



**ACADEMIC SENATE  
APPROVED MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2009**

Senators Present: Mike Adams, Kevin Alavezos, Paul Berger, David Boley, Paul Cripe, Ellen Dambrosio, Bob Droual, Jennifer Hamilton, Jim Howen, Allan McKissick, Jeff Netto, Adrienne Peek, Dale Pollard, Burt Shook, Travis Silvers, Brian Sinclair, Rob Stevenson, Theresa Stovall, Barbara Wells, Jason Wohlstadter

Senators Absent: Paul Brogan, Debbie Laffranchini, Lisa Riggs, Jim Sahlman, Layla Yousif

Guests: David Baggett (Faculty Consultant), Antoinette Herrera (Director, Health Services), Rich Rose (MJC President), Karen Walters-Dunlap (Vice President of Instruction), Derek Waring (Dean of Counseling and Student Services)

I. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

The order of the agenda items was approved without objection.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (April 23, 2009)

The minutes of April 23, 2009 were approved as submitted.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Program Mapping

Adrienne Peek reported that the Program Mapping faculty breakout that was held on Thursday, August 27 as part of the Fall 2009 Institute Day activities was very well attended. The majority of divisions were represented by at least one team, and the evaluations of the day's work were very positive.

B. New Flex Administrator

Mike Adams announced that Tobin Clarke is now serving as the new Flex Administrator. Approvals for Flex will be via the Professional Development Committee.

C. Committees/Work Groups/Task Forces in need of members:

Mike Adams announced that the Assessment Work Group and the Wellness Work Group are both in need of faculty members to serve.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Registration Priority Changes

Mike Adams reviewed the proposed changes to YCCD Policy 5055: Enrollment Priorities with the senate. Student registration is on a priority method based on units completed, units in progress, and matriculation requirements completed (such as orientation, assessment, and advisement. Student registration would follow the order set forth below:

1. Students with disabilities (DSPS) and EOPS students (*and students who have filed notice of intent to graduate—Columbia College only.*)
2. Students who are veterans of armed service or their dependents.
3. Continuing students who have completed 99 to 0 units, in descending order, including continuing students who hold a BA or higher (includes continuing, new, or returning students). Students with a BA or higher degree will be prioritized on their units completed at MJC or Columbia College and will not be penalized for previous college work.
4. Continuing students who have completed 100 units or more.
5. New and returning students will be assigned a registration appointment based on date of admission application (first come/first served) and/or returning student update form. At MJC, students who participate in special matriculation programs may require before other new and returning students.

M/S/U (Allan McKissick/Jeff Netto) to approve the Consent Agenda.

#### V. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### Continuing Business

1. Resolution SP09-A1: Grading and Academic Dishonesty (final grade not based on incident of academic dishonesty)

*Background information:* It is considered standard practice that grades should be based on multiple measures instead of one single measure—and any one incident of academic dishonesty would be only one measure of a student’s character and ability, thus a failing grade based on that alone would be grading based on a single measure.

A grade of zero on the one assignment or activity should make it considerably harder for a student to earn a passing grade, especially considering the higher level of scrutiny that would be necessary after an incident of academic dishonesty, which is a reasonable consequence for the break of proper conduct.

The current legal opinion for the California State Chancellor’s Office is that one incident of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty cannot be used alone as a means of determining a student’s grade. We base our local policy on the current law, legal opinion, or state level policy, and not on what *we hope* that law, legal opinion, or state level policy might be changed to in the future.

The senate discussed the resolution, which states:

“Be it resolved that it is the opinion of the Modesto Junior College Academic Senate that instructors should not at this time be given the power to base a student’s final grade on one single incident of academic dishonesty, and that instructors should maintain the current right to give that assignment a grade of zero.”

M/S/U (Allan McKissick/Adrienne Peek) to postpone definitely further discussion of Resolution SP09-A1: Grading and Academic Dishonesty to the September 24, 2009 MJC Academic Senate meeting.

2. Resolution SP09-A2: Grading and Academic Dishonesty (final grade may be determined by incident of academic dishonesty)

*Background information:* It is consistent with Education Code that an instructor may, at his or her discretion, fail a student for the semester in an instance of academic dishonesty. Grading has always been at the discretion of the instructor of record and the incident of academic dishonesty may be deemed by the instructor to be *sufficient* to determine failure to demonstrate subject mastery. Some assignments are considered to be key-stones in matriculation agreements, and if a student were to fail this type of assignment due to an instance of academic dishonesty then the student has not likely achieved subject mastery.

