
If you will recall, this semester the MJC Academic Senate is focusing on fostering collaboration at the college. The Senate hopes to frame the work we do with a simple idea: “We are all on the same team.” This principle of mutual respect, informed by an understanding that we all are dedicated to serving our community by offering accessible, transformative educational opportunities, is at the heart of what we have been working on over the last month.

For instance, unique Student Success Teams continue to develop networks of support and guidance for all students in every School and in our Pathways Centers. Counselors, success specialists, deans and instructional faculty are all working together to assure counseling and educational services across campus. The MJC Foundation is also helping the cause by continuing to offer \$300 student microgrant opportunities, a process initiated by faculty and staff concerned for a student who encounters a sudden emergency of some kind. This team approach is a model for offering a nurturing, supportive learning environment.

Secondly, thanks to the leadership of President Houpis, a representative group of faculty, leadership and classified professionals is revisiting our current [MJC Participatory Decision-Making Handbook](#) in order to form new recommendations for how to more efficiently and effectively structure our participatory governance. The group is focusing on making recommendations that allow us reach consensus across constituency groups and act on issues in a timely, thoughtful manner. This effort is being guided by decision-making principles and strategic priorities recently laid out by the President’s Office.

A newly formed Faculty Professional Development Committee is working to support the important work of the campus-wide Professional Development Committee and is also helping organize the [Innovative Collaboration Retreat](#) from May 4-7th at Asilomar in Monterey. This professional development opportunity focuses on how to create, sustain and strengthen cooperative approaches to education among disciplines, programs, services, Pathways schools and our community.

The retreat will emphasize teamwork among all stakeholders, including instructional and counseling faculty, students and educational leaders; Board members are cordially invited to attend.

For the first time in many years, faculty leadership from both Academic Senates and the Yosemite Faculty Association (YFA) will meet in March to discuss issues across campuses, including consideration of a district Credit for Prior Learning policy and other academic, professional and curricular matters affecting both colleges.

Thanks to Kathren Pritchard and District Human Resources for inviting faculty to participate in the annual recruitment fair in the Bay Area. Administrative leaders, classified professionals and faculty spent Saturday, February 1st answering questions from potential candidates and demonstrating a cooperative, united approach to finding new colleagues.

The Academic Senate continues to enjoy occasional breakfast meetings with student leadership and is working to support recent projects and resolutions coming out of ASMJC.

And finally, the March 5th [Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage](#) involves collaboration of Modesto Junior and Mission College faculty to offer a panel discussion and historical reading of the 19th Amendment. Then, in an effort of cross-college pollination, the very next day, MJC is invited to Mission College to participate in their [Women in Leadership](#) conference; all are welcome to attend both events.

Together, these efforts are aimed at encouraging collaborative problem solving. After all, great things happen when we work together. As Andrew Carnegie once said: "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Handouts

- [Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage](#)
- [Innovative Collaboration Retreat Invitation](#)
- [MJC Participatory Decision-Making Handbook](#)