**Santa Monica College** Professional Ethics & Responsibilities Committee

# Meeting Agenda

**Date & Time**: 09/18/24 2:00-3:00

**Location**: HSS 261

In attendance: Brian Rajski, Valerie Narey, Ian Colmer, Luz Badillo, Lula Livanis.

## Call to Order

1. **Public Comments:** No public comments.
2. **Information Items**
3. Review of recent and future PERC activities: The chair quickly reviewed PERC’s recent history, especially its being on hiatus while he was on sabbatical the previous fall. Everyone was a continuing member of PERC, so this history was quickly handled.
4. Update on need for statement on academic freedom: The chair reviewed PERC’s tentative efforts to create a statement on academic freedom in recent years. He reaffirmed the eventual need to create one, but perhaps with greater input or assistance from other groups and constituencies on campus. He explained that one possible senate goal for the year would be encouraging debate about academic freedom, but that PERC could accomplish that through its newsletter and other means rather than rush to complete a statement on academic freedom.
5. **Action Items**
6. Proposal to work with the Equity Committee to complete an equity-focused revision of the Model Syllabus: The chair asked the committee to agree to work with the Equity Committee to create an equity-focused revision of the Model Syllabus. He explained the history of the document and the committee’s earlier, tentative, efforts to make the syllabus more equitable, but also how much more could be accomplished. He proposed that a few members of PERC would work with a few members of the Equity Committee to make the document, which would still need to be fully approved by PERC and eventually the entire senate. The committee agreed to the proposal while noting that it would always have the chance to have the final vote on approval of the document.
7. Selection of the topic for the Fall 2024 *SMC Ethics* newsletter: Because of the pressure to create a statement on academic freedom and its possible inclusion as a senate goal for the year, the chair argued the Fall 2024 newsletter should be about academic freedom. He explained how the committee’s earlier attempt at a statement on academic freedom could easily be used to draft this newsletter. The newsletter would be framed as first emphasizing the need for a strong defense of academic freedom in our current political climate, but that such academic freedom should always keep the goal of student success in mind as that freedom is being exercised. The committee agreed to the topic and the chair agreed to write the first draft, which then others would comment on through Google Docs.

**For all documents, visit:** <https://admin.smc.edu/administration/governance/academic-senate/committees/professional-ethics-responsibilities.php>