Los Angeles Mission College  
Academic Senate Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 3, 2012

Executive Members Present: Angela Echeverri, Gina Ladinsky, Louis Zandalasini, Deborah Paulsen, and Leslie Milke

Executive Members Absent: Madelline Hernandez


Senators Absent: Mike Climo, John Morales, Ife Keller, Marie Zaiens, Steve Brown, D’Art Phares and Rudy Garcia


Faculty Present: Myriam Levy, Parthenia Grant, Cindy Cooper, Joe Cascione, Mi Chong Park, Diana Bonilla, Cindy Luis, Tigran Mkrtchyan, Jose Maldonado, Monica Moreno, Lilamani de Silva

Guests: Hanh Tran (IT Director), Eugene Hernandez, Norma Ramirez, Ann Marie Catano, Christine Chauarri, Liana Cabrera, Randy Gamez, Rick Salazar, Mario Herrera, Ivan Rueda, Saul Perez, and Michael Cortez

I. Call to Order: President Echeverri called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by to approve the agenda carried (Milke/Pursley).

III. Approval of April 2012 Minutes: Motion to approve the April, 2012 minutes with corrections carried (Milke/Prostak); one abstention by Jose Luis Ramirez.

IV. Officers Reports

A. President’s Report – Echeverri

1. Administrative and Faculty Hiring at LAMC:

Faculty Hiring: The Chancellor has lifted the earlier hiring freeze and encouraged all LACCD campuses to hire probationary faculty for the 2012-13 academic year in order for the LACCD to meet its FON (Faculty Obligation Number). Each new faculty hire will be subsidized by the district for three years ($35,000 year 1, $25,000 year 2, and $15,000 year 3).

- **Approved Hires:** The hiring processes for Biology, Chemistry, Child Development, Counseling (Transfer Center) Geography, and Sociology positions have been initiated. Hires will need to be completed over the summer. Please spread the word to all interested individuals so they can apply.
- **STEM Director:** Dr. Par Mohammadian has been selected as the new STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) grant director. Par has been an adjunct faculty member in the Life Sciences Department for many years. She will start her new assignment on June 1.
- **Other hires:**
• STEM Counselor: A limited contract counselor for the STEM grant is moving forward.
• Administrative Aide in Administrative Services: Tara Ward has begun a provisional assignment at Mission. She previously worked at the District Office.
• Support Staff: The new LACCD allocation model will provide LAMC with funding to pay for up to six additional custodial and/or trades employees.

2. Administrative/Other Positions:
• Chief Financial Officer: Rolf Schleicher has accepted a position as Associate Vice President of Administrative Affairs at Los Angeles City College effective May 4, 2012.
• Dean of Institutional Research: Maury Pearl has been hired as the permanent LACCD Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness and will not be returning to Mission. President Perez has decided to initiate the hiring process for this position.

3. DAS Report: The next DAS meeting will be on Thursday, May 10th at 1:30 pm at East.

4. ASCCC Spring 2012 Plenary Report: The Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges met from April 19-21 in San Francisco. The following papers were adopted:
  • Accreditation Effective Practices
  • Effective Practices for Providing California Community College Library Resources and Services to Online Students
  • The Role of Counseling Faculty and Delivery of Counseling in the California Community Colleges
The following resolutions were adopted:
  • Tiered Fees in the California Community Colleges
  • Student Success Infrastructure Act of 2012
  • Hiring of Academic Administrators
  • Transfer Model Curriculum Aligned Associate Degrees for Transfer
  • Academic Progress for Board of Governors Fee Waiver Student
  • Progress Indicator Implementation for Noncredit Coursework
  • CTE Program Review
For a complete list of approved resolutions visit:
http://www.asccc.org/resources/resolutions

B. Treasurer’s Report—Zandalasini

• Faculty Senate Checking Account $1,348.37
• Carla Bowman Scholarship $3,907.03
• David Lee Moss Scholarship $ 457.84

• Faculty dues are $25 and are currently due.
• Graduation is on June 5. Don’t forget to join us for the Afterglow celebration sponsored by the Academic Senate.
V. Public Address:

Motion by Ladinsky to limit each speaker to three minutes carried. (Prostak)

Deborah Paulsen gave a brief overview of procedures for addressing disruptive behavior from Robert’s Rules and referenced an e-mail from President Perez.

Kelly Enos discussed violations of the recall petition against Angela Echeverri. Specifically he cited violations of confidentiality, violations involving harassment of faculty who were pressured to sign the petition, and violations of the College Code of Conduct.

