



## OFFICIAL MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, respectfully acknowledged that MiraCosta is on the traditional territory of the Luiseño/Payómkawichum people. Today, the meeting place of MiraCosta College and its surrounding areas is still home to the six federally recognized bands of the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Pechanga, Rincon, Soboba Luiseño/Payómkawichum people. It is also important to acknowledge that this land remains the shared space among Kumeyaay and Ipai peoples. In addition, we pay respect to elders both present and past, the respected keepers of history, culture, wisdom and knowledge. The meeting was called to order at **9:00am**.

### II. Remote Member Attendance

Description: *Academic Senate will consider remote participation of members under the provisions of AB2449, if any.*

**Angela Beltran-Aguilar and Rachel Hastings requested remote participation under the provision of Just Cause of AB2449. They both attended the meeting via Zoom under the Just Cause provision of AB2449, by unanimous consent.**

### III. Roll Call

**Members present:** Robin Allyn, Sunny Cooke (ex-officio), Erica Duran, Shawn Firouzian, Julie Graboi, Jim Julius, Don Love, curry mitchell (President-Elect), Brian Page, Hossein Ravanbaksh, Leila Safaralian (President), Nate Scharf, Alexis Tucker-Sade, Krista Warren

**Member present under Just Cause:** Angela Beltran-Aguilar, Rachel Hastings

**Members absent:** Candy Owens

**Others present:** Mike Dear, Mina Hernandez, Lori Schneider, Gaby Beas Love, Bianca Rosales

### IV. Persons Wishing to Address the Senate – None.

### IV. Changes to Agenda Order – None.

### V. Consent Calendar

#### A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2023

The consent calendar was approved by unanimous consent.

### VI. Reports

#### A. Academic Senate President

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, announced today is the first day of Latinx Chicanx Heritage Month and noted the many events planned across campuses. She thanked all those involved across the campuses, who helped to put these events together. Senators were asked to share and attend as many events as they can.

The MCC Mathematics Team has been awarded first place of the Grand National Prize for the Students Research League National Competition that is offered by the American Mathematical Association of two-year colleges. The title of this year's competition was End Hunger for a Better Tomorrow. Three students mentored by Zika Perovic, competed. They were challenged to use mathematical modeling to design a program or initiative addressing food insecurity among students with low income.

Acknowledged department chairs who are working hard on staffing and the schedule for spring 2024.

Since we were unable to find one or two people to attend ASG meetings as the AS representative, we asked that AS senators attend at least one ASG meeting throughout the year. A shared schedule of attendees was provided. Further, the Equivalency and DEqCC committees are each looking for one more faculty member.

Upcoming events include the ASCCC Area D meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-3pm, the Strengthening Student Success Conference in San Francisco October 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, and 2023 Fall Plenary November 16-18. Let us know if you are interested in attending any of these events.

The calendar report was given by Curry Mitchell. He noted that the taskforce, represented by all constituent groups, is reviewing the academic calendar. They meet every other Thursday. Currently, they are involved in knowledge-building, looking at Ed Code and the past work of the college. They are finalizing a survey that will go out to the district, hopefully at the end of September. You will be asked to rate value statements that will help shape the calendar and to choose and rank potential changes that will impact student experiences and learning. It will help the taskforce deliver a couple of potential calendars that might be adopted and to form questions that might engage the district in discussion about these models. There was no report from Guided Pathways today.

#### **B. College Superintendent/President**

Superintendent/President, Sunny Cooke, noted there has been a lot of discussion about facilities and Measure MM. The Board approved a lease revenue bond to help with the shortfall of costs for construction. Some areas that the bond will be used for are the new Science building, solar panels on each of the campuses, signage to help folks find the new buildings. The Board passed a resolution to work with a solar company and to take advantage of incentives.

MCC has been awarded an NSF grant for \$1 million dollars titled the ExLENT Grant which stands for, Experiential Learning and Emerging and Novel Technologies. We are in line for two more NSF grants. Congratulations to Gaby Beas for being recognized at the Encinitas City Council meeting when they provided a proclamation to recognize Mexican Independence Day in the City of Encinitas and as a representative of our Mexican American community. Beas, along with MCC faculty and the community, helped to write the proclamation.

MCC is sending a team to the Guided Pathways Institute, September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, in Oakland.

