ACADEMIC SENATE

OFFICIAL MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, asked Seante members to observe a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Raymond Clark. She noted that flowers were sent to Dr. Clark's family with deepest condolences from Academic Senate. She then opened the meeting and respectfully acknowledged that MiraCosta College is on the traditional territory of the Luiseño/Payómkawichum people. Today, the meeting place at 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 **9:03am**.

II. Remote Member Attendance

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

No members of Academic Senate requested remote participation under the provisions of AB2449.

III. Roll Call

Members present: Robin Allyn, Daniel Ante-Contreras, Sunny Cooke (ex-officio), Angela Beltran-Aguilar, Shawn Firouzian, Julie Graboi, curry mitchell, Brian Page, Hossein Ravanbaksh, Leila Safaralian (President), Nate Scharf, Alexis Tucker Sade, Krista Warren

Members absent: Erica Duran, Jim Julius, Done Love

Others present: Eduardo Aguilar, Carl Banks, Theresa Bolaños, Julie Cord, Scott Fallstrom, Tori Fishinger, Ruth Gay, Trisha Hoste, Stacey Hull, Jeff Ihara, Shannon Na, Valeria Pineda, Jim Sullivan, Cynthia Vasquez Gonzeles, Rick White

IV. Persons Wishing to Address the Senate

Krista Warren read a invitation for volunteers for commencement noted that in a bold and highlighted section, it said, "in our experience, it makes the most sense for full-time faculty to volunteer in the morning, since they have a role in the ceremony by walking the procession and sitting behind the graduating class." She further read a section of the ASCCC part-time rights, rules and governance section which says that there is a myth of part-time faculty not wanting to be included in college governance and activities due to multiple factors including systematic restrictions, policies, practices, constitutions and bylaws, lack of compensation for participation and lack of intentional invitation to participate. Warren encouraged that MCC remember AF and to make it intentional to include them. If the college does not want to say all faculty, then write full-time faculty and associate faculty noting that associate faculty teach more than half the classes at MCC.

Alexis Tucker Sade made a comment as a follow up to the discussions at the last Senate meeting where she had input from constituents. The biggest concerns of all faculty are related to teaching and learning, specifically, whether students are learning and are faculty providing students opportunities to learn. Further, how are faculty critically examining how students are actually learning and using data on student success as well as instructor workload to assess faculty positions on in-person and online learning modalities. She proposes creating a survey for all faculty rather than filling out SLOs to reflect on workload when teaching online classes, perception of student success, and what they think the challenges are. She noted a need to be evidence-based.

Scott Fallstrom said he would like to see the business of AS addressed before informational pieces and move reports to the end of the meeting so it doesn't impact the number of people who may have to wait while informational discussions are going on. CPC had two reads and sent out information to the entire campus about what was coming through. There were no comments nor issues. Things passed and came to Senate where discussion and additional comments took place. This was not the place for that. He encourages folks to attend the committee meetings when those initial conversations

are taking place so the committee can bring the formal proposal forward that reflects all people's comments and to avoid these discussions at AS.

V.   Changes to Agenda Order
Several time certains on the agenda were noted.
Item D. BP7400 Employee Travel under Information/Discussion is removed from the agenda.

VI.   Consent Calendar
A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2024
B. Ratify Office Assignments for Full-time Faculty for the 2024-25 Academic Year
C. Curriculum Packet #3 – *Theresa Bolaños, Scott Fallstrom*
Description: *Every year CPC reviews curriculum and submits it to Academic Senate for approval. For this third curriculum packet, CPC needed to review nursing curriculum outside of the regular curriculum cycle due to Title 5 mandated changes to our local GE plan.*
D. 2024-2025 Credit and Noncredit Discipline Lists – *Scott Fallstrom* **[Time certain 9:15am]**
Description: *The CPC maintains an official disciplines and course list for all credit and noncredit courses. Each spring (April), working with discipline faculty, the CPC reviews and updates these lists and forwards the updated lists to Academic Senate. Once approved by Senate, the updated lists are distributed to department chairs, instructional deans, and Human Resources and are posted on the CPC Portal site.*
E. Equivalencies – *Jeff Ihara* **[Time certain 9:35am]**
Description: *Approve one equivalency in Computer Sciences and two equivalencies in Noncredit ESL.*
One equivalency for noncredit ESL for Aida Vasquez was pulled from the agenda for further discussion based on the recommendation of the Equivalency Committee and in consultation with Tricia Hoste, chair of Noncredit ESL.
Consent calendar items A., B., C., D., and E. to include the equivalencies for Computer Sciences and one Noncredit ESL for Shelly Ibri, were approved by unanimous consent.

