

Meeting Minutes

Merritt College Academic Senate

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022

12:30-2:00 pm

Zoom URL: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93056455708>

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	Arja McCray
	Heather Casale	X	Grace Idowu
X	Lowell Bennett	X	Monica Ambalal
X	Ron Moss	X	Stefani de Vito
	Derrick Ross	X	Maria Suarez
	Anthony Powell		Jack Smith
Guests – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)			
X	Nia Hill	X	Nghiem Thai
X	Nathan Pellegrin		

GUESTS:

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
I. Call to Order	Called to order at 12:45 pm	
II. Adoption of Agenda	Motion to accept agenda: Bennett. Approved unanimously.	Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu
III. Approval of Minutes	Motion to accept MCAS minutes from 2/17/22: Ciddio. Approved unanimously	Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu
IV. Public Comment	None.	
V. Action Items/ Presentations	<p>a) MCAS Elections for 2022-23 (Renbarger): Incumbent Senators whose terms continue through 2022-23: Moss, Suarez, McCray, Santana, Ambalal, de Vito. PT faculty must run again because these are one-year terms. Any other sitting Senators who want to continue on MCAS must run. Nomination period: 3/9/22 -3/22/22 Voting period: 4/6/22 – 4/19/22</p> <p>b) Resolution on Enrollment Management (Renbarger): Tom took MCAS’s approved Resolution to the other Academic Senates, Merritt Administration and DAS. At DAS, comments included praise for extending waitlists to 20 to prove that another section of a class would fill, and suggestion to tighten the wording of “significant waitlist” since “significant” is open to</p>	<p>Follow-up: Since Tom is running for re-election, he requested a volunteer to receive nominations/votes; de Vito volunteered.</p> <p>Follow-Up: Tom will get this Resolution agendized for next DAS meeting (April) and will talk with the other AS Presidents to gauge support.</p>

	<p>debate. Tom urged the other AS Presidents to push their respective VPIs to ask Amany Al-Masry at District A&R to extend waitlists to 20. Other suggestions: (1) share our Resolution and relevant data with key BOT members, or invite BOT to MCAS meeting; (2) secure commitments from other Academic Senate Presidents and get this on next DAS Agenda. In his role as independent adjunct faculty, Lowell will send his videos to key BOT members.</p> <p>Renbarger shared COA’s Resolution on faculty role in setting class caps. This is a first reading and we will vote to endorse it next meeting. DAS endorsed the Resolution and our region of the State Academic Senate will consider it at next meeting:</p> <p><i>Resolved, Peralta District Academic Senate recommends that discipline faculty in their respective divisions participate in determining class caps for each of their courses based on pedagogical, health, and safety factors, such as but not limited to the methods of instruction, course modality, objectives and outcomes of the course, and the assessment methods as established on the Course Outline of Record (COR), and</i> <i>Resolved, Peralta District Academic Senate and its constituent campus academic/faculty senates will work jointly with collective bargaining agents to see these changes codified as policy in their collective bargaining agreement.</i></p> <p>Discussion: (1) general surprise that faculty haven’t been more involved in setting class caps; (2) we aren’t following existing curriculum development process – setting class caps is part of that process, but many faculty skip it; (3) decisions made by faculty are routinely overruled by administration; (4) when we went to all-online format in response to COVID, we relied on PFT to tell us how to cap classes; there was a request for clarification on what the correct procedure should be. (5) We need “intermediate” faculty training to cover issues like this; existing faculty training focuses on NEW faculty. (6) It’s wage theft when we are forced to teach over cap instead of having more sections; (7) In every Course Outline of Record, (on record at the State when you create a class) there is a field that faculty must complete that suggests a max enrollment and justification if the number is high. That is what administration <i>should</i> be consulting when they authorize schedules, but they don’t.</p> <p>c) Update on Faculty Prioritization (Renbarger): President Johnson reported to College Council that he intend to honor the order of hires as approved by CDCPD and MCAS. California budget is providing \$1.2-1.4 million in “supplemental” funds to increase FT faculty hires; it appears that the District may intend to use these funds to supplant faculty hiring funds; thus far, at the District, no other funds are being discussed for supporting faculty hires. Is this a problem?</p>	<p>Maria shared recording of Nicky Gonzales Yuen’s statements on enrollment management at last BOT meeting; scroll to 1:51:00 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbIPLp4KxjM</p> <p>Discussion only; will vote on this item next meeting.</p> <p>Follow-Up: Clarification needed: does this count as supplanting? 50% of General Fund must be spent on faculty; this is NOT General Fund, so it can’t <i>replace</i> existing faculty budget. Tom will consult with Jennifer/PFT.</p>
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	<p>Discussion: (1) Bennett has provided data to show that these supplemental funds should support the hiring of 50+ FT faculty, not 12, because the District has not factored in the savings on PT faculty salary/benefits when FT faculty replace them. (2) Merritt has been praised in BOT meetings for “returning money to the District” when we underspend our budgets.</p> <p>Question: Where to get more information on Faculty Senate Scholarship evaluation rubric? A: Nghiem is leading the subcommittee on MCAS Scholarships and will likely provide those instructions.</p> <p>Question: At CDCPD yesterday, VPI Richardson said there will be a meeting on Dual Enrollment – does anyone know when?</p> <p>Discussion: It appears that said meeting is to clarify procedure, establish a Merritt point person, check on MOUs, etc. Historically, it seems that <u>OUSD’s</u> point person for dual enrollment has communicated with Merritt Administration about what dual enrollment classes OUSD wants, and our Admin has done its best to meet their demand. This process appears to have sometimes bypassed relevant faculty/chairs.</p>	<p>Follow-Up: Tom will email Marty Zielke for faculty donation forms to increase funds for MCAS Scholarships, and copy Monica</p> <p>Follow-Up: Tom will meet with VPI tomorrow and remind her to publicize upcoming dual enrollment meeting with OUSD’s point person so that faculty can attend.</p>
VI. Standing Items	None	
VII. New Business	None	
VIII. Old Business	None	
IX. Announcements	None	
X. Adjourn	Adjourned at 2:07 pm	