Daniel Campos expressed his opinion regarding having a student as a member of the Academic Senate. He announced the election of the new ASO President Michael Griggs. He also stated he felt the Academic Senate had intimidated a student and that the Senate should make a motion to approve the minutes rather than to just call for the question.

Said Pazirandeh commented on the inappropriateness of faculty who used public address last month to attack the Academic Senate leadership. He suggested that faculty who were not elected to the senate, work within the system in a more constructive manner and find a senator who is sympathetic to their cause to bring resolutions to the senate for consideration.

VI. Old Business:

A. Approval of Curriculum Committee Recommendations and ITV Approval Process – Pazirandeh – Approved (Milke). Abstention by Smazenka and Long

B. Conference and Tuition Reimbursement Funds – Zandalasini: Conference and tuition funds for 2011-12 have been exhausted. The limit is being recommend to be increased to $500 next year.

C. Distance Education Committee Changes – Jordan/ Ladinsky: There is confusion over the language of the membership which will be worked out over the summer by the DAS.

VII. New Business:

A. Revised College Mission Statement – Prostak/Tran: Hahn Tran gave a report on the Survey for the revision of the Los Angeles Mission College Mission Statement. The proposed revisions to the Mission Statement and survey results were handed out and discussed. Flood stated that the noise made by a crying baby in the room was making it difficult for her to follow the discussion on the Mission Statement.

Flood proposed a motion to ask the parent of the baby to step out of the room due to the noise/distraction being caused by the baby.

The student with the baby (Ann Marie Catano) took the floor without being recognized. Norma Ramirez took the floor without being recognized. Ann Marie Catano took the floor again without being recognized.
Milke/Pazirandeh amended Flood’s motion to ask that someone step out of the room with the baby, only if and when the baby started to cry again. (Pazirandeh) Motion carried with one abstention (Long).

B. Professional and Staff Development Committee Changes – Climo: Echeverri gave a report in Climo’s absence. The committee charter being revised to expand its faculty representation. The committee needs to elect a new chair because the current chair, Christopher Williams, is stepping down.

C. Student Safety during Off-campus Activities – Echeverri: Faculty has expressed concern over the death of a L.A. Mission College student, who died tragically in November of 2011 while on a trip to Mount Shasta with a faculty member and students from the college. Many faculty are concerned over the college’s silence regarding the student death, the college’s lack of recognition of what happened to the student, and the lack of response to questions about these events. Furthermore, faculty are questioning what types of off-campus activities are appropriate and what guidelines are in place for the protection of students and faculty. Echeverri added that the intent of this discussion is not to blame anyone for what happened, but to prevent future tragedies and to protect the safety of our students. Faculty also need to understand how to safeguard themselves from potential liability in the tragic event of a student’s injury or death. Echeverri held up a Cease and Desist Letter by Attorney Martha Torgow that was distributed by Ruthie (Parthenia) Grant to all those attending the meeting. Echeverri stated faculty had legitimate concerns about the events surrounding the student’s death and that they had the right to express these concerns. She also referenced the California Education Code Section 87160 known as the Reporting by Community College Employees of Improper Governmental Activities Act.

D. Response to Academic Senate Recall Effort - Echeverri:

At the April 12, 2012 Academic Senate meeting Monica Moreno and Diana Bonilla presented a recall petition against the Academic Senate President. Since I did not see a copy of the petition until they distributed it at the Senate meeting, I was unable to prepare a written response until afterwards. However after hearing their presentation and viewing the document, I explained that the petition was based on false information and events that did not occur, as confirmed by Chancellor Daniel LaVista in his e-mail of 4/12/12. The petition also demands to effectively nullify the withdrawal of the March 15th letter to lay off an administrator (i.e. Dean of CTE/Workforce Development Cathy Brinkman). Since President Perez made that decision he should respond to that demand.

The recall petition makes eight allegations which I will summarize and address in order:

1. That President Perez’s reorganization plan did not require consultation and that I misled the senate about having any contact with the Chancellor about the reorganization.

Response: President Perez first presented his “reorganization plan” to the senate on 2/16/12 through an e-mail to me one hour before the February LAMC Senate meeting. His plan called for a permanent budget cut by eliminating an administrative position, the Dean of CTE and Workforce Development, which supports key vocational programs at LAMC. This proposed budget cut did not go through any shared governance committee for approval. The elimination of this position required a March 15 letter, which was on the agenda
for the 3/7/12 Board meeting three weeks later. Since time to react and respond to the proposal was very limited, I sent a copy of the president’s plan to all faculty and asked for their feedback. An overwhelming majority of the faculty who responded to my request were against eliminating this position. Furthermore, several indicated that if an administrative position was to be cut, faculty should be consulted on which position would have the least impact on the academic programs and result in the most budget savings.

