

Academic Senate Annual Report 2017-2018

The Academic Senate has had a busy year. We opened in the fall with a review of our role and purview, a revision of bylaws to establish more mentorship for incoming leadership, and with an established set of goals. Listed below is an update on the progress that we have made in regard to each of these goals:

1. Actively participate in the revision of integrated planning and resource allocation process

➤ The Senate President is one of five faculty who have been participating in PRIE meetings. In addition, the Senate president has attended smaller Budget Committee-PRIE collaborative meetings to discuss how to link resource allocation to resource needs. Great strides have been made at our campus in this regard and we applaud the detailed development of documentation and procedures for program review and resource prioritization. This work will be ongoing as the new model for integrated planning is set into action in the year ahead. I think that there is great optimism amongst the faculty on the PRIE committee that the campus will feel satisfied with the improvements to this facet of our college and that, if not, the committee has developed a clear process for making further improvements going forward.

2. Safeguard the tenets of MPC's Academic Freedom Policy and Academic Senate's role in the design and assessment of student learning outcomes, program outcomes, and general education outcomes.

➤ The Academic Senate supported and now applauds the excellent work done by the Learning Assessment Committee in assisting faculty to complete their SLO and PLO assessments in order to answer to recommendations made by the ACCJC.

➤ In addition, the Academic Senate heard discussion from our Academic Freedom Committee, a committee which had been somewhat dormant in recent years but that is newly revived.

3. Participate in the review, revision and, if necessary, writing of Board policies and administrative procedures related to academic and professional matters.

➤ This year, the Academic Senate reviewed the last few batches of Board Policies as part of the major efforts of the Board to move all of their policies to the website from hardcopy and to revamp them to meet the legal standards of the CCLC. We continue to analyze the text of these policies for places to clarify the role of the Senate on the campus.

➤ Our new LGBTQIA + Diversity Subcommittee has passed a resolution and provided guidelines to edit the language in Board Policy and administrative procedures to be more gender inclusive. This work is ongoing.

4. Clarify and safeguard the role and legal authority of the Academic Senate and the Curriculum Advisory Committee with all parties on campus.

➤ The Academic Senate has done its part in reviewing the excellent work of those who wrote the Integrated BSI/SE/SSSP Plan as well as the Accreditation Report.

5. Review and encourage posting of clearly defined roles and administrative processes related to curriculum including who, does what, when, based on what criterion.

➤ The Senate meetings were, additionally, the forum for discussions about best practices for development of the waitlist - a project which we are pleased is now in action thanks to the work of many of our colleagues across the campus.

➤ Most recently, in collaboration with our administrative colleagues, the Senate has been discussing the procedures and policies associated with the high school dual enrollment program. This work is on-going but will hopefully lead to a means of enhancing collaboration between our college and the local high schools at the faculty level.

6. Support Academic Senate subcommittees including the Students First Committee and the LGBTQIA+ Diversity Committee as they identify student needs for and/or barriers to attaining academic success.

➤ The formation of and work done by these two new committees has perhaps been the greatest victory of the Academic Senate this year. These committees have had so much to do that they have both consistently met multiple times per month. They have both put forward resolutions to the Academic Senate that directly improve the student experience on our campus. The LGBTQIA+ Diversity Committee projects included a gender neutral signs for bathrooms, gender awareness website, gender awareness professional development at flex days, and a resolution on the use of gender neutral language in our policies and procedures. The student's first committee has made efforts to revise multiple outdated procedures and standards in our catalog. We applaud the efforts of these committees and hope that they will continue their fine work.

7. Through the Flex Committee provide professional development opportunities that are academically timely, relevant, and useful to MPC faculty.

➤ The flex day committee had two very successful flex days prior to spring semester 2018. These were well received and served to provide great professional growth to all of our instructors as well as staff. They have provided us with professional development in regard to communication skills, acceptance and awareness of diversity, use of Canvas, and an introduction to the guided pathways movement. We are grateful for the work done to deliver these important events - both by the committee and by all of our presenters.

8. Assist with communication on campus by clarifying ways in which campus members can formally express themselves at MPC.

➤ The Academic Senate now has an email to which all requests for agenda items should be sent, however, for the most part, this goal still needs to be formally addressed.

9. Lead the campus-wide discussion on emerging initiatives and legislation, specifically Guided Pathways, multiple measures for assessment, and the acceleration project, that directly impact 10 plus 1 matters.

➤ The spring flex day featured two sessions introducing the guided pathways framework proposed by the Chancellor's Office. Since that time, the Academic Senate has appointed a guided pathways liaison. The Senate president and the liaison and a few other faculty have participated in the grant writing process, and the Senate reviewed and signed off on the proposal requesting state funding for this work. We have reviewed resolutions regarding guided pathways leadership and, more recently, the use of funds. President Tribley has agreed to consider including a faculty co-steward to assist with the planning of this work across the campus. Thus, the Senate will be appointing a faculty member to co-steward the orchestration of the guided pathways work on campus.

In addition to all of this, the Senate is working hard to stay informed. Our ASCCC liaison has delivered tremendous insight to us with their reports on the ASCCC plenary sessions. Our math and English faculty have come to meetings and provided an overview of their efforts to accelerate their basic skills courses and meet the demands of AB705, a bill which requires California Community Colleges to maximize the probability that students will complete transfer-level math and English in their first year of classes.

While there was some criticism of this in our recent accreditation, the Senate seems to have a clear notion of their role on campus and of their purview. The Senate is so pleased that this year, the administration has agreed to allow us to appoint faculty to attend meetings that will help us to educate new leaders and to stay informed of the legislation and trends across the state. We hope this year's trend continues- fulfilling our role and responsibility under 10+1, encouraging the writing and posting of policies and processes, and ensuring on-going professional development as instructors and as leaders. We look forward to a new year and continuous improvement for the sake of our students.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Craig May 17, 2018

Approved by Academic Senate: September 6, 2018