VII.   Reports
A. Academic Senate President
Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, noted that she, Jim Julius, and curry mitchell attended ASCCC Plenary where they engaged in many good conversations. Congratulations were extended to Luke Lara who was elected as the southern representative of the ASCCC. Another highlight was a resolution for the creation of an AI certificate in colleges. Many argued that a minimum qualification would be a master's degree in math or computer science. However, the resolution says that the minimum qualification would be a master's in artificial intelligence, computer science, electrical engineering and computer science, data science and cognitive science together. There were a number of resolutions about AB1705. There were long conversations about Palestine and Israel regarding academic freedom of faculty and students on campus.
She also attended the event concerning sexual assault awareness on April 24th. Alexis Tucker Sade sent an email announcing the documentary, To Kill A Tiger. The film can be viewed through the MiraCosta Library or on Netflix.
Thao Ha sent an email inviting faculty to the Light the Fire Summer event. RSVP by May 10th. This will be hosted in collaboration by HSI and the Guided Pathway leadership team. It is an opportunity for professional development in a social environment and dedicating more time to redesigning curriculum and implementation for the fall. There is a $1200 stipend through a grant for all full-time and associate faculty who attend.
A reminder was given for May 17th. After the regular meeting AS will have a celebration in the same room, OCT200, from 11am – 12pm. AS will acknowledge and celebrate outgoing and incoming senators, retirees, award winners, and faculty leaders.
B. College Superintendent/President
Superintendent/President, Sunny Cooke, also congratulated Luke Lara for being selected for the Southern regional role with ASCCC. Congratulations to all faculty who were recognized at the spring celebration of excellence. She noted that folks are needed on committees and encourages folks to join.
C. Classified Senate
Classified Senate Vice President, Carl Banks, recognize Diana Soto as the outstanding employee of the semester who also celebrated 35 years at MCC. CS President, Omar Ramirez, has designated in June and July as the time when CS will reimagine itself. All classified are welcome to join.

D. Associate Student Government

ASG representative, Valeria Pineda, had no report.

VIII. Old Business

A. AP4025B Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degrees and General Education – *Scott Fallstrom*

Description: *Modified (simplified) the title. Added course approval process, which is reports. Replaced "U.S. regionally accredited" with "accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education" to align with recent legislative changes. Added a bachelor's degree satisfies the lower-division GE requirement, per legislative changed. Added references. This aligns with Title 5, sections 55060 and 55062. This AP was tabled at the last meeting and sent back to CPC for minor changes to the wording as noted.*

MSU (Owens / Alexis) to approve AP4025B Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degrees and General Education as presented.

B. BP4100B Graduation Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education – *Scott Fallstrom*

Description: *Modified (simplified) the title. Removed reference to competencies as a graduation requirement to align with legislative changes. Replaced "US regionally accredited" to "accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education" to align with legislative changes. Added Title 5 reference. Recent legislative changes to Title 5, section 55060. This BP was tabled at the last meeting and sent back to CPC for minor updates to wording.*

MSU (Beltran-Aguilar / Graboi) to approve BP4100B Graduation Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education as presented.

C. AP4100B Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates – Baccalaureate in Science Degree – *Scott Fallstrom*

Description: *Modified (simplified) the title. Removed reference to competencies as a graduation requirement to align with legislative changes. Replaced "US regionally accredited" to "accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education" to align with legislative changes. Added Title 5 reference. Recent legislative changes to Title 5, section 55060. This AP was tabled at the last meeting and sent back to CPC for minor updates to wording.*

MSU (Page / Owens) to approve AP4100B Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates with a friendly amendment to correct the wording under point A.2.b. from "nationally recognized accrediting agency" to "agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education."

D. BP4100C Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates – *Scott Fallstrom*

Description: *A minor addition was made to show how many college credits are required to satisfy the high school diploma residency requirement. No additional changes have been made after the 4/19/24 AS meeting, as determined by the Adulte High School department chair and instructional dean. This BP was tabled at the last meeting and sent back to CPC for minor updates to wording.*

MSU (Warren / Ravanbaksh) to approve BP4100C Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates as presented.

E. AP4100C Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates – *Scott Fallstrom*

Description: *A minor addition was made to show how many college credits are required to satisfy the high school diploma residency requirement. Also updated competency requirements per Title 5. No additional changes have been made after the 4/19/24 AS meeting, as determined by the Adult High School department chair and instructional dean. This AP was tabled at the last meeting and sent back to CPC for minor updates.*

MS (Beltran-Aguilar / Owens) to approve AP4100C Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates as presented.

