

Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time:	Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 – 12pm
Location:	SSC 222
Chairs:	Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
Attendees:	Beatriz Magallon, Esau Tovar, Donna Davis-King, Press Nicolov, James Thing, Nancy Cardenas, Sharyn Obsatz, Alicia Villalpando, Esmeralda Hernandez (Student Rep), Justin Liu (Student Rep)
Guests:	
Excused/Absent:	Thomas Bui

I. Call to Order: 12:08 PM

II. Public Comments:

Bea welcomed everyone to another Student Affairs Committee meeting. The Committee spoke at length about Professional Development Day and discussed some of their key takeaways from the various sessions they attended.

III. Approval of Minutes:

- a. **Motion to approve previous Minutes from February 28th, 2024. (8) Aye, (0) No, (0) Unanimous at 12:15 PM.**

IV. Updates and Old Business:

- a. **Updates on AR 5040.1 Compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**
 - i. Bea stated that prior to bringing the AR to the Executive Committee, she noticed a note that she had put in the document which questioned if the Directory Information was still necessary to include in the final version of the AR. The language from the League, which Bea was referencing, stated that “such an expansive definition of “directory information” is no longer recommended out of concern for both the family privacy and the safety of students. Applicable law does give the District discretion to use a more expansive definition of directory information on a selective basis.” Bea stated that besides the information required by law, she wasn’t sure of why the additional directory information was necessary. Bea also mentioned that other community colleges do not include directory information in their regulation. Esau commented on

the potential impact of preventing any release of directory information, including our participation in some studies, publications—internal and external to SMC i.e Degrees Awarded, National Clearing House, Fin aid, Foundation; our inability to verify alumni’s attendance for public interest stories, etc. He further explained to the Committee that directory information is not publicly available and it is not published (it is not a “directory” that individuals can just pull up on website or see a listing). SMC scrutinizes all requests of directory information and it is at our discretion to release any student directory information who do not have an active FERPA hold which is only about 40% of students. Esau mentioned that Senior Staff has not yet weighed in on the matter and was hesitant to strike all elements without first getting feedback. He also mentioned he would follow up with Kinesiology Department re athletes.

Donna suggested that if Committee members understood the minimum information necessary to be responsive to the various agencies that legally and lawfully require student information, then the Committee could come to a decision about what additional information is appropriate to leave in the directory information. The Committee continued to deliberate over the merits of various categories of data that the directory information contains and whether it is beneficial to students. Upon further deliberation, “less is best” was the consensus of the Committee members. The Committee then decided to wait until they received more direction from senior leadership before actioning the AR further.

V. New Business:

a. AR 5500 Standard of Student and Academic Conduct (new #AR)

- i. Bea then introduced AR 5500 “Standard of Student and Academic Conduct” which comes from two older AR’s: AR 4410 Rules for Student Conduct and AR 4411 Code of Academic Conduct, both of which have not been updated in years. AR 5500 is based off a League template. Esau then stated that he does not like League templates due to being poorly written and prefers how they are currently split into different categories of ARs at SMC (conduct and academic) as it makes it easier for staff, faculty and students to be able to read the one document that impacts their specific situation instead of trying to find information in an overly-long combined document like AR 5500. Esau then went on to discuss the various associated ARs specifics, including how AR 4412 Honor Code/Honor Council came to be when he was Char of SAC.

Upon further discussion, Bea stated that all three ARs are different and should thusly be three different ARs (i.e. AR 5500, 5500.1, AR 5500.2). Additionally, Bea and Alicia explained that the States AR numbering system is such so that anyone can find them when they researched different institutions ARs. Esau stated that he would like to hear from Lina about this matter. Esau mentioned that resolutions can take up to 7 months due to faculty not being available. The committee responded that this process needs

looking into since this timeline is too long and probably not following requirements. The Committee continued to deliberate over the content, consistency of language, and procedures to be found in associated ARs since AR 4412 should have procedures consistent with other ARs if different.

Esau continued to field questions about the historical context of the honor code and the honor council. Bea stated that the honor council is without a chair but had received edits from Greg a few years ago regarding regulation. Esau recommended that Bea speak with the Executive Committee regarding the honor code council's role in disciplinary matters and suggested they might want to discuss whether to fold into another AR. Some of the procedures to appeal academic dishonesty are included in AR 4412, for example, and these can be copied over to the "Code Academic Conduct" AR which would remove the need for three related ARs and other values moved over to Rules of Academic Conduct" but that it wouldn't be a straight copy, but rather would require major revisions to make it work. Nancy stated that it should be made much clearer on how the Honor Council is connected to academic conduct AR as they currently feel they are the same. Esau explained that the honor code was meant to educate the community and promote the specific values outlined in AR 4412. Esau stated that he would like to hear from Lina about their thoughts about potentially merging some of the ARs, especially if they don't have a committee chair who can help provide more detailed information. Bea informed committee members Lina would be attending the next meeting.

VI. Announcements:

Next scheduled meeting: March 27th, 12pm in SSC #222

Nancy Cardenas will not be able to attend the next Student Affairs Committee meeting.

VII. Adjournment: 1:57 PM

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