



MERRITT COLLEGE

Merritt College Academic Senate (MCAS)

Meeting Agenda

Thurs., December 1, 2022

12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

Zoom URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88461880114>

Membership

Voting

Thomas Renbarger
(President)

Monica Ambalal
(Vice President)

Frances Moy
(Treasurer)

Dan Lawson
(Recording Sec.)

Lowell Bennett (PT)
(At-Large DAS Rep.)

Stefani de Vito
Arja McCray
Isela Santana
Heather Casale
Maria Suarez
Janine Nkosi
Rosa Perez
Nghiem Thai
Noël Fagerhaugh
(PT)

Quorum

6 voting members

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Review, Changes and Adoption – *2 min.*
- III. Approval of November 17, 2022 minutes – *5 min.*
- IV. Public Comment – *3 min. per individual, 9 min. max*
- V. Consent Calendar: Pending approval of the Consent Calendar, the following items will be adopted without discussion. Items pulled from Consent will have a 10-minute discussion period. – *4 min.*
 - a) Resolution on Dispensation of Spring Is Free/Six for Six Requirements
 - b) Resolution on Addressing Critical Shortages at the Lao Family Center
 - c) Approval of revised 2023-28 Educational Master Plan goals
 - d) Nomination of Isela Santana Gonzalez and Lowell Bennett for the Hayward Award for Excellence in Education
- VI. Action Items/Presentations – *60 min.*
 - a) Math Course Offerings for General Education Requirements (Pantell) – *15 min.*
 - Information: MCAS will receive a report on the need to increase Math courses acceptable to fulfil the Math General Education requirement for local degrees.
 - b) Adoption of Uniform “Low-Cost Textbook” Definition (Thai) – *15 min.*
 - Action: MCAS will consider action on approving a uniform district-wide definition of Low-Cost Textbooks.
 - c) Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant (Chavez) – *20 min.*

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- Action: MCAS will receive a report on the recently awarded HSI Grant and take possible action on faculty involvement in completing the work of the grant.
- d) Memorializing Ron Moss and Jennifer Briffa – *10 min.*
 - Action: MCAS will discuss and take possible action memorializing Ron Moss and Jennifer Briffa

- VII. Standing Items – *10 min.*
 - a) Reports From Officers (Pres., VP, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary)
 - b) Reports From Committees (Curriculum, Council of Department Chairs and Program Directors, College Budget Committee, College Facilities Committee, Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Merritt Technology Committee, Distance Education Committee, Career Education Advisory Council, Student Success and Equity Committee, Guided Pathways)
 - c) Accreditation
 - d) Equity

- VIII. New Business

- IX. Old Business

- X. Adjournment
 - Next meeting: Dec. 15, 2022

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Resolution to Address Critical Shortages at the Lao Family Center/Fruitvale Center

Whereas the Lao Family Center, the current site of the Fruitvale Center, provides critical educational opportunities for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL);

Whereas the Lao Family Center suffers from shortages in vital areas of staffing and infrastructure;

Whereas this lack of staffing stunts enrollment at the Lao Family Center and makes it more difficult for non-credit students to transition to other Merritt College pathways;

Whereas inoperative wi-fi at the Lao Family Center is a significant detriment to the teaching of computer skills in the four Basic English courses (ESOL 541A-D);

Resolved, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urge college Administration to provide a security detachment to the Lao Family Center for the Spring 2023 Tuesday night ESOL 504/505 Child Development class and then expand the detachment as needed as our offerings at the Fruitvale Center increase.

Resolved, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urge college Administration to hire a permanent staff assistant for the site coordinator.

Resolved, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urge college Administration to establish a permanent office at the Fruitvale Center staffed by a Counselor or Community Enrollment Coordinator.

Resolved, that the Merritt College Academic Senate urge college Administration to complete the installation of wi-fi at the Lao Family Center by the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester.

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Resolution on Dispensation of Spring Is Free/Six for Six Requirements

Whereas Merritt College is conducting a Spring Is Free and Six for Six campaign to incentivize current and prospective students to enroll in courses for the spring 2023 semester;

Whereas specific requirements, such as applying for financial aid or enrolling in at least six units of coursework, must be met to receive benefits;

Whereas these stipulations may exclude some of the most disadvantaged student populations, including but not limited to out-of-state residents, undocumented immigrants, and noncredit course-takers, from participation; and

Whereas college policy should intentionally address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-racism, and Accessibility (DEIAA);

Resolved, That the Merritt College Academic Senate strongly urge the Merritt College Administration to carefully consider a dispensation of Spring Is Free and Six for Six requirements for students currently enrolled in classes at the Lao Center, are ineligible for financial aid due to citizenship status, and wish to enroll in a credit-bearing course in the spring.

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