

Santa Monica College

Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time:	Wednesday, November 29, 2023 – 12pm
Location:	SSC 222
Chairs:	Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
Attendees:	Beatriz Magallon, Esau Tovar, Donna Davis-King, Matt Musselman, Press Nicolov, James Thing, Thomas Bui, Nancy Cardenas, Sharyn Obsatz, Esmeralda Hernandez (Student Rep), Justin Liu (Student Rep)
Guests:	
Excused/Absent:	

I. **Call to Order:** 12:07 PM

II. **Public Comments:**

Bea welcomed the Committee members to the final 2023 Student Affairs Committee meeting. Sharyn asked the Committee if this was the appropriate venue to discuss questions about the current climate for students on campus or if the Student Affairs Committee was strictly for the discussion of Academic Regulations. The Committee members responded by stating that if a significant issue was presented then, it could be taken to the Academic Senate and senior staff. Sharyn then spoke about the Revolutionary Communist Party (Rev Com) which shows up every Tuesday and is aggressive and loud to SMC students. James cited the fact that they are not even SMC students and are a completely external organization who come uninvited to campus.

Thomas stated that this group is allowed on campus as SMC is a public institution; he agreed that they are intentionally inciting students with inflammatory language. He further stated that unless they are specifically harassing an SMC individual, there is nothing that can be done. If Rev Com, or any other group, abides by the rules, then they cannot be removed from campus. Thomas recommended that students and faculty not pay them any attention and that in time they will likely stop coming. James reiterated concerns about the safety of students, stating that he feels like this is an incident waiting to happen. Sharyn further stated that she feels like there is not enough being done by Santa Monica College to show support to Jewish students given the current socio-political climate in the world.

Thomas stated that he is updating the freedom of speech SMC webpage for students and faculty to review. He is also working on re-engaging the “No-Hate” campaign, and that the Center for Wellness is also reaching out to clubs and holding space for them. The Committee members then touched on the subject of holding campus-wide forums for students and faculty to discuss this and other pressing social issues. Unfortunately, these forums are still pending, and many Committee members are worried that not enough is being done for students to publicly voice their concerns in a timely manner. It was recommended that emails be sent to senior staff for time/space for forums to express matters of concern.

III. Approval of Minutes:

- a. *Motion to approve the Minutes of October 2th5, 2023: Donna Davis-King moved, Justin Liu seconded, 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain at 12:37 pm.*
- b. *Motion to approve the Minutes of November 1st, 2023: James Thing moved, Thomas Bui seconded, 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain at 12:44 pm.*

IV. Updates and Old Business:

- a. Updates on Academic Regulations

- i. **4100.10 Updating Diplomas and 4100.4 Institutional Accreditation Requirements**

Both ARs have passed and have gone for signatures with senior staff. The additional six ARs that the SAC Committee had previously worked on are also moving forward. The only AR that had changes was AR 5220 “Shower Facilities for Student Experiencing Homelessness”.

- ii. **AR 5220 – Showers Facilities for Unhoused Students**

The Executive Committee recommended changing the title “Shower Facilities for Students Experiencing Homelessness” to simply “Shower Facilities for Unhoused Students” to be more inclusive. The Committee concurred with this suggestion and the changes were made to the Academic Regulation.

V. New Business:

- a. AR 5040.1 – Compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- i. Bea stated that the Committee had previously finished work on the regulation prior to the Covid pandemic and that they are now revisiting the AR to take one final look at it before taking it to the Executive Committee. Bea then began to read through the Academic Regulation in its entirety, pausing to receive feedback from Committee members as needed. The Committee then began to work at length on subsection three, “Education Records”. With regards to subsection three, paragraph two, the Committee decided on the following language: “Records relating to an individual who is employed by the College, that are made and maintained in the normal course of business, in that individual’s capacity as an employee; and are not available for use for any other purpose.” The Committee continued making minor edits to the Academic Regulation.

Esau clarified that Santa Monica College does not share alumni records with the Alumni Association or the Foundation because they are not a part of Santa Monica College; they are separate entities entirely. While they are affiliated with Santa Monica College, they are not Santa Monica College and as a result, SMC does not share records with personally identifying information. Any information that the Foundation or the Alumni Association collects is done so on their own.

After substantial discussion regarding the subsection “Right to Refuse Access”, the Committee settled on the following updated language: “2. Records connected with an application to attend Santa Monica College (including any programs that have a

selection process) if the application was denied.” Sharyn then asked a question about Homeland Security regarding the potential legal inquiries and its impact on undocumented students. Esau stated that if it is a lawfully issued subpoena or judicial warrant, then SMC must adhere to the law. But SMC does not otherwise share information. Bea shared that we have a regulation specifically addressing this issue and if The Committee continued to make its way through the academic regulation, making minor edits and changes to various subsections.

Despite best efforts, the Committee did not finish work on AR 5040.1 prior to the end of the meeting.

VI. Announcements:

Bea announced that Matt Musselman would no longer be a member of the Student Affairs Committee moving forward due to other commitments. Bea and committee members thanked Matt for his years of commitment, diligent, hard work and contributions to the Committee. Matt shared that his other commitments did not make it possible for him to serve this next semester. He also shared his continued support for the work we do and said he would always be available to offer any contributions, especially in the area of Math. Bea also thanked student representatives, Justin Liu, and Esmerelda Hernandez, for all their contributions and dedication throughout the semester. Bea thanked everyone for all of the work we accomplished this semester. She also wished everyone a good next few weeks with finals and a wonderful holiday break.

VII. Adjournment: 2:00 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting: February 28, 2024

Respectfully Submitted by Jackson Edwards