



OFFICIAL MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, 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 9:00am.

II. Remote Member Attendance

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

Angela Beltran-Aguilar requested to attend by remote participation under the Just Cause provision of AB2449. There were no objections and so Angela Beltran-Aguilar attended the meeting under the Just Cause provision of AB2449 via unanimous consent.

III. Roll Call

Members present: Robin Allyn, Erica Duran, Shawn Firouzian, Rachel Hastings, Jim Julius, Don Love, curry mitchell, Candy Owens, Brian Page, Hossein Ravanbaksh, Leila Safaralian (President), Nate Scharf, Alexis Tucker-Sade, Krista Warren

Members attending via Just Cause: Angela Beltran-Aguilar

Members attending via remote participation – no vote: Julie Graboi

Members absent: Sunny Cooke (ex-officio)

Others present: Carl Banks, Jeff Ihara, Taya Lazootin, Zhenya Lindstrom, Lisa Niemann, Denée Pescarmona

After roll call Safaralian introduced Carl Banks who, along with Denée Pescarmona, presented Debby Adler with the Outstanding Employee Award for the Fall 2023 Semester. Lovely sentiments were shared by Banks, Pescarmona, Safaralian, Warren, Roberts, and Allyn. Adler expressed her gratitude, especially to Safaralian for spearheading the effort to nominate her, the committee for selecting her, and for the award as well as, her love of her job and supporting all faculty.

IV. Persons Wishing to Address the Senate

Hossein Ravanbaksh spoke of how proud he is of Ukrainian women and Iran's Nobel Laureate, Narges Mohammadi who went on a hunger strike in prison on December 10th, the International Human Rights Day. He further noted that human rights have been nonexistent in Iran since the Islamic Republic took over Iran. His country, Persia, and the over 25 centuries old Kingdom was Cyrus the Great, the famous cylinder, gave freedom to the Jews and brought them back from Babylonia to the Holy Land, the same country taken over by dogs. He is beside himself and asks how long is this going to last? How long is the world going to sit and watch quietly? The two women he mentioned earlier were among the Yaron, which means friends who took over the affairs of the Baha'i Community in Iran along with three other people and were immediately put in prison for ten years and are now back for another ten years because of their faith, because they would not recant their faith which has nothing in store for the world but peace and justice. We demand justice.

Angela Beltran-Aguilar read a statement from a constituent. "My name is Ariana Solis, and I am a co-coordinator and counseling instructor of our Puente program. After listening to the AS meeting recording on November 17, and in the spirit of conversation with guided pathways/ACPs presented by our colleagues Thao Ha and Adrean Askerneese, I wanted to clarify. ASE programs thrive by following/mirroring the successful 34-year-old Puente flagship model program at MiraCosta. PUENTE's 42-year success and national model anchors itself in the three consistent tenets: Counseling, Instruction

in Writing Composition, and mentoring while holding high academic standards with intrusive and strong support. The key to student success lies in the commitment of our instructional and counseling faculty, who commit to weekly coordinating meetings, provide culturally sensitive and relevant curriculum, as well as, high-touch academic support and career counseling, while remaining current in their field and professionally connected to a statewide and national network of colleagues. Success includes creating a close-knit community of *cariño*, love and support for our students who then successfully transfer to four-year universities. This close-knit community is possible due to our maximum class size of 25 students per cohort and reassigned time for its co-coordinators/instructors. And while priority registration would aid in the academic success of the student population ASE programs serve, it's important to note that not all ASE programs receive priority registration. PUENTE students at MiraCosta, for example, do not have priority registration. Lastly, just as we cannot put all students in one box, not all ASE programs are the same. They serve to meet the diverse needs of our students' intersectional identities and experiences thus these programs function differently; they have different purposes and that is a strength."

Candy Owens expressed a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to the holiday angels, EOPS, CalWORKs, Next Up, and Rafi Students and their families. At an event last Saturday, Santa Claus delivered the gift to the children. It was also with pride that parents could show their children where they attend school.

Erica Duran cordially invited everyone to the Winter Social today at the CLC at 1pm.

V. Changes to Agenda Order – None.

VI. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2023

B. Ratify Updated Committee Assignments for AY 2023-24

C. Equivalency Requests –Jeff Ihara

Description: *Approve two equivalencies; one for Japanese and one for Mathematics – Basic Skills: Noncredit.*

D. Comparable Degree Title Requests – Jeff Ihara

Description: *Approve three comparable degree title requests for English.*

Item A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2023, was pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion of changes.

Item C. Equivalency Request for Mathematics – Basic Skills: Noncredit, was pulled from the Consent Calendar for further clarification and discussion.

Item D. (one) Comparable Degree Title Request, Master's in Linguistics: Master's in TESOL, Literacy and Culture was pulled from the Consent Calendar and will go back to the Equivalency Committee. It will come to AS at a later date.

