

Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time:	Wednesday, April 3 rd , 2024 – 12pm
Location:	SSC 222
Chairs:	Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
Attendees:	Beatriz Magallon, Esau Tovar, Thomas Bui, Donna Davis-King, Press Nicolov, Sharyn Obsatz, James Thing, Alicia Villalpando, Justin Lui (Student Rep)
Guests:	
Excused/Absent:	Nancy Cardenas, Esmeralda Hernandez (Student Rep)

I. **Call to Order:** 12:40 PM (technical issues & had to move to another room)

II. **Public Comments:** N/A

III. **Updates and Old Business:**

a. **Updates on AR 5040.1 Compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

- i. Bea informed the Committee that the Chancellor’s office had cautioned on some of the language used in the academic regulation. Bea further explained that the AR was not presented to the Executive Committee due to time constraints. Bea then presented the Committee with the language to be considered for removal from the AR which pertained to the disclosure of student records, its limitations, and the various legal exemptions to the rule. Bea continued by going over the suggested edits in detail. Esau citing that senior staff found some of the language to be redundant. The Committee then removed additional information that was deemed unnecessary, repetitive or in the wrong section of the academic regulation. After considerable deliberation and wordsmithing, the Committee reworked and repurposed various sections to clarify and simplify various subsections of the AR.

Motion to approve AR 5040.1 Compliance with FERPA: Donna Davis-King moved, Press Nicolov seconded, (9) Yes, (0) No, (0) Abstain at 1:12pm, Unanimous.

IV. **New Business:**

a. **AR 5500 - Standards of Student Conduct**

- i. Bea gave a brief intro of AR 5500 and informed the Committee that its contents have nothing to do with disciplinary procedures, but rather is about how student conduct is defined. After considerable deliberation, the Committee changed the

opening statement of the AR to read more personally. Moving forward, the Committee then spent time defining what constitutes “conduct” and “good cause” with regards to disciplinary action. The Committee then discussed the subject of the possession of a knife by students on campus, its legal implications and how it relates to the Student Code of Conduct. The Committee also discussed the matter of alcohol at college sponsored events. After additional deliberation, the Committee agreed that they did not have the legal expertise to make any definitive determinations on the legal matters brought up in the AR. The Committee then opted to have legal counsel Bob Myers review the AR in its entirety and rely on the legal expertise of his thorough review. Bea made note of 2 additional minor changes to update before presenting it to Bob.

ii. AR 5500.1 – Standards of Academic Conduct

Bea asked Esau to give an overview of AR 5500.1. Esau then gave a brief outline of the history of the AR stating that it was formalized because although there were written guidelines from the Student Affairs Committee, there was an inconsistent way of adjudicating matters at the time. The decision was then made to enact it in the form of an administrative regulation. This AR, however, did not follow the procedures that the Honor Code had set, so the Honor Council was formed a few years later, especially considering that some matters require legal action while others only have academic consequences. Esau further stated that the Academic Conduct AR and the Honor Code AR should have likely been integrated, but for various reasons, at the time a regulation was written. Alicia Villalpando suggested having a flow chart to see what actions require disciplinary action and the appropriate steps that follow if the Honor Council is involved. The Committee then briefly discussed the subject of Artificial Intelligence and how it needs to be reflected in course syllabi and in the regulation. Bea requested that the Committee review the associated document (AR 5500.1) to prepare for future work on this AR.

V. Announcements:

VI. Adjournment: 2:01 PM

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

Next scheduled meeting: April 17th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Jackson Edwards