Monday is our formal ACCJC accreditation. They trust our self-evaluation report and they have found no areas of deficiency. They will do a tour and a meet and greet. There will be an open forum in Aztlan from 11am to 12pm. They focused on the standards of accreditation and not beyond that. They will listen to anyone from the community. At 1pm they will do their exit report in OCT200. They will tell us overall, their recommendations. They will have a lot of complementary things to say in what they have observed in the work we are doing. In seven years, there will be fewer standards but will be looking for outcomes for students and closing equity gaps. Not process oriented but, instead outcome oriented.

#### **C. Classified Senate**

Acting VP of CS, Lori Schneider, reported on behalf of Ingrid Phillips. CS will meet Tuesday, 9/19. They are happy to be participating in the ACCJC accreditation visit. Extended deadline by two additional days for the deadline to apply for their Classified Leadership Program. CS is happy to collaborate with AS to plan for the January 18<sup>th</sup> event, Cultivating Human Connection, a day for all MiraCostans. Save the date for the end of year celebration, Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D. Associated Student Government**

ASG President, Bianca Rosales, reported on behalf of Makala Hutchinson. ASG members were introduced at yesterday's Board of Trustees meeting. ASG has approved two budget requests to support the CLC campus and their anti-bullying literacy event and an alter-making event for Dia De Los Muertos on all campuses. ASG was present at many events recently ASG is working to finish their goals for the 2023-24 academic year. To increase student body presence on all three campuses, ASG will be hosting their bi-weekly meetings on a rotational basis starting with Oceanside, CLC, SAN to be more inclusive of each and strive away from calling Oceanside the main campus. They have recently filled all of their executive positions. Another goal is to have a student representative in each shared governance committee.

### **VII. Information / Discussion**

#### **A. Chicano Heritage Month Presentation – Mina Hernandez, Gaby Beas**

Description: *Mina Hernandez will present information about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dia de los Muertos event being hosted at the CLC, SAN, and OC campuses. Faculty are being invited to collaborate and/or attend the event.*

It was noted that Dia de los Muertos was started shortly after the pandemic because of losses due to Covid. The group started with Latinx classified and faculty. They wanted a space to be able to have a safe space to discuss and be together and support each other. With that came networking and figuring out ways to continue to support each other. If we, as staff, feel at home at MCC, then we need to have that space for our students, as well. As a HSI, we follow true to that mission. From that we have what is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event taking place on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30am – 2pm on OC, and November 1<sup>st</sup> at the

CLC 11:30am – 1:30pm, and the SEC 11am – 2pm. Hernandez and Beas are on a committee to help coordinate the Encinitas Friends of the Arts to co-sponsor the Dia De Los Muertos Event on October 29<sup>th</sup>. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, they have secured a professor who will talk about the migration of the monarch butterfly from 11am-12pm in Aztlan A&B. They have also collaborated with the Horticulture Department who are working with the Child Development Center to grow mildewed. We are trying to showcase MCC and our students' involvement. The Auto Club, in collaboration with Arnoldo Williams, is coordinating with low riders and David Parker from Design will help build the alters and a tree of life. Reach out to Hernandez and Beas if you would like to be involved or you know of any students who might want to get involved with these events. The alter building class will occur again. They are trying to integrate all campuses and all students at all campuses. There are also scholarship opportunities for our students.

**B. New Financial Aid Process – Mike Dear**

*Description: Details will be shared regarding a new process that limits the courses a student can claim for federal financial aid to those that are part of their program of study (following federal guidelines). There will be an opportunity for faculty to ask questions, gain clarity, and be better prepared to support students within the new process.*

It is a legal requirement for financial aid to go through several audits. A potential audit can come from the Federal Department of Education. NASFAA came and did a mock audit to help prepare. They found a potential finding of tracking what applies to degree versus what is degree applicable which is what it used to say. All units are degree-applicable, but it can vary and so this has been tightened up and it helps to avoid financial fines. They are focusing on equity for students including all DI populations and Pell recipients which are one in the same. This is an easy way to make gains and to help DI populations complete. Unlike students of means, these students only have six years of Pell eligibility, four years of Cal Grant eligibility, and they must stay on track to finish. It is important to get students on a path early and focus on what they need. The guiding principle and culture of the financial aid office is, when in doubt give it out. They are trying to allow for as much eligibility as possible done through electives and double majors. Students are being contacted by email with a letter about only courses that do not count. It included a helpful self-service guide. They are trying to update the student 360 page so faculty and staff can view the student financial aid awards as well.

