



**ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

Members Present: Curtis Martin (President), Chad Redwing (Vice President), Steve Amador (Parliamentarian), Aishah Saleh, Allan McKissick, Annaliese Hausler-Akpovi, Ashley Yu, David Seymour, Elizabeth Hondoy, Ellen Dambrosio, Eric Ivory, Ginger Charles, Jennifer Macias, Jim Howen, Jim Stevens, Kevin Alavezos, Lisa Riggs, Mike Adams, Nathan Bento, Paul Berger, Tristan Hassell

Members Absent: Belen Robinson, Deborah Laffranchini (Legislative Analyst), Elizabeth David, Holly Nash Rule, Shelley Circle (Secretary), Theresa Stovall

Guests Present: Alfonso Romero (Exec. Vice President of ASMJC), Michelle Christopherson (Faculty Liaison to the Board), Mike Smedshammer, Nita Gopal, James Lane (student), Tito Guajardo (student), William Holly

Others Present: Kathy Haskin

I. MINI-LESSON

S. Amador reviewed proper procedures and practices to follow for introducing and discussing main motions and resolutions.

II. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

No objections, the Order of Agenda Items was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (September 8, 2016)

No objections, the minutes of September 8, 2016 was approved.

C. Martin introduced Tristan Hassell, new senator from BBSS (Philosophy)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board of Trustees Policies and Procedures: 3435, 5500, 5020, 5015, 5013, 5010, 4225, 4222, 4105, 4102, 4070 previously pulled, 8028, 8073, 3050, 3100, 3250, 3280, 3300, 3310, 3410, 3500, 3505

<http://www.mjc.edu/governance/collegecouncil/minutesandagendas.php>

2. Appoint Rob Stevenson Faculty Co-Chair of Instruction Council.
3. Appoint Amanda Schnoor Ag Division representative to Instruction Council.
4. Appoint Curtis Martin, Co-Chair Program Review Workgroup.
5. Confirm Appointment for Daniel Schmidt to the SSEC for Lit/Lang

Pulled: Policies 3435 and 5500 and placed in Senate Business.

No objections, the Consent Agenda was approved as revised.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

VI. REPORTS: *Due to time constraints and the volume of work before the Senate, regular reports of the Accreditation Council, Legislative Analyst Report, Instruction Council, Facilities Council, Resource Allocation Council, College Council, Faculty Representative to the Board, Distance Education Committee, Students Services Council, Faculty Professional Development Coordinating Committee, and District Advisory Technology Committee will be provided electronically as an appendix to the minutes. Issues that arise from faculty participation in these committees need to be brought for disposition to the Academic Executive before the publication of the agenda.*

a. ASMJC Senate

A. Romero discussed the desire of ASMJC to forge a closer relationship between ASMJC and the Academic Senate in order work on shared concerns. Senators were welcoming of the proposal, and C. Martin agreed to plan a preliminary joint meeting to discuss areas of common interest.

Facilities Council

J. Howen briefly mentioned that the Student Bench Project is still pending final approval. In addition, he reported that two dying trees were being removed on East Campus because of the eminent danger posed to structures and people should they fall down.

There was discussion of faculty concerns about whether the decision to take out the Dawn Redwood tree was premature and whether it was properly watered despite the permits taken out.

b. President's Report – Curtis Martin

Discussions around MJC accreditation progress made it a rough week. The tenor of those discussions have gone from assurances that all was proceeding well to an urgency that much remains to be done and that time was running short. Accreditation is a complex process and requires that many standards be met and the participation of countless people. C. Martin briefly discussed recommendations from the last accreditation visit. Except for assessment, areas of responsibility for faculty were not an issue. Instead, the last accreditation report focused on issues the institution needed to address that were largely beyond the control of faculty. C. Martin is unsure if faculty, and the institution, will come out unscathed during the next visit. Assessment and program review loom large in how institutions are accredited. Those two areas of faculty responsibility inform integrated planning –which presupposes good data from program review and assessment.

