# Meeting Minutes
Merritt College Academic Senate
Thursday, April 21st, 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) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 |
| | 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 | Jose Salceda, Counseling Co-Chair | X | Lisa Webb, Dean of Counseling/Equity |
| X | Nghiem Thai, Librarian | | |

**GUESTS:**

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION | FOLLOW-UP ACTION |
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| I. Call to Order | **12:36 pm.** | |
| II. Adoption of Agenda | **MOTION** (de Vito): Table Agenda Item 5e to next meeting pending President Renbarger's return and approve agenda as amended.  Approved unanimously. | Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu |
| III. Approval of Minutes | **MOTION** (Smith): Approve minutes from 4/7/21 MCAS meeting. Approved unanimously. | Chair – Email to merrittgovdocs@peralta.edu |
| IV. Public Comment | **NONE** | |
| V. Action Items/ Presentations | **5a) Merritt Core Values, Strategic Goals, Equity** (Richardson): At Planning Summits, collaborative conversations were initiated asking for drafts of Merritt's Equity Commitment. Director of Research surveyed Planning Summit participants; final Equity Commitment was chosen by vote. Students were surveyed as well; they selected the same Equity Commitment that faculty, staff and admin had previously chosen. Strategic Enrollment Management Committee realized Core Values should match Equity Commitment. SEM subsequently fused with SEA (Student Equity & Achievement Committee) and drafted new Core Values for approval by participatory government committees. Core Values were approved by IEC and College Council and are now in the Catalog. | **Discussion/Information only** |

*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.*

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| | **OER Lead update** (Richardson): Previous OER Lead was paid through their load, 0.1 release. We can reinstitute that role. | |
| | **Fund 01 Shortfall** (Richardson): The discrepancy in Fund 01 been addressed through Parcel Tax and HEERF funds. A revised report is forthcoming next week. | |
| | **Hy-Flex** (Richardson): No one at Merritt is currently using this technology. Cost: $15,000 to convert a single classroom from Smart to Hy-Flex. We will do one Hy-Flex conversion and it will be funded through HEERF. There are plans to do 3 more but need to bid the job out.  Q: Why the vast difference in cost per classroom? Previous report was $1000/classroom. A: $1000 only covers overhanging microphones and results in poor sound quality; $15G provides a better experience. | |
| | **5B) Computer Literacy Requirement** (Ross/Salceda): All Co-Chairs of all Peralta Counseling Departments, CIPD and DAS voted to remove Computer Literacy as a requirement for local AA/AS degrees (Area 4C). All computer literacy courses (CIS and LRNRE department) will continue to be offered, so any students NEEDING basic computer skills courses can still be routed to those courses. Other surrounding CCC districts abandoned the Computer Literacy requirement years ago. | |
| | **MOTION** (Ross): Remove Computer Literacy (Area 4C) from General Education requirements for Peralta AA/AS degrees. | **6 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstentions; motion carries.** |
| | **Discussion**: Some programs (e.g. MEDAS) find that our students are not computer literate. Response: MEDAS is a certificate; this motion only applies to AA/AS degrees. Any program can *recommend* that students take CIS 205; counselors will continue assessing new students for assistance with computer literacy. | |
| | Why does this body need to vote on this item, given that the rest of the District has already approved eliminating the Computer Literacy requirement? If this is already going to BOT, what's the significance of reversing our previous vote? Response: To go on record as either supporting or not supporting what the rest of the district wants. | |
| | What metrics are being used to determine which students "need" computer literacy training? Distinction: this vote is to remove computer literacy as a *general education* requirement for all AA/AS degrees. You're welcome to make it a *major* requirement for your specific degree or certificate program. | |
| | Another workaround: make non-CIS courses qualify as computer literacy courses (e.g. Nutrition 10) so that students majoring in Nutrition don't have to take an *extra* class to meet the computer literacy requirement. | |

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| | Could some component of the Orientation process assess incoming students' computer skills? Example: ask if students have successfully completed an online course, or give a short quiz of functional skills. Offering more workshops to bring skills up to date. It's significant that 90% of counselors district-wide support eliminating this graduation requirement. | |
| | **5c) MCAS Scholarships** (Thai): Extended scholarship deadline to 4/15/22; we received a total of 10 applications from 7 individuals. And those 7 only applied for two of the scholarships (Courage & Perseverance and CIS). Given so few applications, will the Scholarship Committee be willing to screen the applications to see if applicants qualify for scholarships they didn't apply for? **Discussion:** Could the deadline be extended again? Response: many obstacles to extending again; general consensus is to complete the process and wrap up. Retired Music Professor David Morales pledges $1000 if matched by Senate. The Personal Statement is a deterrent to some applicants. Response: Refer students to Learning Center for assistance with Personal Statement. How can we better promote these scholarships to get more applicants?  Meanwhile, can we give all of this year's applicants an award, since so few applied and we have the $ budgeted? **5d) MCAS Election Results** (de Vito): tabled because Recording Secretary was pulled from the meeting due to a psychiatric emergency on campus. Will distribute election results via email for ratification at next meeting. | **Follow-Up:** Scholarship Committee = Mary, Monica, Heather, Grace will proceed with current timeline. |
| VI. Standing Items | **None** | |
| VII. New Business | **None** | |
| VIII. Old Business | **None** | |
| IX. Announcements | **None** | |
| X. Adjournment | **2:03 pm** | |