



Santa Monica Community College District
District Planning and Advisory Council
MEETING –MAY 13 , 2026
MINUTES

A meeting of the Santa Monica Community College District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC) was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the SMC Student Services Center Conference Room 222, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica. The meeting was also be conducted via Zoom to allow for remote attendance.

- I. Call to Order - 2:04 p.m.
- II. Members
Jason Beardsley Administration, Chair Designee
Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate President, Vice-Chair
Sasha King, Administration Representative (*participated remotely under the Just Cause Provision of Government Code Section 54953.8.3, related to a physical disability that prevents attendance in person*)
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 (*participated remotely under the Just Cause Provision of Government Code Section 54953.8.3, travel while on college business*)
Eva Palafox, Associated Students Representative
- III. Public Comments - None
- IV. Review of Minutes: Motion was made by Elaine Roque and seconded by Stephanie Amerian to approve the minutes of the DPAC meeting on April 22, 2026. *Unanimously approved with one abstention (Jose Hernandez)*
- V. Reports - None
- VI. Agenda
 1. Update: Strategic Planning Work Group
DPAC Chair Jason Beardsley provided an overview of work completed by an ad hoc Strategic Planning Work Group, which met in lieu of a regularly scheduled DPAC meeting. The group developed a draft framework for the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) outlining DPAC's role in initiating and overseeing a new institutional strategic planning process.

Role of DPAC:
 - Monitoring the currency of the college's strategic plan
 - Ensuring adherence to the five-year strategic planning cycle
 - Guiding formation of a Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF)
 - Defining task force membership principles
 - Approving the strategic planning timeline
 - Receiving progress reports from the task force
 - Ensuring alignment with Board goals, mission, vision, and existing plans

It was clarified that DPAC's role is oversight, not authorship of the strategic plan.

Scope and Function of the SPTF

- Developing a comprehensive institutional strategic plan
- Conducting data-informed analysis (enrollment, budget, staffing, capacity)
- Establishing measurable goals, timelines, and performance indicators
- Integrating existing college and district plans
- Engaging campus stakeholders through structured input and feedback
- Producing a final strategic plan for DPAC review and recommendation to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees

SPTF Membership and Structure:

- Appropriate representation and expertise on the task force
- Balancing constituent representation with institution-wide perspectives
- Avoiding role confusion between governance oversight and operational accountability
- DPAC emphasized that committees do not hold individuals accountable; accountability resides with administration.

Proposed Timeline

DPAC reviewed a preliminary strategic planning timeline and discussed concerns regarding:

- Meaningful campus engagement during summer months
- Ensuring widespread buy-in from faculty, staff, administrators, and students
- Avoiding overreliance on passive communication methods

DPAC emphasized a proactive, highly visible communication strategy, potentially including Flex Day engagement and phased outreach across constituencies.

Institutional Effectiveness Office

There was consensus that the college would benefit from a formal Institutional Effectiveness (IE) function to support planning, integration, assessment, and reporting. Key points included:

- The absence of a dedicated IE structure has hindered sustained planning follow-through.
- Other institutions use IE offices to connect planning, program review, budgeting, and accreditation.
- Recommendations regarding IE have already been received by senior leadership.
- Any IE position would require formal administrative and Board approval.

DPAC agreed to schedule a formal discussion and potential recommendation regarding an IE office at the May 27, 2026 meeting.

Baccalaureate Degrees and Future Planning

Discussion included the importance of aligning baccalaureate degree development with institutional strategic planning, including:

- Resource allocation and sustainability
- Faculty involvement
- Learning from prior program implementation experiences
- Reviewing planning structures at other colleges with bachelor's programs

List of the approved Bachelor's Degree Programs

[Programs by College and Degree](#)

2. Recap: [2026 First Quarter Report on Implementation of OIR Group Recommendations](#)
DPAC discussed the first quarterly update on implementation of OIR recommendations.
- The committee emphasized that quarterly reports should be publicly presented to the Board of Trustees, consistent with commitments made when the report was adopted.
 - Transparency and open communication were identified as essential components of institutional healing and trust-building.

Discussion also included ongoing campus safety and wellness concerns, including:

- The need for both physical safety measures and emotional/psychological support
- Gaps in ongoing, accessible employee wellness and trauma-informed resources
- The importance of creating environments where employees feel safe, supported, and informed

Models at other community colleges were referenced, including employee resource centers and counseling services, as potential examples.

Mt. SAC Restorative Justice Program: <https://www.mtsac.edu/hr/restorativejustice.html>

- Administration will consult with relevant leaders regarding safety, wellness, and trauma-informed initiatives.
- DPAC will receive follow-up information and proposals for consideration at a future meeting.

VII. Adjournment – 3:54 p.m.

Meeting schedule through June 2026

May 27

June 10, 24