

# Santa Monica College Student Affairs Committee

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 – 12pm
<b>Location:</b>	SSC 222
<b>Chairs:</b>	Beatriz Magallon (Chair), Esau Tovar (Vice Chair)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Beatriz Magallon, Esau Tovar, Nancy Cardenas, Press Nicolov, Sharyn Obsatz, James Thing, Alicia Villalpando, Esmeralda Hernandez (Student Rep)
<b>Guests:</b>	
<b>Excused/Absent:</b>	Thomas Bui, Donna Davis-King, Justin Liu (Student Rep)

**I. Call to Order:** 12:03 PM

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

**III. Updates and Old Business:**

**a. Updates on AR 4240 Academic Renewal and AR 4245 Progress Renewal**

- i. Bea informed the Committee that she had not presented AR 5040.1 (Compliance to FERPA) to the Executive Committee due to Spring break, but that it will be presented on the following Tuesday. Alicia Villalpando requested the Committee review the current student academic and progress renewal policies. Alicia proposed her recommended changes for Academic Renewal and Progress Renewal regarding precollege courses not being counted towards the 30-semester unit limitation for students because these courses are no longer offered. She also noted that a student’s past performance is not always reflective of their demonstrated ability. Lastly, she wants to reduce the time frame to 4 months instead of a semester after which the grade can be "renewed." Additionally, Alicia stated that older coursework is often the reason why counselors cannot disregard or dismiss suboptimal coursework on student’s behalf beyond the 30-unit limitation, causing further issues for the students who are trying to return to good academic standing after an extended leave.

Esau then spoke to the matter stating that SMC has been very flexible, responsive and generous regarding 30 units of academic renewal and 30 units of progress renewal, stating that no other community college offers such leeway. He further stated that the Student Affairs Committee has made numerous changes regarding this matter over the years. Esau stated that despite all these changes, the benefits are not readily apparent and despite attempting to rectify inequities, the proposed changes may cause more inequality in other ways. Sharyn suggested a middle ground approach to the issue. Press then commented that he had reservations regarding re-engineering potentially an entire academic career and asked for further clarification. Alicia stated that these grades are not removed but rather annotated which means that they are excluded from any gpa computation, but never disappear from a transcript and instead the notation is changed; for example, an “F” to an “AR” (academic renewal).  
Bea further added that the primary goal of academic renewal is to affect a student’s GPA

in order to meet student's goal. Esmerelda agreed with the proposed changes. James also stated that he doesn't see the drawbacks of proceeding with the changes if it is not a strain on resources and believes in giving students more opportunities to improve their academic career. Bea mentioned that policies that are not written are unfair to students and the entire community. Sharyn stated she believes these changes need to be institutionalized in the AR in order to prevent issues further down the line. Esau then stated that he believes that the committee has done quite a lot to address these issues over his tenure in the Student Affairs Committee. He further stated that Admissions and Records would struggle to keep up with the additional work that these changes would lead to. Bea then asked if a compromise could be made regarding the precollege courses and timeframe. Esau and Alicia then decided to keep the 6-month mark and that the precollege courses shall not be counted toward the 30-semester unit limitation.

Alicia then requested that a special counselor be appointed to be a liaison between the Counseling department and Admissions and Records office to address issues and questions counselors come across. Press then asked what academic renewal means to a student's grade point average as it relates to their transfer to other institutions. Alicia stated that many UC/CSU are on board with academic renewal, but that other institutions are not. She further added that academic renewal is largely for students who are trying to transfer into the UC/CSU system. Esau then stated that students who go on to graduate school can have their academic renewal grades come back to haunt them as many grad schools and professional schools count every attempted course/grade. Alicia stated that it would be beneficial to warn students about some of the issues regarding academic renewal so that they can make the most informed decision possible about how to proceed. Other committee members voiced their support for these changes. The Committee then began to wordsmith the language to reflect the changes decided upon.

***Motion to approve AR 4240 Academic Renewal: Alicia Villalpando moved, James Thing seconded, (9) Yes, (0) No, (0) Abstain at 1:43pm, Unanimous.***

- ii. Bea then made similar such changes to AR 4245 Progress Renewal. After a few quick edits the Committee moved to approve the AR.

***Motion to approve AR 4245 Progress Renewal: Alicia Villalpando moved, Esau Tovar seconded, (9) Yes, (0) No, (0) Abstain at 1:45pm, Unanimous.***

#### **IV. Announcements:**

Regarding the Rules for Student Conduct, Esau stated that legal counsel Bob Myers asked that the Student Affairs Committee delay any changes until the fall semester because he and his team are working on numerous other projects and do not have the time needed to address the AR. Esau stated that Bob will have more information by the beginning of the fall semester.

#### **V. Adjournment: 1:58 PM**

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

**Next scheduled meeting: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Respectfully Submitted by Jackson Edwards