



**San Diego Mesa College  
Academic Senate  
Committee of Chairs (COC)**

**Virtual Meeting**

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93671528972>

**February 9, 2022**

**2:30PM – 4:00PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Chair of Chairs Paula Hjorth-Gustin, Mark Abajian, Valerie Abe, Sandra Belew, Donna Budzynski, Jennifer Carmichael, John Crocitti, Todd Curran, Nellie Dougherty, Ian Duckles, Christie Dupraw, Helen Greenbergs, Michael Harrison, Amanda Johnston, Ken Kuniyuki, Jaeryoung Lee, Bryan Malinis, Dina Miyoshi, Jill Moreno Ikari, Alison Primoza, Nathan Resch, Cynthia Rico, Jennifer Sime, Jennifer Snyder, Irena Stojimirovic, Chris Sullivan, Oscar V. Torres, Manuel Vélez, Todd White, Roger Wong, George Ye and Guest Sharon Hughes

**Excused Absences:**

Alison Gurganus, Erika Higginbotham and Bruce Naschak

**I. Call to order and welcome** by Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin @ 2:32PM.

**II. Approval of Draft Agenda:**

**A.** Irena Stojimirovic added the following:

1. Approval process for replacing equipment that were purchased through the BARC process.
2. Allocating time weekly to erase email messages to maintain our Outlook accounts.

Motion to approve as amended:

**M/S**

Primoza/Sullivan

**UNANIMOUS**

**III. Guest(s):** None

**IV. Approval of Draft Minutes:** December 8, 2021

Motion to approve:

**M/S**

Primoza/Rico

**UNANIMOUS**

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Spring 2022 Enrollment:** Gustin

1. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported Mesa College has seen our enrollment decline since before the pandemic.
  - a. Factors that have contributed to Mesa Colleges decline in enrollment:
    - The Digital Divide.
    - Pandemic Related Childcare Issues.
    - Vaccination Requirements.
    - The American Federation of Teacher's Stance on Anti-Vaccination for Medical and Religious Exemptions.
    - Enrollment Decline has been a national and statewide trend.
2. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported that she forwarded the concerns from the CoC to President Luster.
  - a. The CoC recommended that individual schools develop groups to provide information.
3. A mini enrollment surge occurred one week before the spring 2022 semester started.
4. 49% of Mesa College classes are scheduled on campus during spring 2022.
5. Some of the numbers we have received can be misleading.
6. Adjunct Faculty lost their assignments during the pandemic.
7. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin has not receive current information regarding the 50% Law.

8. Alison Primoza reported Languages Department Faculty have concerns regarding enrollment and we have philosophical disagreements.
  - a. We have disagreements about workload issues.
  - b. Online classes does not work for Languages.
  - c. Alison Primoza expressed frustration that online Languages classes fill up and face to face classes do not.
  - d. The pandemic has had a cataclysmic impact on the Languages Program.
9. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said decisions should be Faculty driven.
10. Donna Budzynski reported there was a big enrollment drop in fall 2021
  - a. There was a small drop from fall 2021 to spring 2022.
  - b. The Chemistry Department's enrollment is down 30%.
  - c. It is difficult for our Students to change modality from the fall to the spring semester.
11. Dina Miyoshi reported Behavioral Sciences saw lower face to face enrollment.
  - a. We had to cancel face to face classes and schedule more online classes.
  - b. In looking towards the long-term, it is important to retain face to face classes even if they have lower enrollment in the short-term.
12. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said scheduling all our classes at the same time may be taking Students away from each other's programs.
13. Comments from Bryan Malinis: As reported by Bryan Malinis  
 "Bryan Malinis said decisions on changing modality were reactive. We need to stick to our decisions. Specifically decisions coming from the district. Not necessarily decisions from the Faculty end. Constant district-wide changes have made it difficult for Students to commit to enrolling in our classes, which has contributed to our slow-to-enroll trends."
14. Jennifer Carmichael said we are not in the same situation that we were in at the beginning of the pandemic.
  - a. I can go out and do almost everything I did before the pandemic.
  - b. Having to teach half of our classes online impacts our Faculty Members.
  - c. Our district changed the policy and dropped Students one week before classes started.
  - d. I am disappointed in the district decisions.
15. Michael Harrison asked how this will effect what we do in fall 2022.
  - a. As long it you make decisions only based on what is best for your department, it will not work.
  - b. The district needs to provide districtwide guidance.
16. Chair of Chair Paula Gustin said Mesa College Faculty sees things differently than City and Miramar College Faculty.
  - a. We have to be more accountable.
17. Donna Budzynski asked if the schedulers should develop a survey for our current Students in our face to face classes.
  - a. We can ask our Students which classes they want to take face to face and which days and times work best for them.
18. Thekima Mayasa reported Black Studies online classes had very low enrollment for one month.
  - a. The change to online increased enrollment.
  - b. Will administration cut classes before the Students have enough time to enroll?
  - c. We had Students who wanted to be on campus, but their circumstances changed.
  - d. It is important that administration does not penalize us while we are trying to recruit more Students.
19. Chris Sullivan said we need to ask Administration to give our Students more time to enroll.
20. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said she likes Donna Budzynski's idea for creating a Schedulers' Work Group.
21. Academic Senate President John Crocitti said administration wants to cut spending including payroll.
  - a. We are still under "Hold Harmless".
  - b. Low Enrollment has allowed the district to cut Adjunct Faculty payroll.
22. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin commented that online colleges only need one building and very few Faculty Members.
23. Irena Stojimirovic said that Mesa is holding 75% of our classes asynchronously.
  - a. Four-year schools do not appear to have that option per my research.
  - b. Therefore they meet with Students online and teach, while we do not.
  - c. SDSU's 3<sup>rd</sup> year Engineering Students are not prepared for upper division classes.

