

Santa Monica College

Academic Senate

Department Chairs and Coordinators Meeting

December 4, 2015 – Minutes

Attendance:

Ronn Davis, Sal Veas, Maria Munoz, Fariba Bolandhemat, John Rogers, Laurie Guglielmo, Chris Fria, Vicki Drake, Jason Beardsley, Melody Nightingale, Suzanne Borghei, Elaine Roque, Brenda Antrim, Mary Colavito, Mitra Moassessi, Toni Trives, Yulia Kozlova, Ford Lowcock, Jamey Anderson, Alex Schwartz, Christine Schultz, Perviz Sawoski, Nathalie Laille, Sandra Rowe, Lucy Kluckhohn Jones, Colleen Mc Graw, Eric Oifer, Fran Chandler

1. Public Comments: Charles Potts from Santa Monica Foundation talked about the Holiday “Book Fund” campaign and asked department chairs to consider donating money to this campaign. He mentioned that the foundation has already raised \$4000 and the goal is to raise \$50,000.
2. Announcement: Sal Veas made an announcement about a “Rock Music and Financial Literacy” presentation at SMC, an event organized by SMC Business Department. The Gooding band will perform on Thursday, March 3rd from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on the main stage. SMC is the first community college in California to host this event. Sal asked that chairs tell their departments about this event and, if it fits within grading guidelines and objectives, encourage faculty to give extra credit for students who attend the event.
3. Grit- Center for Teaching Excellence Engagement Tool Kit- Eric Oifer & Edna Chavarry
GRIT and The Center for Teaching Excellence are planning to create a toolkit for authentic engagement by collecting examples of activities and assignments SMC faculty members are using to effectively engage their students. The plan is to put these examples together in the form of a toolkit that any faculty member will be able to access and use to develop their own class activities and assignments. Eric will send an email to the chairs with the link to the survey to be sent to the faculty in their departments.

Edna talked about the Reading Apprenticeship. The application to attend this program is due December 9th. The session runs from February 16 to March 25th.

4. Global Citizenship Initiative- Research Symposium- Delphine Broccard
This research symposium is part of the global citizenship initiative. All SMC students are invited to submit their work. This year’s theme is “Gender Equity, Is Equity Enough.” This year’s symposium will be in May. Faculty can encourage their students to submit their work, which can be a research project, an essay, or a speech. Students can receive up to \$500 if their work gets selected.
5. Approval of Minutes for December
Motion to approve: Brenda Antrim, second: Elaine Roque – passed unanimously.
6. Follow up on November Meeting: Chris Bonvenuto has been invited to the March meeting to answer questions about MyTime.

7. Academic Senate Report:

- Fran talked about the process she used to select members of full-time faculty ranking committee. She explained that there is no restriction on the process of appointing faculty to this committee and in her appointment she was looking for diversity (ethnic, gender and racial) as well as representatives from many departments. In addition, Senate leaders with specific roles such as the Chair of Chairs and the Curriculum Committee chair were included. Christine Schultz commented that in the previous years more members of the committee had some institutional role on the campus.
Questions and concerns about the faculty hiring process:
- Concern was raised about department chairs not being able to correct misinformation that may be presented to the ranking committee. Mitra explained that the issue of department chairs being allowed to make comments during the ranking committee meeting was discussed at the first meeting of the ranking committee but there was not enough support for giving the chairs that opportunity.
- The following motion was presented by Vicki Drake and seconded by Fariba Bolandhemat:
- Whereas, past practice has shown that insufficient information might have been provided at the full time faculty ranking committee meetings;
Therefore, department chairs are requesting to have the ability to clarify and or answer any question raised by the ranking committee members, and furthermore department chairs are requesting that the ranking committee establish an approximate timeline for discussing each department's request.
The motion passed with two No votes.
Fran will discuss this motion with Georgia Lorenz.
- Senate party will be next week. Fran has invited the Board of Trustees.

8. College Report: Georgia Lorenz & Jenny Merlic

- At the last board meeting, the Corsair newspaper was recognized for winning multiple awards including four awards won at the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Austin, TX.
The SMC Football Team was recognized for an undefeated season and for being the only community college in the state to have an undefeated season.
SMC's Chemistry Club has been recognized nationally by the American Chemical Society's Society Committee on Education. They will travel to San Diego in March to receive this award.
SMC has been selected as to participate in the Community College Pathway to Law School Partners.
- The Equity Summit will take place on January 29th.
- Eric Oifer and Yvonne Ortega will start three-year terms as ombudspersons. Lucy Kluckhohn Jones will stay in this position as well.
- There will be no drop for non-payment for the winter intersession.
- The Chancellor's Office handbook for the BA degree is expected to be approved by the Board of Governors at their March meeting.
- The deadline for applying for the SMC's BA degree is January 15th. All but one of the courses for the BA degree has been through the curriculum committee.
- The district is planning to eliminate cross listing classes. Each class will be listed under its main discipline.

Submitted by: Mitra Moassessi