F. AP4040 Library and Other Instructional Support Services – *Hull* **[Time certain 9:30am]**

Description: A*n update was made to the section titled "Academic Support and Tutoring Services" due to learning center reorganization.*

MSU (Owens / Graboi) to approve AP404 Library and Other Instructional Support Services as presented.

G. AP5070 Attendance Accounting – *Hull* **[Time certain 9:30am]**
Description: *Minor updates were made to align with the CCLC template.*

MSU (Beltran / Page) to approve AP5070 Attendance Accounting as presented.

H. AP7211.2 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies - *Ihara* **[Time certain 9:35 am]**
Description: *The Equivalency Committee has drafted a revision to our AP on Equivalency in order to comply with statewide Academic Senate standards regarding qualification by eminence while providing objective and measurable alternative guidelines that can replace eminence for those disciplines in which eminence has historically been used to qualify. A document of Section A – Alternative Equivalency Guidelines for Specific Disciplines is also attached. After a suggestion by Academic Senate, one small wording change was made; "MiraCosta Community College" replaces "MiraCosta College" from the draft submitted at the April 19th meeting of AS. The updated version of this AP comes back for approval.*

MSP (Ante-Contreres / Sade Tucker) [Nate Scharf abstained] to approve AP7211.2 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies as presented.

I. Full-time Faculty List for Emeritus Status Consideration – *Safaralian*
Description: *Each year, the college President presents to the Academic Senate the names of retiring full-time faculty who meet the qualifications for emeritus status. The Senate reviews the information and makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Refer to AP 7280.4 Employee Recognition: Full-Time Faculty. This is the second read.*

MSP (Owens / Graboi) [Angela Beltran-Aguilar and curry mitchell abstained] to approve the full-time faculty list for emeritus status consideration for Susan Simpson as presented.

J. Associate Faculty Retiree List for Emeritus Status Consideration – *Leila Safaralian*
Description: *Each year the college President presents to the Academic Senate the names of retiring associate faculty who meet the qualification for emeritus status. The Senate reviews the information and makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Refer to AP 7780.5 Employee Recognition: Associate Faculty. This is the second read.*

It was noted that Lisa Lane was listed for emeritus status consideration as an associate faculty member, in error. It was discovered that Lane was already granted emeritus status as a full-time faculty member by the Board of Trustees on May 18, 2023. Lane served at MiraCosta as a full-time history instructor for 33 years and retired in July 2022. Therefore, her name is being removed from the list of associate faculty being considered for emeritus status.

MSU (Ravanbaksh / Graboi) to approve the corrected associate faculty retiree list for emeritus status consideration for Frederica Carr, Joseph Chirra, Kerry Ferreirae, and Andrew Freedman.

X. Information / Discussion
A. AI Taskforce Update – *Jim Sullivan*
Description: *Jim Julius and Jim Sullivan will provide an update on the work of the AI taskforce to date. They will seek to clarify the Senate's intentions for the work of the taskforce.*

mitchell supplied a little framing for this topic. The taskforce has been working and are seeking clarity as to what their task is. They will not specifically address AI but, instead, ask for the charge of the taskforce. The work will continue next year and it does not need to be resolved right now but only to supply them with what the task should be, what should this taskforce be doing that can help faculty, and what questions the Senate can offer them.

Jim Sullivan shared what has been done. They struggled to find a structure for having a conversation and settled on institutional values. For each value they asked how is AI a challenge and how can AI contribute. As they have been talking, there is a lot of anxiety about AI for instructors and students and they seek guidance. Some folks on the committee are reluctant to go to institutional values because they don't know what AI is and so there is some reluctance to offer structured guidance. What could the guidance be and how do you do guidance about something that is about thinking. There is consensus that as a college we want AI to support the development of our students. One idea supported is making it clear to faculty that they should have an AI policy to communicate to students in their class and make clear to students what their expectations are in terms of AI. Different disciplines may look at AI differently and so we cannot tell our students it is going to be just one way. So there seems to be a consensus about the need for faculty to develop their thinking about this and communicate it to students, either as a policy in their syllabus or something that works in their class.

Another area is our need to teach students we won't be able to come to these answers for a while but that it is going to be a dialogue and to teach our students there isn't one way to do this. The main thing we want to know today, is this what do you want us to do, is what you're hearing the direction you want us to move in, thinking about the broad guidelines that can help the committee work through this.

It was asked if there will there be an opportunity for faculty to be trained to use AI in order to be confident in helping their students. AI is changing so rapidly and there are very few people with expertise. Let's get back to broader values nd principles. That is all we can really do right now.

Rick White explained that the reason for the discovery lab was to just try to use AI, to use the tools and to see how they fit into your practice. As we evolve our relationship with the tool, we can help you accelerate through the things that are challenging and the tool itself will do that, as well.