Although current legal opinion may be that one incident may be small in terms of the overall effect of the student’s progress in the class, one incident of this type may also be *sufficient* for an instructor to fail a student for the semester.

The senate discussed the resolution, which states:

“Be it resolved that it is the opinion of the Modesto Junior College Academic Senate that instructors should be given power to base a student’s final grade on one single incident of academic dishonesty.”

M/S/U (Rob Stevenson/Jim Howen) to postpone definitely further discussion of Resolution SP09-A2: Grading and Academic Policy to the September 24, 2009 MJC Academic Senate meeting.

#### New Business

1. Resolution FL09-A: Investigating Faculty Hiring Practices

The senate discussed the resolution, which states:

“Whereas, Education Code Section 87360(b) requires hiring criteria, policies, and procedures to be jointly agreed upon by both the governing board and the academic senate; and

Whereas, the MJC Academic Senate has not ratified any hiring criteria, policies, or procedures since 1994; and

Whereas, there have been many changes in the district's faculty hiring practices since 1994 that are not reflected in the 1994 documentation of these practices; and

Whereas, the YCCD Board of Trustees' website has a document entitled "Policy 4101" which refers to "Administrative Procedure 4101, Contract Faculty Hiring Procedures"; and

Whereas, after repeated requests, no copy of this referenced procedure has been forthcoming, and there appear to be discrepancies among the various other documents that are available concerning faculty hiring procedures; and

Whereas, it is both urgent and imperative that an updated hiring document be created and ratified;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Senate of Modesto Junior College immediately form a Special Investigative Task Force.

Be it further resolved that this Special Investigative Task Force be charged with researching the history and current status of the Yosemite Community College District faculty hiring practices.

Be it finally resolved, that this Special Investigative Task Force be charged with making a recommendation to the MJC Academic Senate as to how to remedy the current problems."

M/S/U (Allan McKissick/Rob Stevenson) to approve Resolution FL09-A: Investigating Faculty Hiring Practices for a first reading.

## VI. REPORTS

### 1. Professional Development Committee

Barbara Wells reported that the BBSS division will facilitate the Spring 2010 Institute Day activities; and that the Arts, Humanities & Communications division will facilitate the Spring 2010 Institute Day activities. Faculty, staff, administrators and students will be involved all along in planning and other preparations for these events.

Barbara also reported that there are continuing discussions about establishing a Wellness Work Group that would oversee health and wellness related activities that could be provided to the campus community.

### 2. Faculty Representative to the Board/District Council

David Baggett reported that a great majority of the discussion of both the YCCD Board of Trustees and District Council have been focused on budget concerns and implications for YCCD and the colleges for the remainder of this academic year and into the future.

### 3. President's Report

President Adams reviewed the following report with the senate:

MJC/Columbia Co-Exec Meeting: The MJC and Columbia College Executive Boards are scheduled to meet on Friday, September 18 to discuss district-wide senate issues, and to strategize about how to address these issues in the future.

New Website: With the college changing over to a new style of web presence, the Academic Senate has also made some changes and has a new website up and running: <http://www.mjc.edu/facultyinformation/acadsenate/index.html>. Please contact Geri Wend in the Academic Senate office if you need assistance with locating documents or other information on the website.

Budget Issues: Because of very wise and proactive actions taken last year, and because of good, careful financial planning in the years before, YCCD has managed to face the dramatic state budget cuts without layoffs, and with a much smaller cut to student services and classes than most other colleges in the system.

Elections: The Senate has an At-Large Senator and two Adjunct At-Large Senators that will be elected in September. An election for the position of Faculty Consultant to the Board will also be conducted this month. Senators are encouraged to share these needs with their constituents.

New Faculty: The Academic Senate Office will be extending invitations to newly hired faculty to attend a senate meeting during the semester.

Swine Flu (H1N1): President Adams urged faculty to strive to follow the guidelines provided by Health Services. Of particular relevance to faculty: be careful that you don't inadvertently encourage students to come to school when they are infectious.

Antoinette Herrera, Director of Health Services, shared with the senate some concerns that have come up regarding student attendance and the H1N1 flu. It seems that students have been coming to class sick because they were under the impression that if they did *not* attend they would lose their place in the class. Antoinette encouraged faculty to try to use a grading policy that permits students to be absent when it is for the good of everyone. The "Guidelines to decrease spread of Flu (Seasonal and H1N1 viruses)" document was distributed to all senators, and they were encouraged to share this information with their constituents at their next department/division meetings.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.