

Dear Academic Affairs Committee members,

I hope this email finds you well, and that you've had a good summer!
Below is an update with important meeting dates, as well as discussion points.

1) Our regular scheduled **Academic Affairs Committee** meetings will be held **via Zoom** for the fall semester 2021.

Here is the link for you to save: **Zoom Meeting ID - 938 3896 2989**

Academic Affairs Committee meeting dates are:

August 30, 2021
September 20, 2021
October 4, 2021
October 18, 2021
November 1, 2021
November 15, 2021
December 6, 2021

I will also sent out reminder emails before our meetings. I know there is another zoom ID, but we will use the one provided above as this is easier for me.

2) Regularly scheduled **Academic Senate** meetings will be held **via Zoom** for the fall semester 2021.

Here is the link ID for you to save: **Zoom Meeting ID - 99023841887**

Academic Senate meeting dates are:

September 13, 2021
September 27, 2021
October 11, 2021
October 25, 2021
November 8, 2021
November 29, 2021
Time: 2:20PM - 4:20PM

I have attached the faculty roster of fall 2021 Executive Committee members, please feel free to email any faculty member with questions or inquiries you might have.

3) Below are Flex hour opportunities that faculty members might benefit from, please feel free to distribute the information amongst your peers and colleagues. Also, please note our Academic Affairs Flex hours, and Senate Flex hours.

Flex # 10085 – Credit for prior Learning – worth 6 hrs. – Available 8/12/21
Flex # 10013 - Fall Semester Convocation – worth 3 hrs. – Available 8/19/21
Flex # 10150 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 8/24/21
Flex # 10151 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 9/14/21
Flex # 10152 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 9/28/21
Flex # 10153 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 10/12/21
Flex # 10154 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 10/26/21
Flex # 10155 - Campus Community Form - worth 1 hrs. – Available 11/9/21
Flex # 10156 - Campus Community Form – worth 1 hrs. – Available 12/01/21
Flex # 10023 – Academic Senate – worth 28 hrs. – Available 9/13/21
Flex # 10146 – Academic Affairs – worth 10 hrs. – Available 8/20/21

4) Below is additional information regarding campus events happening in the month of August.

1. Fall 2021 Virtual Convocation - Thursday, August 19, 2021 – Time: 8:30 a.m.
2. Fall President's Cabinet Governance Workshop - Tuesday, August 31, 2021 - Time 2:15
3. 2021 Leadership Retreat - Monday, August 18, 2021 – Time: 9:00 a.m.
4. Credit for Prior Learning Workshop – Thursday and Friday, August 12 and 13 – Time 9:00 am
Zoom ID: 990 3915 5652

5) Fall 2021 Enrollments.

It is no secret that enrollments, for Mesa College, is low this semester relative to previous years. This negative trend is in line with that of other community colleges across California. There are many reasons why enrollments are low, which I will not discuss here. Locally, instructional chairs and deans are in continuous communication in regards to enrollments and course offerings, as evident by the Deans Council held 8-5-21. Currently, the main point of discussion is course cancellations in response to the low enrollments. These decisions are most likely to significantly impact our adjunct faculty, students, and program growth. To the best of my knowledge, and please feel free in providing additional information, the current plan is to monitor our respective on-going enrollments week by week, without making any rushed decisions. Nonetheless, knowing the CBA and POA rules as well as guidelines is going to be important within the following weeks. To say the least, given that every program is indeed unique regarding class caps, number of classes with multiple sections, as well as course offerings, and schedules, it is my understanding that establishing a broad criteria for cancellation across the board is difficulty. According to an email sent out to department chairs by our VPI, there seems to be a pivot towards scheduling short-term courses within the 10 and 12 week timeframes. Additionally, redistributing FTEF to the spring, or intersession are also ideas being discussed. Class cancellations for the fall are thus expected during the week of August 16-20th. I, personally, suggest that the Data dashboards be used when considering previous enrolment trends, fill rates, and success outcomes in relation to cancellation decisions.

6) Fall 2021 Vaccinations

I have received questions regarding vaccination. To the best of my knowledge, COVID-19 vaccinations are, currently, not required for employment as SDCCD. What is required is for employees to report their current vaccination status by submitting one of two Forms in response to Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Gregory Smith's email. The information is to be provided via the "Employee Dashboard". I have the example forms in case anybody needs them. It is possible to be exempt from vaccination. During our most recent Campus Community Forum, July 13, 2021, Lorenze Legaspi, VPS, states that faculty members may use their offices, and use campus classrooms to teach remotely (15:07), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU4JUiDfmAI>. However, I still recommend reaching out to respective Instructional Deans for more information as everything changes from week to week. Face coverings are mandated at all district sites except when you are alone, outdoors, 6 feet away from everyone else, eating or drinking, or performing work-related duties that cannot be done safely while wearing the mask. No social distance requirement are mandated while wearing a mask, but encouraged when possible. Students, who enrolled onto F2F class, are required to upload proof of vaccination, or they will be dropped from the course. The deadline for students is this Friday, 8-6-21. Students will not be dropped from classes for non-payment reasons, as stated by an email sent by Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Susan Topham.

Important related COVID-19 links can be found here: <https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/human-resources/risk-management/covid-employees.aspx>

7) Committee work

Finally, regarding our committee work, we still have to input some of the changes provided by the DE committee onto our Academic Integrity paper. I would like for this to be done by the first Senate meeting, so that it may be voted on. Second, I have invited a student representative from Associated Student Government to attend, as a guest, our first Academic Affairs meeting, 8-30-21. I have not yet received a response, but will let you know. We are still in need of a faculty representative from Fine Arts, an adjunct member can also serve. I believe Credit for Prior Learning will be a topic for discussion through the semester. We must re-check our Academic Senate constitution, to make sure that our voted-on changes have been updated. We should also receive a small report from any sub-committee we might still be responsible for and note this for structural purposes. Regarding our minutes, I will send everyone a copy of minutes from last semester to be approved by our committee. Lastly, for our August 30th meeting, I know that Monday will be probably be a long day for most of us, thus I plan on keeping the meeting short.

Hope all is well,
Oscar-

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