There is a lot of tech overload and would help is to know which platform should be used. There are many tools such as open AI's ChatGPT which is the model Microsoft is using as a baseline. Copilot is integrated into your tools with which you can do a lot of things. It's not amazing but is a step forward. As everyone develops their own individual styles we will learn together. It will only continue to advance and get better in days or weeks, when it will get significantly better.

It was asked if the campus has rules, regulations, and limitations of what students can do. There is resistance to that because of the legal complexities of enforcement and every discipline wanting to use it in different ways. We do not have institutional policies just yet.

Another concern is working conditions and how this will affect faculty. Could syllabus be uploaded into AI? People can take our voices and faces. It is suggested to work with FA and all employee representatives to come up with a MCC policy to protect all employees of the college. It would really helpful if the Senate decides that is something they want to do. That would change the conversation and the mission dramatically. It would be helpful if the Senate would be clear on what they want.

It is believed the college does not maintain any copyright to any of our work as faculty and so the rights to our likeness or any of that would be excluded from that.

Sean Davis noted that for the taskforce, they would like guidance on what they need to do right now; what do our faculty and students need right now and what would AS want to see out of the group?

Leila read part of an article about cheating with AI. In AI those tools are changing every week about cheating the system. AB3270 was noted that it prohibits any job replacement with AI.

mitchell suggested what would benefit the taskforce is to know what is not on their plate so when issues come up, they know someone else is taking care of that piece such as the AI discovery lab and so they know their charge is something else. This is leadership the Senate can provide. If Senate takes this up next year, how do we organize faculty groups around AI and establish and support those groups? As new needs emerge, we identify them. This can be something that you decide to be a focus, what are all faculty doing, how are we organizing ourselves, where are those spaces, what are the needs that that way we can tell the taskforce, all we need you to do is to look at this.

Lastly, is was noted that Senate has complete control over the taskforce but the discovery lab is not under their purview.

B. Innovation Grant – *Tori Fishinger*

Description: *As we head into commencement season and celebrate our students, we are thinking of next fiscal year and how the MiraCosta foundation can partner with our faculty/staff to continue to support academic programs and student needs though our innovation Grants. Associate Direction of Development for the Foundation, Tori Fishinger, will present information on applying for grants ranging from $500 to $5,000.*

Fishinger came to the meeting to plant a seed for faculty that as they plan for next year they have the ability to apply for and receive $500 to $500 to enhance their classes in some way. The Foundation can work to help faculty get applications to go through. They are hoping for more participation. Look for email from Fishinger with more information.

C. Noncredit Presentation – *Noncredit Faculty*

Description: *The Academic Senate theme for the month of May is noncredit. Faculty from Continuing Education (noncredit programs) will present a variety of courses and programs offered, the diversity of the student population served, and the successes and challenges of teaching in Continuing Education.*

The following noncredit faculty joined the meeting to give their presentation: Julie Cord, Trisha Hoste, Shannon Na, Ruth Gay, Eduardo Aguilar, and Cynthia Vasquez Gonzeles.

For the full audio/video of this discussion, visit this link:

   AS Meeting 05-03-24_Session 1_Noncredit.mp4

Noncredit faculty will return to the next meeting of Academic Senate on May 17th for further discussion with Senate colleagues.

D. BP7400 Employee Travel – *Tim Flood*

Description: *BP7400 Employee Travel comes to Academic Senate for information only. CCLC recommended removal of optional language the district chose not to include in the BP. This is a reference update only and there are no changes to the BP.*

This information/discussion item was removed from the agenda.

E. Academic Senate Annual Report - *Safaralian*

Description: *On April 21, 2023, the Academic Senate approved submitting an end-of-the-year report at the end of each spring instead of a program review. This is the second Academic Senate Annual Report being submitted.*

Safaralian noted that this is the second annual report of the Academic Senate including reports from all subcommittees of AS. This comes for information only.

XI.   Senator Reports

Hossein – Has been 40 years since 10 Iranian women gave their lives for freedom and justice. On June 2nd they will be commemorated at the Encinitas Community Senior Center. Their only sin was to teach children who were removed by force. They were raped as a lesson to other women. Thousands of women have now stood up. Send Hossein a message if you'd like to attend.

Robin Allyn was scheduled to attend the Friday, May 10th meeting of ASG at the SEC but is unable to attend. Sean Davis will attend in her place and Alexis Sade Tucker may also attend at 10am in room SAN3111.

Owens announced a celebration last Friday for EOPS students who are graduating. Today, there is an event to give out free caps and gowns to our students until 1:30pm.

XII.   Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:15m.