

Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 1st, 2023 – 12 PM
Location: SCC 222
Chairs: Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
Attendees: Beatriz Magallon, Esau Tovar, Thomas Bui, Nancy Cardenas, Matt Musselman, Press Nicolov, Sharyn Obsatz, James Thing, Esmeralda Hernandez (Student Rep.), Justin Liu (Student Rep.)
Guests: Alicia Villalpando (Interested Party)
Excused/Absent: Dr. Donna Davis-King

I. Call to Order: 12:04 PM

II. Public Comments:

Esau announced that that priority enrollment today, November 1st, 2023, for both Winter and Spring semesters.

III. Approval of Minutes: N/A

IV. Updates and Old Business:

a. Updates on Academic Regulations Presented to the Executive Committee

- i. At the Executive Committee, Bea gave the highlights of all recent ARs that the Student Affairs Committee had worked on. All were approved as first reads, apart from AR 5220.

b. Revisiting AR 5220 - Shower Facilities for Students Experiencing Homelessness

- i. Bea informed the Committee that the Executive Committee suggested that the use of the word “homeless” be changed to make it more sensitive. She also had asked for feedback from counselors in Basic Needs area. After discussion on the matter, the Committee decided on replacing “homeless” and “homelessness” to “students experiencing homelessness”. The AR was retitled from “Shower Facilities for Homeless Students” to “Shower Facilities for Students Experiencing Homelessness”. The Executive Committee also recommended publicizing the facilities availability to the student body so that more students experiencing homelessness can make use of SMC’s facilities as needed.

Motion to approve AR 5220: James Thing moved, Nancy Cardenas seconded, (7) Yes, (0) No, (0) Abstain. Unanimous at 12:15 pm.

c. Revisiting AR 5140 - Center for Students with Disabilities

i. Bea inquired if Esau was still trying to get AR 5140 finalized. Bea stated that changes had been made to the Academic Regulation and that it had passed Academic Senate's first and second read only to be held up by Sr. Staff for over five years in the interim. Esau explained that Senior Staff was objecting to the AR's content as it was presented five years ago. Esau further stated that the AR was once four to five pages long, but that DSPS had removed large sections from the AR, asserting that it was already found in their DSPS handbook. Legal counsel Bob Myers stated at the time that it went to Senior Staff for review/approval that he was concerned with this because SMC periodically receives complaints from the Office of Civil Rights from students who complain that reasonable accommodations were not provided to them and that by removing the processes from the Academic Regulation and integrating them into the DSPS handbook, that presumably anyone in the department can edit, without taking into account the college's policy on accessibility services which can cause legal issues. This becomes very pertinent if SMC needs to defend itself before the U.S. Department of Education or litigation on the matter. Esau concluded by stating that he is unsure if there are any other specific suggestions from Bob Myers beyond reverting the AR back to what it used to be. The Committee is now waiting on senior staff for further updates. Bea will remove AR 5140 from the agenda until further notice.

V. New Business:

a. AR 4100 - Graduation Requirements for Degrees

i. Bea introduced AR 4100 and stated that the language changed from "regionally accredited institutions" to "institutionally accredited institutions". Bea then went over the various regulations present in the AR, explaining that most of the changes come from GE requirements. Bea also informed the Committee that the IGETC is changing to CalGETC, which essentially merges the IGETC and CSU GE educational paths into one, but limits the number of courses being accepted as transferable credit. Committee members voiced their concern regarding the limits that are being placed on transferable credit.

Bea suggested making the edits needed to the AR and then ask the Curriculum Committee to weigh in before striking the "Global Citizenship/Ethnic Studies" class requirement AR and GE units required, ultimately leaving it up to the Curriculum chair. Members opined that the current Global Citizenship requirement may result in excessive units for students and may seem like a burden to those trying to attain their degree in a timely manner. Esau asked that the Committee get more guidance from the Curriculum Committee. Sharyn didn't see how the SAC could remove the Global Citizenship or American Institutions requirement before other committees approved of the changes. Esmeralda stated that she opposed the extra units that would be required for the Global Citizenship and American Institutions requirement.

Esau agreed with Sharyn that the changes that will need to be made need to come from within the Curriculum Committee and stated that he does not feel comfortable making any decisions on this AR or providing the proposed changes to regulation without their considerable input. Matt likewise does not think that we should burden students with more required units (by keeping the Global Citizenship requirement in place) if they are not required by most of the UCs/Cal State systems. Bea thinks that the Student Affairs Committee should give its opinion on the AR so that the Curriculum Committee can understand where SAC stands, as they often follow the Student Affairs Committee's lead. Bea stated that the enactment of the Ethnic Studies requirement is right around the corner and not enough has been done to address it thus far. Esau does not think Bea should take her edits to the Curriculum Committee as it may impede further progress and suggests that the SAC leave it to them to make any policy decisions regarding the AR. Bea will meet with Chair of Curriculum Committee and Jason to see when discussion can take place in the Spring.

b. AR 5040.1 – Compliance with F.E.R.P.A.

- i. Bea explained that she held up this AR to take it to the DREAM Program leaders to get their opinion on the matter, due to potential issues found in the AR that may affect undocumented students. She has already met with leaders and there are no issues with the regulation at the moment. In order to approve it since it has been so long, Esau suggested Bea read the document to the Committee before taking a vote. Bea read through the AR, pausing for Committee members to give comments and members began making changes to the regulation. Time constraints caused the Committee to pause work on this AR until next meeting.

VI. Announcements:

Next Student Affairs Committee will convene on November 29th, 2023.

VII. Adjournment: 1:59 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting:

Respectfully Submitted by Jackson Edwards