C. Martin reminded Senators that the Academic Senate has requested for months that all faculty complete assessment and program review in order to comply with accreditation requirements. The ACCJC team will be unmoved and unsympathetic toward any excuse wielded to justify non-compliance. Faculty will no doubt be blamed. Additionally, the effectiveness of the Academic Senate, and the ability for the YFA to negotiate, are threatened. C. Martin is committed as Academic Senate President to push the administration to use program review and assessment in the decision-making. To do that, faculty need to do their part.

c. Outcomes Assessment Report – Nita Gopal

N. Gopal stated that only 45% of assessments were completed during the 2013-2015 cycle. Assessment completion in the current cycle is low, although N. Gopal was reluctant to share a specific number as some kinks in the system are still being worked out. In response to Senators proposing more drastic enforcement mechanism, N. Gopal responded that privacy was important and that “shaming” counterproductive. She further stated that the OAW has avoided pointing fingers and has yet to institute a mechanism for close monitoring. N. Gopal described her role as Assessment Coordinator as one designed to train, coordinate, and help colleagues with assessment. Another role is to be able to produce accurate reports and communicate findings to the institution. Faculty members working for a sub-committee of the Academic Senate are in no position to enforce compliance of assessments.

d. Policies and Procedures Committee – Mike Adams and Allan McKissick

M. Adams that Board of Trustees (BOT) Policy 3435 is of great concern to faculty because it pertains to how investigations are handled. M. Adams and M. McKissick were outspoken about their concerns, but their issues disregarded by the Policies and Procedures Committee and the Board of Trustees.

C. Martin commended A. McKissick and J. Sahlman for their stellar representation of faculty concerns at the August meeting of the BOT. Their repeated pleas to have the YCCD provide a written response to YFA's legal findings were denied offhandedly and with hostility by the

majority of the BOT (kudos to Anne DeMartini for taking a stance against the limitations in 3435). Likewise, M. Adams was commended for “keeping his cool” at a previous meeting of the BOT when confronted with the unprofessional behavior and unprovoked attack of one of the trustees.

VII. SENATE BUSINESS

Continued from Policies and Procedures Committee above.

M/S/C (M. Adams, J. Howen) Motion that Resolved: The Academic Senate opposes the recent revision of Policy 3435.

21 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

- A. Resolution S16-G: Resolution in Support of Adopting the OEI Rubric for Online Courses, 2nd Reading.

M/S/C (J. Howen, A. Hausler-Akpovi) Motion to approved Resolution S16-G: Resolution in Support of Adopting the OEI Rubric for Online Courses for a 2nd Reading.

20 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

Prior to this motion P. Berger left.

- B. Program Discontinuance document – Revision and Recommendations

C. Martin stated that there was an urgency for the Senate to present a draft of a program discontinuance procedures document to then be negotiated with representatives of the BOT. The procedure is of interest equally to faculty and administration. At this point, there is no written process to assess and proceed with program facing difficulties. C. Martin would like to have an approved process by the end of the semester.

- C. Resolution F16-A: Faculty Satisfaction Survey Senate Task Force Academic and Professional Matters, 1st Reading

M/S (K. Alavezos, L. Riggs) Motion to approve Resolution F16-A: Faculty Satisfaction Survey Senate Task Force on Academic and Professional Matters, 1st Reading

A short discussion took place.

M/S/C (K. Alavezos, L. Riggs) Motion to approve Resolution F16-A: Faculty Satisfaction Survey Senate Task Force on Academic and Professional Matters, 1st Reading

20 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

- D. The Role of the Academic Senate – Discussion

The role of the Academic Senate has changed since C. Martin was last Academic Senate President. The job has changed dramatically in that is has become more administrative in nature – the price paid for being incorporated into the governance of the college. C. Martin encouraged Senators to make recommendations of priorities for faculty on academic and professional issues.

