

Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Location: Zoom Session
Chairs: Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
Attendees: Matt Musselman, Redelia Shaw, James Thing, Mike Tuitasi, Alicia Villalpando, Melissa De La Cruz Student Rep, Hope Ullman Student Rep
Guests: Benny Blades, Isaac Rodriguez, Tafari Alan, John Quevedo, Terry Green
Excused/Absent: Pressian Nicolov, Donna Davis-King

I. Call to Order: 12:02 PM

II. Public Comments: None

III. Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2020

Motion to approve Minutes as amended, Alicia moved, Esau seconded, (7) Yes, (2) abstain at 12:14 PM.

IV. Updates and Old Business:

- a. AR 5570 Credit Card Marketing, AR 4235 Credit for Prior Learning & Credit by Exam, AR 4331 Academic Renewal, & AR 4332 Progress Renewal
 - i. Bea reported that these AR's has been approved after second read by the Academic Senate and are being submitted for signatures.

V. New Business:

- a. AR 5430 Formation of Student Clubs
 - i. Bea reviewed the changes that had been suggested previously, including Bob Myers feedback. Bob had stated that clubs could not enforce membership fees or donations. This raised concerns regarding the honor societies as they do charge fees. Students cannot be forced to pay any dues for the local chapter. However, if they want to be a part of the National Honor Societies then fees are required.
 - ii. Esau pointed out that there had been concerns whether fees had been charged and accounted for accurately.

- iii. Bea asked John Quevedo to shed light on how funds are collected. He answered that they have tried to create an electronic fee collection system. Currently the treasurer collects funds twice, subsequently funds are taken to the Auxiliary office or the Vault. Chapter dues are based on count of membership, and are to be submitted in June. AGS gives out \$40,000-\$50,000 in scholarships annually. Several years ago the AGS board decided they needed more funds, primarily for their banquets. John pointed out these banquets are held at Hotels rather than campus, creating a need for more funds. Another need for funds is to allocate money for See's candies fundraiser.
- iv. Bea asked if students pay a national honor society fee, a \$7 local fee, and additional banquet fees? John responded that the amount a student pay was \$15, \$7 went to scholarships and \$8 towards banquet and convention costs (including two overnight stays at a hotel). Bea further asked what amount was the National Honor Society fee? John clarified current mandated amount is \$7 for State AGS, and \$3 for the club. However, looking back a few years John realized there was an equity issue and suggested fundraising for students that could not join committees. Efforts have also been placed on the recruitment efforts to increase inclusivity.
- v. Bea stated we do not have to collect the \$7 State AGS fee according to Bob Myers, we can however choose to. The \$3 additional dollars cannot be a condition of membership to the club, students could however donate this fee. John stated that the AGS Board have recognized the financial burden for students. If students claim to have financial need, they could notify AGS and then they would not need to pay the fees.
- vi. Redelia wanted to verify that the fee was \$10 per semester totaling \$20 per year. John confirmed. She asked if it would be possible for faculty or staff to sponsor student memberships for students experiencing financial hardship. John answered that would be possible.
- vii. Esau mentioned how we had planned to launch an app "SMC marketplace" within the SMC Go App, which would allow authenticated SMC students to buy and sell things with each other. Student organizations could also use SMC Marketplace for fundraising and collecting dues. However, Esau pointed out the issue of having AR's precluding organizations from charging and then make available to you the means to collect dues. Paypal accounts are not suitable, as they do not bring in a suitable audit component. As a public institution we potentially open ourselves up to financial mismanagement. We therefore must first resolve the Administrative Regulation issues. Esau further pointed out that it is imperative to iron out the collection of fees whether they are defined as membership fees, donations, or fundraising. John asked if the AR passes would AGS not be allowed to collect dues or donations, would the mandated \$7 be considered a due and unable to be collected. Esau answered based on Bob Myers response, if students want to be part of a national chapter then it is that organization that is charging and this would be permissible.
- viii. Terry Green asked how much it costs to join PTK. Esau answered the reason why Bea was asking questions about fees, was when this was discussed last time since it had been made known it was around \$70.00 to join the National chapter and \$10 for the local chapter. Terry pointed out how AGS fees are low compared to PTK.

