

## Meeting Minutes

Merritt College Academic Senate

Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

12:30-2:00 pm

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

### MEMBERS:

<b>VOTING – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)</b>			
X	Tom Renbarger, President	X	Mary Ciddio, Vice President
		X	Arja McCray
X	Heather Casale	X	Grace Idowu
X	Lowell Bennett	X	Monica Ambalal
X	Ron Moss	X	Stefani de Vito
X	Derrick Ross	X	Maria Suarez
X	Anthony Powell	X	Jack Smith
<b>Guests – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)</b>			
X	Nghiem Thai, Librarian: MCAS Scholarships		

### GUESTS:

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
I. Call to Order	Called to order 12:32 pm	
II. Adoption of Agenda	<b>Motion</b> (Ciddio) to approve agenda. <b>Approved unanimously.</b>	Chair – Email to <a href="mailto:merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu">merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu</a>
III. Approval of Minutes	<b>Motion</b> (Bennett) to approve 12/16/21 minutes. <b>Approved unanimously.</b>	Chair – Email to <a href="mailto:merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu">merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu</a>
IV. Public Comment	<b>Renbarger:</b> Welcome to Grace Idowu, elected to fill seat for Isela Santana, who is on sabbatical for Spring 2022.	

<p>V. Action Items/ Presentations</p>	<p><b>5A) Thai: MCAS Scholarships.</b> Nghiem is leading a student workshop at the Learning Center to help students apply. He is also volunteering to serve as fiscal agent for the scholarships in the absence of MCAS treasurer. Information needed: how much money is in the MCAS account? This will affect how many scholarships we offer and the monetary amount of each. Nghiem presented a proposed Spring 2022 Scholarship timeline.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> (Ciddio): Approve Nghiem’s proposed scholarship timeline; table the vote on scholarship amounts/what scholarships will be offered until 2/17/22.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> (de Vito): In Spring 2020, MCAS discussed offering 3 new MCAS Scholarships to honor deceased Merritt Faculty: William Love, Guy Forkner and Anita Black. We did not offer these scholarships in Spring 2021. Do we want to offer them now?</p> <p>(Thai) Need volunteers to help publicize scholarships and review scholarship applications. Volunteers: Mary Ciddio, Monica Ambalal, Heather Casale. Thai will be principal contact.</p> <p><b>5B) Renbarger: Election of Treasurer for Spring 2022:</b> Treasurer needs to deposit checks monthly in MCAS bank account; some fundraising, help with MCAS Scholarships. <b>Monica Ambalal volunteered for Spring 2022.</b></p> <p><b>5C) CDCPD 2022 Faculty Prioritization list.</b> CDCPD rankings were reviewed.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> (Casale): Approve CDCPD priority rankings as given.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <b>Bennett:</b> Concern: some proposals suffered because the proposal writer didn’t include data, didn’t understand/answer questions effectively. So it comes down to who is most effective at making their case rather than where the need for FT faculty is greatest. Can process be changed so that, for example, proposals are initially submitted for feedback and requesters are given a chance to revise their proposals before final submission? A: That’s for CDCPD to decide.</p> <p><b>Thai:</b> 1. How many FT faculty positions has the District approved for hire at Merritt and what money is available? A: We don’t know. 2. This year’s State Assembly approved big money for FT CCC hires: where is that money? A: We don’t know. 3. How is previous year’s prioritization taken into consideration in current year? A: CDCPD needs to decide this. In the past, each year starts fresh because needs change due to faculty retirements, deaths, and reassignments.</p> <p><b>Moss:</b> There are departments than have significant need for a full timer, but the written proposal did not answer questions properly, forcing a lower score. What can be done to assist these programs?</p> <p><b>de Vito:</b> CDCPD formed a Spring 2022 Task Force to revise the new Faculty Request Form. Perhaps an item could be added to the Request Form that awards points for (e.g.) “this position ranked in the Top 5 in the last X years but funding did not allow for 5 hires.” Also, CDCPD/MCAS could offer workshops to help Program Directors/Chairs complete the Request Form. It’s important work.</p>	<p>Follow-up: Tom will report on MCAS account balance next meeting</p> <p><b>Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p>Follow-up: Stef put new scholarship descriptions in Chat and will follow with email. Approving new scholarships does not mean we can offer them in 2022.</p> <p><b>Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p><b>Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p>Follow up: Tom will prod volunteers to convene: Lowell Bennett, Heather Casale, Tom Renbarger.</p>
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	<p><b>Suarez:</b> Who is lobbying David Johnson like last year? We drafted a Resolution demonstrating that Merritt’s budget could accommodate 9 FT faculty hires.</p> <p><b>Renbarger:</b> We need to organize a lobbying group.</p> <p><b>5D, E &amp; F) McCray: Enrollment Management Issues.</b> Why are we teaching dual-enrollment high school BIOL classes when waitlists are full and we can’t add more sections because our adjuncts have been pulled away to teach dual-enrollment high school students? We’re violating the law: per (AB 288, link below), we cannot offer dual enrollment for waitlisted/oversubscribed college classes. Why not prioritize dual-enrollment in disciplines that are struggling to fill classes? That’s not BIOL problem. Administration should have listened to our Chair and given us the sections we originally asked for.</p> <p><b>Suarez:</b> One week before classes begin, we can’t get instructors to add last-minute sections. Please give us the FTEF to offer all the classes we can fill – we can demonstrate semester after semester that demand for our classes exceeds what we can supply. In addition, there are communication problems with high schools: these dual-enrollment courses haven’t started and our adjunct instructors are on standby.</p> <p><b>Renbarger:</b> Should MCAS pass a Resolution on this topic?</p> <p><b>de Vito:</b> Could/should this be a PFT contract issue? Contract is being revised this year. Example: expand waitlists to 30. Write into PFT Contract: If a course section has a full waitlist, that course must be automatically awarded an additional section the next semester the course is offered.</p> <p><b>Suarez:</b> Why do instructors have to go to the high schools instead of those students coming to Merritt? High Schools may not have the vaccine mandate we have at Merritt, which is a problem for our instructors.</p> <p><b>McCray:</b> Ambushed by HS teacher/principal/dean; they had a HS teacher who met Peralta MQs who was promised a Merritt dual-enrollment class, which bumped an existing adjunct who was underloaded and could have taught the class. Now that teacher is in my department and I had no role in hiring them. It affects the load we can offer our part-timers. Definitely a contract issue.</p> <p><a href="https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB288&amp;showamends=false">https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB288&amp;showamends=false</a></p>	<p>Tom will contact Brad Balukjian and Chairs/PDs to solicit more volunteers.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Volunteers to finalize Resolution: Maria Suarez, Lowell Bennett, Tom Renbarger</p>
VI. Standing Items	None	
VII. New Business	None	
VIII. Old Business	None	
IX. Announcements	<b>Renbarger:</b> Mid-Year Planning Summit is tomorrow, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon. You should attend.	

	<b>Suarez:</b> Would love some communication from Administration re: the return-to-campus. Need a debrief on what is working/not working. <b>Thai:</b> It would be great if students knew that services are available in person, such as Library, Counseling, Wellness Center, Financial Aid, A&R, Cashier.	
X. Adjourn	Adjourned at 1:59 pm	