Consent Calendar items B. Ratify Updated Committee Assignments for AY 2023-24, C. Equivalency Request for Japanese, and D. two (2) Comparable Degree Title Requests for English were approved by unanimous consent.

MSU (Page / Warren) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2023, as revised, striking the sentence, "She was confused that the minutes that we approved had been changed and this was the heart of their discussion."

MSU (Duran / Owens) to approve the equivalency for Mathematics – Basic Skills: Noncredit as presented.

It was noted that the equivalency for mathematics – basic skills: noncredit came to Academic Senate at the last meeting and was sent back to the equivalency committee for more clarification. Mark Laurel and Safaralian reviewed this equivalency and were also in contact with Sandy Muryasz in HR who told them what to look for. They verified that the applicant earned 18 units of upper division math after carefully reading his transcript. It was further noted that the 18 units do not have to be math specific as long as the content of the classes was related to upper division math. Further, the requirements for teaching noncredit are not the same as for teaching credit math.

VII. Reports

A. Academic Senate President

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, thanked and congratulated Adler once again. Noted that this is the last week of the fall semester. Faculty are giving and grading final exams and posting final grades. Appreciate what all MiraCostans are doing to wrap up this semester successfully including faculty, ITS, SS,

classified professionals, and the many colleagues who worked tirelessly to make sure everything is moving smoothly. Further, offered a heartfelt thank you to the STEM, Writing, and learning centers overall, and tutors for how much they impact student success. The learning centers are looking and asking for recommendations for student tutors. Thanks went to all new Academic Senate Senators who completed their first semester on AS and thanks to the new subcommittee chairs, as well.

Mitchell and she attended the CPC Information Session regarding local degree updated from Title 5 changes on December 6th. It was a Hyflex event. Scott Fallstrom, Joanne Benschop, Theresa Bolaños, and Denée Pescarmona lead the conversation. On December 7th, CPC continued the conversation and provided an opportunity for faculty to ask questions. They will be joining AS on January 19th to report on these changes. A reminder that the AS meeting will be held on January 19th from 1pm-3pm in room 3101. The theme in January is student groups when we bring the voice of students to AS.

February 29th (Thursday) on campus and March 29th (the 5th Friday) off campus is the Scheduling Summit to strengthen and improve the scheduling process. Share these dates with constituents. The summit is open to everyone.

January 18th from 9-11am is the 2nd Annual Human Connections: Season of Change, navigating, struggling, and striving with change. This is a collaboration between AS and CS.

No report from GP today.

B. College Superintendent/President

Denée Pescarmona reported on behalf of Superintendent/President, Sunny Cooke and extended holiday greeting and wishes for rest and relaxation to all over the break. William Fisher attended his last Board meeting as a member last night as he stepped down from the Board. He was a board member for 14 years. The board will appoint a new trustee within the next 60 days. Rick Cassar will be Board President and Raye Clendening will be the Board VP for the next year. Anthony Gutierrez is one of four students who won and presented with a \$25,000 Bimbo Bakery Scholarship at the board meeting last night. He will pursue his nursing career with MCC. Last night was a reminder of how the work we do every day changes our students' lives and the lives of their families.

The legislative analyst's office has released their budget projections. The State is facing a \$58 billion dollar shortfall extending over the next three years which they went back to 2022-23. MCC will not feel the impact unlike fellow apportionment colleges who will feel the impact and will need to make some hard choices about what they are going to do and how they are going to move forward. MCC could feel the impact in things like categorical and grant funds that often the State will pull back or hold as they try to pay their bills. MCC has almost \$2 million dollars in zero textbook cost grants that are starting to deploy. MCC will continue to honor that commitment regardless of what happens at the State.

In good news, we are watching our spring enrollment. We have continued to compress registration timeline. Previously, it used to be four to five weeks, but this has been compressed to only 12 days and so we are now in open enrollment. HS students now have the opportunity to enroll for concurrent enrollment instead of having to wait until January. We are currently 80% at where we were for the spring semester and at 3,125 FTES. We did 3,915 total FTES last year. Up about 4.5% in enrollment. Last year at this time 12/14 there were 6,973 enrolled for spring of 2023 and for spring 2024 on 12/14 there are 8,229. There are 1,500 more students who have secured their classes ahead of time. Across the district we are 100% full in every online class with wait lists; 52% full in our fully on ground classes, and only 49% full in hybrid classes.

When asked if the students enrolled in online classes are real students, it was noted that many of them are. This timeline gives the college time to run checks on those students across the system. The Chancellor's Office has implemented some patches and have a webinar coming up in January to try to help stem the flood of fraudulent enrollment. They are implementing different tools to help verify and validate that robots are not filling out the applications. Further, the drop for nonpayment is in early January and the college will continue monitoring this.

If you know of any associate faculty who are looking to teach at MCC, encourage them to contact HR and apply to be in the pool so department chairs can look at the pool and see who they want to interview. Jim Julius and Jim Sullivan and Nadia Khan are all available to help faculty set up and design their Canvas pages to teach online.

