

# Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

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## Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
**Location:** Zoom Session  
**Chairs:** Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)  
**Attendees:** Donna Davis-King, Matt Musselman, Mike Tuitasi, Alicia Villalpando, Melissa De La Cruz  
Student Rep, Hope Ullman Student Rep  
**Guests:** Benny Blades, Isaac Rodriguez, Tafari Alan  
**Excused/Absent:** Pressian Nicolov, Redelia Shaw, James Thing

### I. Call to Order: 12:02 PM

### II. Public Comments: None

### III. Approval of Minutes: October 28, 2020

*Motion to approve Minutes as is, Alicia moved, Esau seconded, (7) Yes at 12:14 PM.*

### IV. Updates and Old Business:

- a. AR #5030 Fees
  - i. Bea asked Mike about an update on Student ID Card fees. Mike responded there has been a task group meeting for the past few months with Associated Student Leaders and Administrators. The ID card fee will no longer be charged and there will be a survey going out to all students with three options: 1.) AS activity fee – primarily related to student government resources; 2.) Activities with transportation – shuttle, and live safe; or 3.) Grouping them together as one fee and allow students to opt out.
  - ii. Esau further clarified there is nothing new to fund, merely just a suggestion on the breakdown. What would students most likely support as the name of fee, and what would they opt in to pay.
- b. AR 5570 Credit Card Marketing
  - i. Bea attended the Academic Senate meeting, however the AR was not presented due to lack of time even though it was on the Agenda. Bea will present it at the next meeting.
- c. AR 5430 Formation of St Clubs
  - i. Bea sent out this AR to all academic advisors for the three honor societies, but she has not yet received a response from any of them.

- ii. Isaac has created a survey for all faculty and managers; asking who would like to volunteer as advisors for clubs in the future. Bea will present to Exec for feedback.
- iii. The AR's on student life were presented to the Board of Directors for student life. The regulation states faculty members can only serve on two clubs. The Board of Directors suggested those faculty members who serve on three clubs, currently, should be grandfathered in and continue doing so. However, SAC will have this discussion once the survey results are received.

## **V. New Business:**

- a. AR 4235 Credit for Prior Learning
  - i. Bea presented this AR to the Executive committee on November 17 – there was no feedback.
  - ii. Bea and Esau worked on this AR ahead of meeting in order to meet timeline. The changes will be presented today to SAC for review and finalization.
  - iii. Alicia asked if there were significant changes compared to the SAC's last meeting. Esau answered the green text had been added. These changes were adopted from a compliance document and a memorandum from the Chancellors' office.
  - iv. Bea read the AR line-by-line. Language edits, and clarifications were made.
  - v. There was a brief discussion on ensuring bias would not be introduced when determining whether a student would qualify for eligibility to receive credit by examination.

***Motion to approve AR 4235 as is, Alicia moved, Donna seconded, (8) Yes at 1:11 PM.***

- b. AR 4331 Academic Renewal
  - i. Bea reported there were a few minor edits from the executive committee.

***Motion to approve AR 4331 as is, Alicia moved, Esau seconded, (8) Yes at 1:15 PM.***

- c. AR 4332 Progress Renewal –
  - i. Bea reported there was the same minor edits from the executive committee.

***Motion to approve AR 4332 as is, Alicia moved, Donna seconded, (8) Yes at 1:16 PM.***

- d. AR 5425
  - i. Tafari had invited Bea, Mike and several other members to attend the Board of Directors meeting. Bea reported students provided valuable feedback on this AR. Among the topics discussed were the unit requirements, which students unanimously wanted to decrease to 5-unit minimum as stated in Title 5. *Discussion on 5-unit minimum:*
  - ii. Esau asked what the rationale was for lowering the unit minimum requirement to 5 units. Bea responded the students wanted to lower the requirements, since 5 units were more reasonable with their schedules as student leaders.