- ix. Isaac pointed out that the Paypal would be linked to Auxiliary and not linked to an individual. Regarding PTK it appears it is a one-time \$80 fee. Esau asked if there is another way to help these organizations to fundraise and still remain accountable, as public institutions we face criticisms sometimes. We could perhaps utilize the platform we plan to launch at some point, as it would allow you to track funds. However, the downside is that this may include a cost of around \$1,000. John commented that both Paypal and the app would be helpful, further he emphasized the service AGS provides and he welcomed all help offered to track funds etc.,
- x. Bea asked how we change the AR. Esau answered that it seems we cannot require the local dues, instead they could only be collected as donations.
- xi. Bea asked how we change the sentence requiring this change of collecting dues, as dues cannot be required as a condition of membership. Terry commented that this potentially could wipe out AGS if this would go into effect statewide. Bea asked if this is Title 5. Esau stated we would need to have Bob shed more insight. Esau's recollection of Bob's former feedback was that SMC is a public institution, thus all programs and services are available to every student regardless of financial means. Terry raised the point students do pay student fees to be in clubs. Esau clarified these fees are not just for honor societies; this AR would apply to all clubs. Bea clarified students pay the AS fee, but no "club fee". Isaac clarified further that the AS office does not technically "enforce" that students have paid their AS fee, as the office does not have the capacity to do these controls. Matt asked if the \$3 fee could be rolled into the "banquet fee" to make the banquet optional. John stated AGS does ask for the document that students pay their AS fee, as this is a requirement to be in a club on campus.
- xii. Discussion on limiting faculty to serve as advisers on more than two clubs: Mike wanted to talk to the student life staff, as it would directly impact their work. Isaac checked how many primary advisers currently serve on more than one club and currently no primary advisers serve on more than one club. Isaac stated we do not want advisers to take on too much work, and potentially signing off on forms without properly reviewing the forms. Matt stated he would be supportive to allow faculty to advise three clubs until we are back on campus, as Covid-19 makes it more challenging for students to find advisers. Alicia wanted us to wait on a decision until after Covid-19. Esau pointed out he hesitated to wait, because this AR has been discussed at length for two years.

Motion to approve AR 5430 as amended, Esau moved, Matt seconded, (8) Yes (1) abstain at 1:25 PM

b. AR 5425 Scholarship Standards for St. Govt

- i. Mike had invited Tafari and Bea to senior staff meeting, however that meeting was cancelled. Mike did bring the 5-unit recommendation of students to senior staff this week. Senior staff did support the 5 units.

Motion to approve AR 5425, Alicia moved, Esau seconded, (9) Yes at 1:35 PM.

c. AR 5431 Campus Events by Student Organizations and Clubs

- i. Board of Directors had provided feedback.
- ii. Bea read portions of the AR, to review line-by-line.
- iii. Discussion on the three-week notice that is to be given before an on-campus event. Isaac said unless funding is needed, 3 weeks could be excessive. Bea asked if we should differentiate between if an event needed funding. Esau pointed out that he hesitated to reduce this or lower the threshold as if in the case of a controversial figure should visit campus that may not charge for their services, there may still be costs associated in terms of security etc.,
- iv. Bea asked Isaac if we could have evening events. Isaac answered the issue with that would be conflict with class schedules. Esau added that SMC-personnel may be needed, as the vast majority of staff work 8-5 pm. Thus, this opens up the potential for overtime pay for staff.

Motion to approve AR 5431, Alicia moved, Esau seconded, (9) Yes at 2:03 PM.

VI. Announcements: None

VII. Adjournment: 2:04 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting: March 3, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by Malin Bohman