24. Jennifer Sime said Anthropology classes were slashed as never before.
  - a. This is happening in a context of classes being pushed online.
  - b. She expressed concern that an administrator seemed to downplay the role of Faculty and Faculty expertise when scheduling online classes.
25. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported the Chemistry Department evaluated online classes about 15 years ago.
  - a. We found that online Chemistry classes only worked for a small percentage of Students and we stop offering Chemistry classes online.
26. Cynthia Rico said the district is sending messages to Students to find out why they have not enrolled in the classes that are in their carts, but not processed.
  - a. We need to find out the reasons.
27. Mark Abajian said the Business Department schedules a decent number of classes online.
  - a. Asynchronous does not have to mean that Students have no interaction with Faculty if you plan correctly.
  - b. There are face to face classes that are not high quality too.

**B. Reopening Updates: Gustin**

1. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said the return to campus was staggered.
  - a. Chemistry has been on campus for two years.
  - b. The difficulty is that some Students cannot return to campus.
2. Covid Information: [SDCCD Website/Mesa College Website](#)
  - a. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported the County of San Diego stipulated that individuals without a Covid 19 vaccine booster must quarantine for five (5) days on 01/03/2022.
    - It is a booster policy without booster policy.
  - b. There has been a small number of Covid cases on campus.
  - c. Our Students must receive a Covid test before they return to campus.
  - d. Donna Budzynski said the fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine for five (5) days.
    - Those who are not qualified to receive a booster yet must quarantine for five (5) days.
    - There is no way to know who needs to quarantine. (It is all on the honor system.)
3. Jennifer Carmichael said every Student in class must be tested, but it is also on the honor system.
4. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin asked if testing on campus provides documentation.
5. Donna Budzynski said a Green Pass was provide during fall 2021.
  - a. The other Students in the class receive an email when a Student tests positive and they were asked to be careful.
6. Irena Stojimirovic said no dates indicated and it does not seem anything is enforced.
7. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said if a Student tests on campus it should be linked to the green pass.
  - a. Donna Budzynski said it is only asymptomatic Students.

**C. Vision of College Equity and Modality Discussion: Gustin (Tabled)**

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Planning for fall 2022: Gustin**

1. Chair of Chair Paula Gustin said planning for fall 2022 will be very challenging.
  - a. How do we live with the virus?
  - b. How do we decouple infection rates, vaccination rates and hospitalization rates?
  - c. There is a group of Faculty who do not want to return on campus and a group of Faculty who do not understand why Family members are returning to school, but they are still teaching online.
  - d. San Diego has a low boosted vaccination rate.
  - e. Maybe we should all be tested twice a week.
  - f. Students may be required to get their booster shot and then they will be required to get other shots.
2. Donna Budzynski said we do not know which booster will work.
  - a. Testing only shows the current infection status.
  - b. Exempted Students were dropped.

- c. Students receiving boosters is on the honor system.
- d. The boosted Student rate may be lower than 50% for San Diego County.
- 3. Helen Greenbergs Comments: As reported by Helen Greenbergs  
"Virology shows that mutations consistently reduce the strength of viruses. We need to realize we are going to move towards a time when we will not be testing or masking, as the risks decline, and that causes some people anxiety."  
We need to realize we are going to move towards a time when we will not be testing or masking, as the risks decline, and that causes some people anxiety."
- 4. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported President Luster is bringing an expert in to talk to the campus.
  - a. The Mesa College Community is splintered.
  - b. Counselors should not have to be on campus full time if 49% on classes are being taught remotely.
- 5. Cynthia Rico reported a Remote Work Policy is available.
  - a. Your Supervisor is the one who decides if you can work remotely.
- 6. Thekima Mayasa said the district needs to encourage everyone to do what they can to strengthen their individual immunity and promote health in general.
  - a. The district should provide information on biology, nutrition and other health related topics.
  - b. What can we do individually?
- 7. Michael Harrison said as we move to a more endemic stage, I can envision a future requirement for 50% of classes are required to be taught online.
  - a. Some Faculty will refuse to teach online.
  - b. Most Contract Faculty Members are based in face to face teaching.
- 8. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported that she knows of approximately 30 Faculty Members who will refuse 50% online Contracts.

