

Student Affairs Committee
Minutes Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Attendees: Alexandra Tower - Chair, Laurie Guglielmo, Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones, Alicia Villalpando, Betty Wong, Esau Tovar - Vice Chair, Karen Legg, Gail Fukuhara, Denise Kinsella, Benny Blaydes, Deyna Hearn, Nathalie Laille, Steve Maldonado (Student Rep), Nancy Grass, Mike Tuitasi.

Excused/Absent: Kymia Mahjouri (Student Rep).

1. Call to order 1:00 pm

2. Public Comments

- a. Several students currently serving in student government came to the meeting to request the Committee re-exam the minimum requirements for various student government positions at Santa Monica College and make these consistent with Ed Code. The students requested the Committee lower the amount of units our students are required to be enrolled in while serving in student government, which are currently outlined in AR 4420 Enrollment and Scholarship Standards for Participation in Santa Monica College Student Government. The students suggested that the current unit requirements are an obstacle for creating a student government that is truly representative of our diverse student body. The students want the Committee to consider the impact an 8 unit requirement has on various special groups such as STEM and disabled students.
- b. Alex mentioned that questions were raised on how the Student Affairs Committee passes through ARs to the Senate if formal votes are not recorded. Esau mentioned the Committee has a history of voting by consensus. The Committee has not formally adopted a parliamentary procedure method. However, the Committee does and has taken formal votes.

3. Motion to approve minutes from November 4, 2014 by Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones, 2nd by Alicia Villalpando. The Committee voted 9 yes - 0 no - 0 abstain, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion to approve minutes from November 25, 2015 by Laurie Guglielmo, 2nd by Alicia Villalpando. The Committee voted 7 yes - 0 no - 2 abstain (Karen Legg and Denise Kinsella), to approve the minutes with a few amendments.

4. Old Business

- a. AR 4342 Standards of Student Success - Probation and Disqualification, AR 4111.7: Enrollment Overlap - Courses with Meeting Time Conflicts, AR 4440 Extracurricular Trips, AR 4331: Academic Renewal, AR 4210 F-1 International Students' Visas, and AR 4210.1 Other Temporary Nonimmigrant Statuses all passed the 2nd read in the full Academic Senate.
- b. AR 4111.5 Transfers from Other Colleges, was completely reworked to address questions that were raised in Academic Senate. Motion to approve the AR as amended in the meeting by Denise Kinsella, 2nd by Karen Legg. The Committee voted 9 yes - 0 no - 0 abstain, to approve the AR as amended in the meeting.

5. New Business

- a. AR 4420 Enrollment and Scholarship Standards for Participation in SMC Student Government –
 - i. Alex Tower asked the Committee if there were any objections to taking comments from the students during the Committee's discussion. There were no objections.
 - ii. Student Johnathan Eady reiterated that he felt reducing the unit requirement would increase access to student government opportunities for our diverse student body. He feels the current 8 unit requirement excludes part-time students, working students, and disabled students.

- iii. Nathalie mentioned that the Disabled Students Center is charged with providing students reasonable accommodations. Assessing the tasks a student can perform is done on a case by case basis. The most important thing is to understand what the student's goals and priorities are as students.
- iv. Mike Tuitasi mentioned that there are unit minimum requirements for several groups on campus such as EOPS (9 units), student athletes (12 units) and President Ambassadors (12 units), although the amount of time these groups are required to participate in extracurricular events vary.
- v. Benny Blades mentioned that the requirements for student government members across various California Community Colleges vary between 5 and 12 minimum units enrolled in while serving.
- vi. The students want the Committee to consider whether:
 - 1. Special consideration for lower unit requirements could be given to special groups to encourage more diversity (ie. STEM, disabled students).
 - 2. Some of the student government members' work could count toward unit requirements.
 - 3. The student government members could be given priority registration, to help them find the best classes to accommodate their unit requirements.
- vii. Benny Blades mentioned that the student government members used to have a 5 hour a week commitment, but over the years they have self-imposed greater required hours on themselves.
- viii. Deyna Hearn mentioned that the students are also asked to serve on various college committees.
- ix. The Committee asked the students to look at their own Constitution that requires the students commit 15 hours a week to serve in student government, and consider decreasing this requirement.
- x. If students need to drop a class for any reason during the fall or spring semesters that would put them below the required units to keep their positions, Esau noted that the Committee could examine the possibility of the students "making up" the missing units in the winter and summer sessions.
- xi. A subcommittee was formed to review this AR in the spring. The members of the subcommittee are: Benny Blaydes, Deyna Hearn, Steve Maldonado (Student Rep) and either Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones or Denise Kinsella.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Ann Marie Leahy