A diagram of the Course Program of Study (CPoS) process was shared noting it is 100% automated in the Surf and DW (degree works) systems. The population of financial aid recipients in SURF are selected and sent over to DW. In DW, for every student, each class enrollment in Surf is compared to either their degree audit or their student education plan. If that course is on the degree audit or on the ed plan, then the results sent back to Surf is to pay for that class. If the class is not part of the degree audit and not part of the Ed plan, then it is sent back to Peoplesoft, and the class is not payable. It is the number of units on which is based financial aid eligibility. A lot of work was put into this over the last year, and they are still making tweaks and improvements while learning things about the DW system.

Dr. Cooke spoke to the impact of what it would mean to get rid of the Department of Education. Students would not have financial aid. Dear noted that inherently, financial aid is a federal bureaucracy riddled with barriers, but it is the mission of MCC to reduce as many of those barriers as possible for its students. Scenarios were discussed concerning the impact of AB1705. Support courses are now offered for Math and English. In financial aid, before AB705 and AB1705, still have the ability to pay for remedial coursework. A student is eligible to receive aid for up to 30 units of that and is still done. To the extent courses can fit into basic aid or remedial and we can still fit that definition, we can pay for them. If they do not fit, we cannot pay for them. Of note, corequisite classes are degree applicable but not transferable. Further, as English and Math are reworking their curricular processes, it is a good opportunity to revisit the design of those courses and to look at the course basic (CB) coding and DV coding to make sure to find a way to make them local degree applicable. Also, having a noncredit option is great for students because they don't have to pay for those courses. Will continue to make improvements with regards to placement processes. As a reminder, students do not have to be full time to receive financial aid. With 12 units or more, they are eligible to receive the maximum aid. There are prorated amounts of financial aid available at all levels of enrollment. Financial has made a promise that if a course is on an Ed plan, no one in financial aid is going to question it. The hope is that in working with the Counseling office, the counselor and the student can get creative and find a way to make things work. The comprehensive ed plan is an important part of the process and includes financial aid on the roster. We would like to let faculty know which of their students have not completed a comprehensive education plan and encourage their students to do so in order to meet their academic goals. Discussion ensued concerning students who drop one or more classes and how it affects their financial aid. It will depend on how many classes they drop and the

date on which that happens. If a student is being dropped for suspected fraud, you have to notify that student, but it is easy for A&R to reinstate them if they should not be dropped and then there is no harm to their financial aid. It was also noted that grades can impact student financial aid.

**C. AS Goal Setting – Leila Safaralian**

Description: *Discussion will continue from the Academic Senate meeting of September 1<sup>st</sup>, to create SMARTER goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound, and have an Evaluation mechanism. We will recap the emerging themes, topics, issues, ideas, and goals that surfaced.*

A proposal was shared to highlight a presentation and then bring it back at the following meeting for another conversation after sharing with constituents. It was proposed that AS will have a presentation based on focus points that came up from previous discussions. For each presentation there can be three lenses: classroom practice, program completion, and relevant communities. The goal is to listen to various active faculty-led groups with regard to teaching and learning and find out what they need from AS. Some possible themes include dual enrollment, collaboration with counselors, guided pathways, culturally relevant teaching practices, student groups, closing equity gaps, and more suggestions were made. Another theme suggested is noncredit including how it stands alone and how it feeds into credit. It was noted to think about how we are serving all of our students regardless of credit or noncredit or degree or certificate seeking and how we add that to our values. We don't focus enough that our students are college students and perhaps this could be another lens. When looking at the lenses, make it clear this is a college and serving students in a way that they've earned and will help to increase success and a sense of accomplishment. Counselors are working on a video to distribute to departments to add to their webpages. Discussion ensued regarding what theme would be presented each month throughout this academic year. It was suggested that presenters will attend the first AS meeting of the month to provide information about culturally relevant teaching practices. Then, they will be invited back to have a discussion at the following meeting that month.

**VIII. Senator Reports**

Brian Page wanted to mention and make folks aware of waitlist roster management in Surf. He had a student who dropped themselves from the waitlist for his class. They should not have dropped off the waitlist to try to get into another class because if they try to get back into the class, they may not be able to since they came off the waitlist. They would now be lower on the list to get into the class.

**X. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.