**B. Process for Replacing Equipment Acquired through the Budget Allocation of Resource (BARC) Process:**

- 1. Irena Stojimirovic reported equipment funded through the BARC for the Physics Labs need to be replaced.
  - a. Our department does not have funding available to replace the broken equipment.
  - b. There needs to be a process for funding to replace equipment originally purchased through the BARC process.
- 2. Donna Budzynski said you can go to your School Dean.
  - a. Your School Dean can go to the VPI.
  - b. The VPI can go to the VPA.
  - c. We need to plan for equipment for new labs that our Students need in the future.

**C. Faculty Evaluation Process/Documents:**

- 1. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin reported we will have training on the Evaluation documents in March with the Learning Opportunities for Transformation (LOFT) that should probably include the Department Chairs.
  - a. Long Time Tenure Promotion Review Committee Chair Terry Kohlenberg will participate in the training session.
- 2. Academic Senate President John Crocitti said we have to protect Faculty.
  - a. The current evaluation process is flawed.
    - e. Chair of Chairs Paula Gustin said changes are necessary.
- 3. Dina Miyoshi reported contract negotiations are coming up.
  - a. We need to be prepared to bring up issues with the current evaluation process.

**VII. Department Reports:** None

## **VIII. Planning/Committee Reports:**

### **A. Academic Affairs:** Torres

As reported by Oscar V. Torres:

"The academic committee met on 2-7-22. Items for discussion included a Mesa Pathways report, President's Cabinet summary, and highlights from SDCCD Board Meeting 1-27-22. In addition, we reviewed our Proctoring Center Survey before sending to the Mesa DL for faculty, and made changes to the Mesa Library Advisory Committee reform request. Our next meeting is scheduled on 2-28-22"

### **B. Academic Senate:** Crocitti

As reported by John Crocitti:

1. District Strategic Plan initiated. Senate Presidents will meet with consultants from MIG.
2. Vice-Chancellors Dowd and Smith assured that more FT faculty will be hired with the \$3 million SDCCD received for that purpose. After the initial 25 are hired, HR will calculate savings from adjunct salaries to determine how many more hires to make.
3. As District's deficit declines and reserves start building, the freeze on hiring for vacant, funded faculty positions might gradually end. Nothing is guaranteed and there is no timeline.
4. FHP committee met last week and started discussion on revision rubric used to rank requests.
5. In discussions with Susan Topham to schedule a meeting with Senate Presidents about waitlists, percentages of DE offered across the District, and the scheduling of short-term classes.
6. Police Advisory Committee forming. Mesa's Mental Health Counselor was asked to serve.
7. Senate Presidents will meet with HR to discuss revision of BP 4200. Some faculty and administrators favor de-emphasis of discipline expertise when composing screening committees for new hires. They base their ideas on recommendations from ACHRO (Association of Chief Human Resource Officers).

### **C. Curriculum Review Committee (CRC):** No Report

### **D. Student Services:** Rico

As reported by Cynthia Rico:

1. Beginning Tuesday February 22, 2022 to March 4, 2022 the Student Services Building will be open 9:00 to 4:00 with all departments serving student. Students will scan a QR Code to place themselves in line and will be texted when their turn is up.
2. Beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> the building will be open 8:00 to 6:00 Monday through Thursday and 8:00 to 1:00 on Fridays.
3. Students who applied to a CSU for fall 2022 indicated they will complete/graduate with an ADT from SDCCD, must file a graduation by February 15, 2022, which they can do on their student dashboard (MYSDCCD).
4. December 2021/January 2022 Student Services Updates: [LINK](#)

### **E. Mesa College Facilities Committee/District Review of Services Committee:** No Report

### **F. Enrollment Management and Instructional Strategic Planning Workgroup:** Gustin/Moreno Ikari (No Report)

### **I. Planning & Institutional Effectiveness (PIE) Committee:** Crocitti/Gustin (No Report)

### **J. President's Cabinet:** Crocitti/Gustin/Torres (No Report)

### **K. Program Review Committee (PRC):** Miyoshi (No Report)

### **L. Mesa Pathways Committee:** Alioto/Eskew (No Report)

**IX. Announcements/Round Table/For the Good of the Order:** None

**X. Next COC Meeting:** February 23, 2022

**XI. Adjournment** @ 4:17PM.

Submitted by Sue Saetia

Approved by the Committee of Chairs: February 23, 2022