- iii. Tafari mentioned if students take 8 units – it means you should spend 16 hours of studying a week, with 15 hours or more of time dedicated to AS. If students in addition, have to work and have family responsibilities there are time constraints hindering service to AS and classes. Tafari further emphasized how the idea of equity and empowerment, being some of SMC's core values therefore raises the question of how to accurately achieve representation of the entire student body.
- iv. Mike commented this discussion has come up before. Senior management and Board of Trustees have expressed philosophy that students should be students first and foremost; lowering the unit minimum flips the script. Mike stated senior management would most likely want a say in this.
- v. Bea stated students had made the point many students do not take on these positions until they are ready to transfer, thus their course load would be lighter. Mike however mentioned senior management should also have the opportunity to discuss this. Esau further made the point that SAC has waited for months to hear back from AS, therefore we could wait for Mike to have this discussion with senior management.
- vi. Alicia re-emphasized how students don't just juggle school, they live complex lives. Being only a student is a luxury, as many members of the student body are raising families, and juggling several different responsibilities and all types of students should be represented. Thus, we should not enforce part-time minimum units. Alicia agrees with the students that five units are reasonable and sufficient.
- vii. Benny Blades made a statement regarding the funding issue of 6 units compared to 5 units in regards to financial aid. Therefore, 6 units should be the minimum.
- viii. Donna wanted to grasp the significance of the amount of units a student is taking in regards to their involvement. Further, Donna stated we should have an accurate representation of the entire student body in student government. That may entail full-time, part-time, and students that take even less units. What is the issue with units and what is the correlation with student government if these students are elected into office? This could impact individual student's not to run for office.
- ix. Tafari stated the minimum unit amount is to provide for wider selection of students to serve on government. Further, Tafari did not see an issue with students being part-time and unable to run for these positions. Opportunities should exist for full representation of all the student body.
- x. Bea asked Mike what the position was from board of trustees or senior administrators the last time this was discussed. Mike answered there was concern students use student government to stay back on campus and be in various positions, rather than transferring.
- xi. Bea stated this does have to do with access and equity. Esau stated equity could also start with AS, if they impose their own standards in their constitution and by-laws on who is allowed to participate. The mere fact of meeting the academic qualifications that AS has, to allow students to be on governance committees, are not indicative of talent and good judgment students may have. However, if the minimum is 5 units this could mean a student is only enrolled in just one class. So then subsequently if they drop that one class, they become disqualified.

Thus losing both academic student status, and leadership involvement. If the minimum unit requirement is higher and a student drops just one class; then perhaps they could still remain in student government while continuing academic progress.

- xii. Tafari responded to Mike's comment on BOT's concern that students would run for student government, just to be on student government only without an academic goal. Rather, Tafari mentioned students usually tend to be involved in student government before transferring. Tafari further mentioned that when it had been brought up in their constitution committee regarding minimum units. They were unable to change it, since they learned units required was tied to this AR which supersedes the Constitution and By-Laws.
- xiii. Isaac stated whenever situations have occurred where students fall below the minimum units, they have worked with the students to try and bring their unit count back up to avoid losing their position. Isaac further stated that AS follows this AR, AS does not make up their own regulations.
- xiv. Donna stated she supports the 5-units minimum, since the entire diverse student body determines who at SMC would represent them in student government. This unit minimum is not a negative. We should be inclusive and allow the non-traditional student to get involved in student government. We should desire to have their perspective and ideas represented.
- xv. Bea asked Isaac if a student could no longer add a class, being too late in the semester, would they lose their position. Isaac responded yes and that that has happened before. However, there are ways to work around it. For example, one time a student was allowed to do a 1 unit Independent study project with a faculty member even though it was too late to add a class. This allowed the student to continue in their position while meeting the unit requirement. So timing and units required would determine outcome.
- xvi. Alicia asked if there is communication outside of these meetings that makes senior staff aware of these conversations on regulations. Mike answered in the past these regulations have gone to senior staff at the end, after they have been voted and approved. Mike recommended that senior staff should be part of the discussion, and Bea could be invited to present it at a senior staff meeting. Bea answered she would make herself available, and also would like to invite a student to represent AS (she asked Tafari). Mike stated that way senior staff hear directly from Bea and from a student perspective. Bea asked SAC members to let her know if they favor the 5-unit minimum by chat or email. Not an official vote. Esau said he would refrain.

## **VI. Announcements:**

## **VII. Adjournment: 2:02 PM**

**For all documents, visit:** <http://www.smc.edu/ACG/AcademicSenate/Committees/Pages/Student-Affairs.aspx>

**Last Fall scheduled meeting:** December 2, 2020

Respectfully Submitted by Malin Bohman