A budget cut of this nature is a matter of consultation under Title 5 Section 53200, the LAMC Shared Governance Agreement, the LAMC Budget Committee Charter, and the ACCJC Accreditation standards.

**Title 5 Section 53200 (b):** The Academic Senate means an organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters including processes for institutional planning and budget development and other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon.

L.A. Mission College Shared Governance Agreement in effect since 2002, which echoes this language states: All decisions on the following will be recommended to administration: ...10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development... There will be consultation between the college president and the Academic Senate with regard to the filling of administrative positions. This document is posted at [http://www.lamission.edu/facstaff/senate/docs/Governance%20Agreement.pdf](http://www.lamission.edu/facstaff/senate/docs/Governance%20Agreement.pdf)

LAMC Budget and Planning Committee Charter clearly states: The purpose of the Budget and Planning Committee is to guide the college through the continual process of budget and strategic planning that includes the development of procedures, policies, guidelines, and evaluation criteria for establishing the allocation and/or reduction of expenditures and budgets. The process will include the systematic prioritization of budget requests and evaluation of expenditures.

**ACCJC Standard IIID:** The institution clearly defines and follows its guidelines and processes for financial planning and budget development, with all constituencies having appropriate opportunities to participate in the development of institutional plans and budgets.

2. **That I was not forthcoming about my communication with the Chancellor.**  
   **Response:** At the 3/8/12 Senate meeting Ed Raskin asked me if I had met with the Chancellor to oppose the president’s reorganization plan. I replied truthfully that I had not. As Chancellor LaVista stated in his e-mail I never met with him to oppose the reorganization plan. The Chancellor contacted me after the Board meeting to discuss another matter. During the course of our conversation, President Perez’s withdrawal of the March 15 letter was mentioned in passing and after the fact. I did not express my opinion about the president’s reorganization plan during that conversation.

3. **That I called a closed meeting with the Executive Board to draft a resolution without notifying faculty and did not inform Dr. Perez or others about my decision to address the Board.**  
   **Response:** A resolution can be drafted by any senator without calling an open meeting. Any faculty member can address the Board during open session without informing the president.
4. That I requested to meet with the Board in “closed session.”  
Response: The Board does not allow individuals to be present during closed session discussions in which personnel or legal matters are addressed. However, any individual can request to address the board during **open session** on a matter to be discussed later by the Board in **closed session**. The record shows my request to address the Board on 3/7/12 was withdrawn and I never addressed the Board in either closed session or open session on this matter. I later learned that the only individual to address the Board on this matter was a Teamster’s representative who argued that the proposal to eliminate a dean’s position and assign her duties to a non-Teamster’s member was a violation of written agreements between the LACCD and the Teamsters union.

5. That a resolution was discussed and formulated in secret and that the resolution was voted down.  
Response: Again a resolution can be formulated by any senator without calling for an open meeting. Furthermore, the resolution was not voted down; it was withdrawn by the maker partly because it was moot due to the president’s withdrawal of the March 15 letter.

6. That my actions undermined President Perez’s ability to make and execute decisions in the best interest of faculty and the college.  
Response: President Perez made the decision to withdraw the March 15 letter for the CTE dean from the Board agenda on his own accord. He is responsible and accountable for his own actions. I do not wish to speculate on his motives for withdrawing the agenda item. I have asked him to communicate the reasons for his decision to faculty, but he has yet to do so. Chancellor LaVista has stated that the decision to withdraw the March 15 letter was made solely by the president and that he made the decision because the savings that were expected to accrue from its inclusion in his reorganization plan could not be realized.

7. That I violated Article IV of the Senate Constitution which states, ”before a matter is reported by the senate to the Board of Trustees the President and the Chancellor of the District must be appraised of its nature.”  
Response: Since nothing was reported to the Board of Trustees on 3/7/12 this argument has no basis.