Among the comments on governance, it was emphasized that faculty appointed to committee work represent the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate, not individual faculty or divisions, give voice to Faculty (the entire body of instructors at MJC).

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Fall and spring assessments due by end of Spring 2016 for courses scheduled in the cycle.

- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: Program Discontinuance; Program Review *eLumen* pilot; Educational Master Plan; Curriculum Alignment between MJC and Columbia; Non-credit education; non-smoking campus; Guided Pathways; and Senate Bylaws and Rules Revision

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Next Senate meeting – September 22, 2016 – Library Basement, Room 55

A. Romero, ASMJC, mentioned that FLOW (Free lunches on Wednesdays) are taking place again this semester. 300 – 500 students are being served. Due to budgeting, the numbers served will probably be lower this semester. They are trying to expand to West Campus also, as they are aware of the lack of presence of ASMJC on West Campus. There will be a food pantry again for students. There are tables out on Wednesday with bags of free food for students who need them. There is a lack of volunteers to assist in these events.

Discussion took place as to what instructors could do to assist students.

X. OPEN COMMENTS FROM SENATORS

XI. ADJOURNMENT 5:50 p.m.

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and SB 751, minutes of the MJC Academic Senate records the votes of all committee members as follows. (1) Members recorded as absent are presumed not to have voted; (2) the names of members voting in the minority or abstaining are recorded; (3) all other members are presumed to have voted in the majority."

Refractions

MJC Academic Senate President's Written Report

Curtis Martin

Presently, accreditation is the issue that most concerns me. More specifically, our role, faculty's role, in ensuring that we comply with standards imposed by ACCJC and in which faculty play a pivotal role. Despite what you may have heard about ACCJC's troubles, nothing has changed, and we are still very much required to meet their standards.

The two areas in which faculty play pivotal roles are assessment and program review. We can debate extensively the merits of assessments, or whether any fundamental differences exist between assessment and grades, or about how robust assessments really are. We can complain about how program review and assessment are rarely used in planning, and even less so in integrated planning. We can complain about *eLumen* and Canvas and other technical solutions that both facilitate and complicate our lives. We can passively resist by just doing nothing and wag our fingers at administration, their failures, and their attitudes, whatever.

However, I think highly of us. I think of us as consummate professionals that put the wellbeing of our students and the institution above petty and not so petty failings of others – and ours. Yes, we all feel the pressure and the creeping increase in, dare I say it, workload. But failing to complete assessment and program review is a guarantee to being placed on “show cause” – the most severe sanction handed down by ACCJC and the worse possible outcome that can befall an institution of higher education. Such a sanction, or even probation, would hamper our ability of delivering quality instruction. I would hate to see us cut our noses to spite our faces. We cannot afford to at this time to risk collegiality or collaboration among stakeholders at MJC and to continue ignoring the repeated requests that program review and assessment be completed.

I feel we are now caught in the proverbial Catch-22. There are issues that need to be addressed and some of which are being addressed. Yet, we have to find ways of moving forward while at the same time pushing back on mandates that have gradually eroded the time spent on what we were hired to do – to provide the best and highest quality teaching that promotes student learning. But let us remind ourselves that we also have responsibilities outside of the classroom. Maintaining program review and assessment current is among those professional responsibilities.

For those that wave the YFA Contract in my face and tell me to show them where it is written in the contract I reply with a shrug. That kind of close legalistic reading has failed to help us in emergency situations because, let us be frank; the cards are stacked against us in any crisis situation. Moreover, failure to complete these professional responsibilities impacts the ability of your faculty leaders to address other compelling issues as we are always reminded of our failures. It is pragmatism, not fatalism that drives my desire to see us complete program review and assessments.

I am asking you to step up, not because I think we will be rewarded or even acknowledged, but because we are the keystone upon which the education of our students is built. We know that, don't we?