

Meeting Minutes

Merritt College Academic Senate

Thursday, September 30, 2021

12:30-2:00 pm

Zoom URL: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/99184622859>

MEMBERS:

VOTING – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)			
X	Tom Renbarger, President	X	Mary Ciddio, Vice President
X	Jennifer Yates		Arja McCray
X	Heather Casale	X	Isela Gonzalez Santana
X	Lowell Bennett		Monica Ambalal
X	Ron Moss	X	Stefani de Vito
X	Derrick Ross	X	Maria Suarez
X	Anthony Powell	X	Jack Smith
Guests – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)			
X	Nghiem Thai, Librarian	X	David Johnson, President
X	Brad Balukjian, Instruction	X	Garth Kwiecien, VPAS
X	Denise Richardson, VPI		

GUESTS:

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
I. Call to Order	Called to order at 12:32 with a quorum present.	
II. Adoption of Agenda	MOTION (Casale): to approve today’s agenda. Passed unanimously.	Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu
III. Approval of Minutes	MOTION (Suarez): to approve MCAS minutes from 9/16/21 with corrections. Approved unanimously.	Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu
IV. Public Comment	Balukjian: concern re: student-centered enrollment management. We need to have nuanced conversations instead of an across-the-board “one size fits all” approach to cutting sections.	
V. Action Items/ Presentations	(a) MCAS Goals: MOTION (Ciddio) to approve MCAS goals presented by Renbarger. Discussion: VPI shared info re: reduced FTEF allotment in Spring 22 because we exceeded allotment in Summer/Fall 21. FTEF allotment comes from District based on 3-year FTES average. VPI is working with Nathan Pellegrin to create dashboards to track running tally on FTEF and more timely information about FTEF allocation. Questions re: throttling of FTES by refusal in previous semesters to add sections in courses that had full waitlists. Merritt could have filled additional sections but when those requests were denied, it depresses FTES, and this depressed number of students	

Merritt College puts students first. Through our rich educational programs, we foster a culture of equity and inclusion that empowers students to achieve their greatest potential and make meaningful contributions to their respective communities and our global society.

	<p>has become the basis for current FTEF allotment. Why are we making decisions based on FTEF “allotment” rather than actual budget available for faculty? VPI and President state that proof of full waitlists will result in additional sections, although this has not happened consistently in the past. What is the consequence for exceeding District’s “allotment” of sections? Answer (Johnson): our fiscal prudence has bought us goodwill with the District and this goodwill resulted in approval of more FT faculty. If we exceed our FTEF allocation in Spring 22 but all “extra” sections fill and Merritt proves these sections are fiscally viable, Merritt is unlikely to be punished. Additions were made to the list of MCAS Goals as follows:</p> <p><u>2021-22 MCAS Goals:</u> Faculty Engagement in Participatory Governance · 90% of FT faculty on at least one Participatory Governance Committee · 3 Senators to attend each of Fall/Spring Plenary session · Advocate for return of CDCPD chair release time Course Offerings · “Strive to 75” continue to work with the administration to produce a plan to transition PT instructional hours to FT instructional hours until the 75% level is reached and enshrine that plan in the budget and budget projections. · Work closely with PFT to develop inclusive class retention/addition policy, e.g. no class cut with more than 10 students, and sections added when waitlists are sufficiently full. · Work with college administration to develop a process to schedule courses in future terms based on courses that had full waitlists in previous terms. Adjunct Faculty Advocacy · Provide compensation for PT faculty to participate in governance and administration activities. · Office hour parity for Adjunct faculty. Equity: Develop “Grading For Equity” best practices</p> <p>MOTION (Ciddio): to approve amended MCAS Goals.</p> <p>(b) Distance Education Plan Presentation: postponed.</p> <p>(c) CARES/HEERF II/III Update (Kwiecien): Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. HEERF I is spent – was spent on direct student support, teaching and learning, and return to campus.</p> <p>MOTION (de Vito) to extend meeting to 2:30 pm.</p> <p>VPAS shared spending plan for HEERF II: priorities were based (in part) on students’ stated preferences, e.g.</p>	<p>Approved unanimously</p> <p>None opposed</p>
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	<p>strengthening cell signal; HEERF II funds are also used to replace “lost revenue” from vendors/renters/businesses that operated on campus before the COVID closure. HEERF III will be largely spent by District. VPAS thinks Merritt will get \$400K from HEERF III. Question: can these budget spreadsheets be posted on website for transparency? (Yes) Also, many colleges have developed democratic allocation processes for the CARES/HEERF funds to directly address student needs, can we do something similar for remaining HEERF? (No direct answer.) Where will the spending plan be reviewed – Budget Committee? (Yes, good idea.) Can we move Counselor salaries from Student Equity to Measure E? (Yes) Comment: section cuts fall disproportionately on part-time faculty; VPAS notes we’re over budget in this area. Comment: there is money in the budget for 4 full-time faculty which we are NOT hiring; where will that money go? A: To cover overage in part-time faculty.</p> <p>(d) MCAS Meeting options: postponed.</p>	Discussion only
VI. Standing Items	None	
VII. New Business	None	
VIII. Old Business	None	
IX. Announcements	Next Meeting: Thursday 10/21/21 @12:30 pm. Unclear at this time if this meeting will be in-person or virtual.	
X. Adjournment	Adjourned at 2:39 pm	