



Santa Monica Community College District
District Planning and Advisory Council
MEETING –JULY 22, 2026
MINUTES

A meeting of the Santa Monica Community College District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC) was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. 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 - 2:05 p.m.

II. Members

Jason Beardsley Administration, DPAC Chair Designee
Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate President, DPAC Vice-Chair
Sasha King, Administration Representative
Chante DeLoach, Academic Senate Representative
Lisa Rose, Management Association Representative
Jose Hernandez, Management Association Representative
Peter Morse, Faculty Association President
Elaine Roque, Faculty Association Representative
Cindy Ordaz, CSEA President

III. Public Comments - None

IV. Review of Minutes: Motion was made by Vicenta Arrizon and seconded by Sasha King to approve the minutes of the DPAC meeting on July 8, 2026 .*Unanimously approved.*

V. Reports - None

VI. Agenda

1. Update: Services providing safety, emotional and psychological assistance to employees.

Dr. Susan Fila, Dean of Health and Wellbeing, presented on employee wellness services, outlining a framework that includes nine dimensions of wellness such as physical health, mental health, food security, housing support, and childcare. She described existing services like EASE counseling, wellness workshops for staff, and the Workplace Violence Prevention Program, which includes a Behavioral Intervention Team. The presentation also highlighted a new student-parent success center opening in October, which will include virtual services for the college's largely online parenting student population.

DPAC discussed creating a designated center for employee wellness. There were questions about funding and whether separate facilities would be necessary. The discussion explored challenges around privacy and access, with participants debating whether to maintain integrated spaces or create separate employee areas. The conversation concluded with suggestions for promoting community building through regular social events and workshops.

Link to presentation: [Employee Wellbeing at Santa Monica College](#)

2. Continued Discussion on Strategic Planning:

DPAC engaged in a lengthy discussion about restructuring DPAC, including a proposal presented by Vicenta Arrizon to focus it on strategic planning, potentially eliminate subcommittees, integrate roles from Institutional Research and Program Review, adding the Vice-Presidents of Human Resources and Student Success, and holding monthly meetings instead of bi-weekly.

Cindy Ordaz presented a recommended framework for strengthening Santa Monica College's institutional planning system. It combines an evidence-based governance model with documented implementation standards, examples of planning structures used by California community colleges, a responsibility matrix, and a proposed integrated planning process. Together, these components are intended to support DPAC's discussion by providing a practical framework for strengthening institutional planning, improving coordination across planning processes, clarifying governance and administrative responsibilities, and establishing a sustainable system for implementation, assessment, and continuous improvement. The recommendations are based on Santa Monica College's governance documents, ACCJC accreditation standards, and publicly available planning models from peer California community colleges.

Link to: [DPAC Integrated Planning Recommendation](#)

DPAC agreed to review the proposed framework and continue discussion at its next meeting on August 26th.

VII. Adjournment – 4:08 p.m.

Meeting schedule 2026-2027

2026

August 26

September 9, 23

October 14, 28

November 11

December 9

2027

January 13, 27

February 10, 24

March 10, 24

April 14, 28

May 12, 26

June 9, 23