



Santa Monica Community College District  
District Planning and Advisory Council  
MEETING –JANUARY 14, 2026  
MINUTES

A meeting of the Santa Monica Community College District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC) was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in the SMC Student Services Center Conference Room 222, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica. The meeting was also conducted via Zoom to allow for remote attendance.

I. Call to Order – 2:08 p.m.

II. Members Present

Jason Beardsley Administration, Chair Designee  
Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate President, Vice-Chair  
Chris Bonvenuto, Management Association Representative  
Jose Hernandez, Management Association Representative  
Stephanie Amerian, Academic Senate Representative  
Peter Morse, Faculty Association President  
Elaine Roque, Faculty Association Representative  
Cindy Ordaz, CSEA President  
Martha Romano, CSEA Representative  
Ailsa Ortiz, Associated Students President

III. Public Comments - None

IV. Review of Minutes: Motion was made by Peter Morse and seconded by Chris Bonvenuto to approve the minutes of the DPAC meeting on December 10, 2025. *Unanimously approved.*

V. Reports: None

VI. Agenda

1. Discussion: Proposed Annual Action Plans for 2026-2027

#1: Strategic Planning and Data-Informed Scheduling

Vice-President of Academic Affairs Jason Beardsley will be meeting with department chairs on January 16, 2026 to discuss data-informed scheduling practices and the impact on student preferences, user experience and educational outcomes.

The discussion included the following:

- Challenges of capturing student preferences and the need for better visualization tools to assist with decision-making
- Incorporate Stellar data to identify needed courses based on student education plans
- The effectiveness of HyFlex modality
- Protecting activity hour for student life and the need to balance class scheduling with student engagement opportunities

It was agreed that there should be a discussion on how leverage data-informed scheduling could drive broader strategic planning for the college's future growth and resource allocation. This action plan will be refined with more clarity after the chair's meeting and another draft will be presented to DPAC at the next meeting.

#2: Educate the Campus on the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF): The goal is the help the campus better understand how the SCFF funding works especially complexities (“the tricks”) in state reporting.

DPAC discussed the importance of understanding and improving the student-centered funding formula (SCCF) and its impact on campus services. The proposed annual action plan includes the following methods to accomplish:

- Fall 2026 Professional Development Day presentation
- Maintain Budget Website with SCFF updates. Link to: [Budget Website](#)
- Schedule Workshops/Trainings
- Solicit area-specific questions and insights about how the SCFF relates to current college practices

Chris Bonvenuto, Vice-President of Business/Administration shared insights from working with the Chancellor's Office, revealing unexpected challenges in metric reporting, such as auto-awarded degrees and summer class transfers not being counted. He highlighted the need for training sessions to educate staff on SCCF basics and complex reporting metrics, with a focus on helping departments gain insights on how current campus practices may affect funding through the SCFF. The Budget website has been updated with SCCF information that provides data comparisons with other districts, emphasizing SMC's strong performance in areas like associate degrees for transfer and completion rates.

DPAC expressed strong interest and support.

### #3: OIR Group Report/Recommendations and District Implementation Plan

The discussion focused on the implementation of the recommendations in the OIR report. The following concerns were expressed:

- OIR recommendations were approved by the Board of Trustees before constituency groups could provide feedback.
- There should be a clear, transparent and inclusive plan for the implementation of the recommendations.
- There are gaps in the OIR report (employee relations, prevention and HR processes)
- What is DPAC's role in both planning and implementation?

It was agreed that since implementation of the OIR recommendations is already underway, a 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan is not necessary. Instead, it was suggested that a recommendation be developed by DPAC to forward to the Superintendent/President to contain additional actions not included in the OIR report that can improve campus safety.

DPAC agreed on the following:

- DPAC will request that the DPAC Human Resources Subcommittee review [BP 3050 Institutional Code of Ethics](#) and possibly revise it or draft a new code of civility to be forwarded to DPAC for review.  
Note: BP 3050, Institutional Code of Ethics includes a paragraph on civility; a separate Code of Civility policy does not exist.

For reference:

OIR Recommendation No. 17: It is recommended that DPAC develop a Code of Civility for the College.

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- DPAC will discuss how to support a transparent and inclusive process for the implementation of the OIR recommendations.

For reference:

Recommendation No. 28: The College should develop a transparent and inclusive process to consideration of the recommendations.

Recommendation No 29: The College should develop an implementation plan for any accepted recommendation and report to its community regarding the plan's progress. Response: Agree Next Steps: This implementation plan sets forth a series of actions to take in response to the OIR report. It includes regular reports to the College community.

- Campus Counsel or designee will present quarterly updates to DPAC.

VII. Adjournment – 4:15 p.m.

Meeting schedule through June 2026

January 28

February 11, 25

March 11, 25

April 8, 22

May 13, 27

June 10, 24