Colleagues,

I met with John Zamora this morning regarding the draft language of the MJC Participator Decision-Making Handbook. In this meeting, John brought forward some suggestions that help to clarify the role of each of the councils in a manner that I found to be both helpful and direct. He also brought forward suggestions that will ease some of the concerns of Academic Senate members regarding lack of established duration for the proposed document. To assist in quick review of the proposed changes, I’ve included an edited (for sake of time) version of John’s email below with notes in blue to guide you to the edits in the document attached and available online.

One additional change was made to include a YFA representative on the Professional Development Coordinating Committee, I missed this in the last update.

I am hopeful that the Academic Senate will approve this revised document at their meeting this afternoon. My continued thanks for your time, input, and careful consideration of the proposed participatory decision-making document. You have done an outstanding job in a short amount of time!

JILL STEARNS

President
Hi Jill,

Thank you for meeting with me today. I appreciated the frank dialogue and I do understand the concerns you raised and I felt you understood the Senate’s concerns as well.

We also discussed the importance of deadlines for review of the document as well as a possible sunset deadline. The sunset deadline was implemented for the last decision-making document.

With all this in mind, I do have some suggestions for the decision-making document. They are below. I provide page numbers as well. I will share these with the Senate.

Edits for document
In general, I think everyone needs to have an understanding of what laws, regulations, policies, and procedures apply to the campus community and constituency groups. I do feel that training is very important to address it. At least for the Councils, below, I have include language on page 5 regarding their roles. As part of the charge for all councils, at minimum, this bullet point should be included:


It is important that there are deadlines in the document when it will be reviewed. I do feel that the Senate will have a position that there be a sunset placed on this document. A two-year sunset will probably assist in acceptance of the decision-making document. (Front cover, also struck the following from page 5 This document remains in effect until such time that a revised document is approved by the constituent groups as a replacement.)

Specific edits

Page 5

[Add the last sentence in italics to this paragraph]

Each college governance council has a specified charge and membership. Minutes from the meetings of each council are posted in a central location on the Modesto Junior College web site. College wide recommendations from each committee are submitted to the College Council for discussion and recommendation to the college president for action. Recommendations from the College Council requiring formal district approval are submitted through the college president to the chancellor and the Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees. Governance Councils encourage all participants to work within the system, act cooperatively and responsibly, know and seek to follow and respect the law and regulations, and be focused on meeting student needs.

Page 17

[I would change this paragraph to the following. This assumes that the August 26th task force document be renamed to, “Engaging All Voices: An approach for effective participation in
decision making at MJC” (I made that up) or something appropriate. I used *MJC Past Practice of Participatory Decision-Making, and added Engaging All Voices to the title of the proposed handbook.* At College Council, it was important that the task force document be kept as an historical document, to honor the work of constituencies, and should be renamed so that it is not confused with the decision-making document we are currently working.]

**Decision-Making on Academic and Professional Matters**

Decision-making on academic and professional issues at Modesto Junior College is articulated in YCCD Board Policy 4103 and Title 5, §53200. The YCCD Board of Trustees delineates academic and professional matters as subject to mutual agreement or as areas where the Board will rely primarily on the recommendation of the Academic Senate. *These policies and regulations, as well as other related documents, can be found in the appendix and in the document, “Engaging All Voices: An approach for effective participation in decision-making at MJC”.*

[We had agreed to this in our meeting]

**Membership (under College Accreditation Council)**

Faculty

*Academic Senate* Faculty accreditation chair

*Academic Senate* Faculty Standard Co-chairs 4

[This has to do with training on effective participation in decision-making]

The PDCC should include in its charge the following:

- Facilitate training for Effective Participation in Decision-Making for all constituents, including legal responsibilities.

-- John Z.

John A. Zamora, MJC Academic Senate President
Professor of Computer Science

Division of Business, Behavioral, and Social Sciences

Modesto Junior College, 435 College Avenue, Modesto, CA 95350

209-575-6685  zamoraj@mjc.edu