C. Classified Senate

CS Interim President, Carl Banks reported on behalf of Classified Senate Vice President, Ingrid Phillips. CS had their year-end celebration and enjoyed collaborating with faculty. CS cancelled their December meeting. Their next meeting will take place on January 9th. They will promote the 2nd Annual Human Connections Conference upon their return from winter break.

D. Associated Student Government

ASG Representative, Mikala Hutchinson, was not in attendance. There was no report.

VIII. Information / Discussion

A. Exploring Dual Enrollment Faculty Perspectives – Firouzian

Description: *The Academic Senate is having thematic months throughout the year. For the month of December, we are focusing on Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment faculty will join the meeting once again, to continue dialogue and answer questions.*

Safaralian noted that at the last Senate meeting we heard from Firouzian and the perspectives from many faculty who joined the meeting concerning dual enrollment. Firouzian started the conversation by thanking Academic Senate for inviting them back for further discussion and questions from the Senate. A robust discussion ensued among Senators and guests at the meeting. For the full discussion, visit this [LINK](#).

Safaralian made a proposal of a motion for the AS to consider.

MSU (Firouzian / Warren) to approve that in spring 2024, the Academic Senate leadership will form a taskforce to create and submit a request document to further strengthen the dual enrollment program.

It was further agreed that there will need to be a conversation with the FA after creating and approving the document. mitchell noted that in thinking about the taskforce, how colleagues who teach dual enrollment, whether they be full time or associates and through whatever process, how will we include them in departmental program decision-making, curriculum development, and pedagogy conversations. How can we prioritize departmental level relationships and inclusion? Another thought is about the counterparts of a faculty coordinator at MCC and a faculty coordinator at a high school so that MCC faculty coordinators are not doing all the work but is working in collaboration and in tandem with someone with the same goals and ambitions. This is not being offered as an amendment to the motion but rather to be mindful of this as the taskforce is formed. This document could become a resolution at some point but at this time the taskforce will report back to the Senate for approval. It was further noted that like the calendar, dual enrollment is heavily regulated and there are no fewer than four assembly bills that have dictated in recent years how this work is done. Therefore, like the academic calendar, it would be great to do a lot of listening, knowledge building, and research up front because having that voice is very important. It is important to know the parameters of what can be done. Dual enrollment is very collaborative. Districts understand that they need to build their staffing infrastructure because it is growing and is becoming hard to manage. Collaboration requires time and intentionality.

Safaralian thanked Firouzian and Lindstrom for their leadership in dual enrollment and all the faculty who gave their time for this discussion.

IX. Senator Reports

Alexis Tucker-Sade shared an inspirational email from her Dean, Mike Fino. He brought up how we organize our chairships, such as who takes over as chair and he titled it The Inclusive Chairship. He brought up the point of everyone in departments working together to create a pathway for people taking over as chair, so everybody has the opportunity to be involved. It is also an opportunity for everyone to get together and talk about where they see programs going and to have these conversations and, as well, to include associate faculty in the process.

Jim Julius offered a reminder of the latest AS News he sent in an email that highlighted an interview with Adrean Askerneese who gave his own personal flavor to what he's been talking about at AS. The Awards Committee is currently accepting nominations for the Stanback Stroud Award, a statewide AS award that honors, in particular, support for DEI work of our faculty. In Online Ed, an email was sent yesterday about some choices faculty have about how their classes end and things to look ahead for in the spring. There are many workshops he has helped to create for academic readiness for students and online learning. For new faculty, there is a minimum training requirement, but it is not complete preparation for quality online teaching. If you know of new AF coming on board, there is a process at the department level and departments have Canvas shells they can share along with department colleagues for support.

Candy Owens noted that there was an emergency grant for students regardless of financial need for between \$500 and \$1,000. The deadline was yesterday. The same grant was approved for next semester and opens February 5th. If you have students you know are struggling financially, call financial aid for assistance. Advise students to go to the CARE program or to meet with their counselors.

Robin Allyn invited everyone to save-the-date for Thursday, January 18th following the Cultivating Human Connections event at 11:30am. The work-based learning team in alignment with guided pathways is having an employer connection luncheon.

Angela Beltran-Aguilar asked to encourage students to apply to the MESA program. Gave a shoutout to Dave Massey for directing Dance Reflections which was a great show. Encourages everyone to pay mind to art events going on at campus.

Shawn Firouzian noted there were three student groups who submitted a presentation proposal to competitions, systematic initiative for modern investigation and differential equations. He received an email from the director yesterday saying that they were so impressed by their work, and they have all been invited to be part of a panel on February 6th for an online conference. The Data Science Club was invited to the San Diego Supercomputer Center. Two MCC students have been invited to their Science Review and they would like to collaborate with us on possible entrance for our students. He also received an email from the Deputy Director to have a zoom meeting with them in the spring.

XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:01am.