificate currently pending approval. All courses are available in a single semester, including summer offerings. To launch the program, a Real Estate Summit is being held this Friday from 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM at the Center for Media and Design, giving students the opportunity to network with industry professionals. Marketing efforts include web presence at smc.edu/realestate, flyers, and outreach through existing business classes. Special recognition was given to Jonathan Macias for his curriculum development work on the program.

CCCAOE Share Out, Laurel Joe and Amanda Garcia

Laurel and Amanda shared takeaways from the spring CCCAOE Statewide CTE Conference in Sacramento, where the central theme was Collaborating for Success: CTE Partnerships Driving a Future-Ready Workforce. Key highlights included the growing expectation for higher education to provide clear career pathways and job placement, the importance of deep and frequent employer engagement, and the value of short-term and noncredit programs for faster skills acquisition. Amanda highlighted a well-received session on AI tools for job searching and emphasized the value of networking with peer institutions, strongly recommending continued attendance while funding allows.

Third Baccalaureate Degree Discussion, Steven Sedky

Steven provided an update on SMC's existing bachelor's degrees, mentioning the Interaction Design (IxD) program is approaching its 10-year anniversary with strong enrollment, and the newly announced Cloud Computing program will begin accepting applications in Fall 2026 with junior-level classes launching Fall 2027. The committee then opened discussion on a potential third bachelor's degree in building performance and Sustainable Design, proposed by the Architecture program. Sheila Cordova (Department Chair, Design Technology) outlined the program's rationale, stating architecture licensure in California requires 8 years of combined education and internship, and that access to affordable, accredited architecture programs in Southern California is extremely limited with most private options costing students upwards of \$300,000. The proposed 4-year degree would pair architecture, interior, and environmental studies, and could qualify graduates to pursue licensure while also opening pathways into sustainability and building performance careers. The committee discussed cohort size, labor market demand, scalability, and the need for institutional support in project management,



counseling, and career services. It was proposed that a formal recommendation and vote be brought to the next meeting, with the goal of submitting an application by January 2027 following the same approval process used for IxD and Cloud Computing.

CE Retreat, Tuesday, June 2, 2026

The CE Retreat meeting will be from 1 – 3pm in person at CMD 272.

Adjournment: 2:14pm

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 1:00 – 2:15pm Location: Loft - Drescher Hall
or Zoom: edu.zoom.us/j/3104348716 www.smc.edu/senate