8. That my actions violated the Brown Act in that faculty members were not invited to “this meeting”.  
Response: I assume this is referring to the Board’s closed session meeting on 3/7/12. Since I did not attend the closed session meeting there was no violation of the Brown Act.
VII. Reports of Senate and College Committee Meetings

A. Curriculum Committee – Pazirandeh

The following actions have been taken by the Curriculum Committee during April 2012, and are hereby submitted for Senate approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course/Program</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicano Studies 46 &amp; 54</td>
<td>Reinstatement</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law 11, 12, 17</td>
<td>Update</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities 54</td>
<td>Archive</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music 121, 185, 285, 385, 412, 413, 414, 601, 602, 603, 604</td>
<td>Archive</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry 185, 285, 385</td>
<td>Archive</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA – Humanities</td>
<td>Non-substantial Change to approved Program</td>
<td>4-17-12</td>
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The course outlines for the February meetings can be viewed at the following links:
http://www.lamission.edu/enrollment/c/c041712.htm

**ITV APPROVAL PROCESS**

In addition I would like Senate approval for the ITV approval process at Mission. I am recommending the following process:

ITV course outlines will be processed and approved by the following:

- ITV Director (Paul McKenna)
- Curriculum Chair (Said Pazirandeh)
- Curriculum Dean (Nadia Swerdlow)
- Academic Senate President (Angela Echeverri)
- VP of Academic Affairs (Alma Johnson-Hawkins)
- College President (Dr. Monte Perez)

See above for the result of the vote.

B. Elections Committee Report – Nerud/Mkrtchyan: A report was given regarding the status of the recall against the Academic Senate President and the Election Committee’s role regarding the recall. Many problems and concerns have been raised about the manner in which the recall petition was conducted. These problems include the violations of confidentiality and the Brown Act, as well as faculty being given false information and being pressured to sign the recall. Furthermore, the recall does not have the requisite number of signatures to move forward because several individuals have asked to
have their signatures removed from the recall petition. Moreno thanked the committee for taking time to review the recall petition that she spearheaded against the senate president.

C. Accreditation Steering Committee – Hernandez/Echeverri/Flood: The next round of drafts is due on May 15th. There is a concern regarding the recent disruptions at the senate as accreditation will be affected by non-collegial behavior. Flood encouraged all faculty to participate in the accreditation process.

C. College Council – Stage: In Stage’s absence Sparfield gave a report on a number of issues including the recommendation to form a Program Review Committee.

D. District Academic Senate – Echeverri: See President’s report.

E. Distance Education – Jordan/Ladinsky: See above.

F. Educational Planning Committee – Silver

EPC Meetings held April 16th & 23rd, 2012

Summary of Agenda Items Discussed:

- Comprehensive program review of the Learning Resource Center
- Discussed the scope of Strategic Enrollment Management as a sub-committee of EPC, and agreed on the following recommendation:
  - recommends that College Council and Shared Governance Task Force consider establishing a separate committee—with EPC representation—to oversee enrollment management.
- Program viability process was addressed. The first draft from task force was discussed with follow up discussion on make-up of the committee, processes, timelines etc. Discussion will continue in our May meeting
- SGTF self-evaluation form was discussed, reviewed and approved.

G. Budget and Planning – Sparfeld: A report was given on recent budget updates, including the fact that more budget cuts may come that may result in the cutting of programs.

H. Facilities Planning Committee-Klitsner: No report

I. Students Services - Moreno: No report

J. Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee - Prostak: The committee met on April 20 and finalized changes to the 2013-2014 application request form for classroom faculty positions. A Task Force was established and met on April 27 to identify the unique data collection needs for requests for non-classroom faculty positions (Counseling, Library, and Child Development Center). The Task Force members are Gary Prostak, Hahn Tran, Sandy Thomsen, Diana Bonilla, and Monica Moreno. The Task Force will meet again on May 15.
The full FHPC meets on May 18 to review the work of the task force and to begin the development of training workshops for faculty requestors and their deans.

**K. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and Assessment – Flood:** Department SLO spreadsheets were updated in March based on the data in the reports the chairs submitted on December 2, 2011. According to the chairs, we are at 79% assessment for course level SLOs and about one third of the programs have been assessed. We need to have at least one course and one program SLO assessed by the end of the semester. Deborah Paulsen and Flood are working with faculty and the Student Service Areas to accomplish this. We will be conducting workshops in May to help faculty post their assessments on the online SLO system.

**L. Essential Skills Committee – Prostak:** The committee met on April 18 and had scheduled an in-depth discussion of how to best integrate the work of the committee with the college’s Achieving the Dream Initiative. Unfortunately, neither the vice president of Academic Affairs or Student Services attended the meeting.

The committee is going to review its charter with an eye towards revisions that will focus its efforts in student access/success/completion.

An election will be held at the May 16 meeting to elect a faculty co-chair for the 2012-2014 term. Nominations from committee members will be accepted electronically through the committee chair (G. Prostak) until Friday, May 4 at 5:00 pm.

The final meeting for this academic year is May 16 at 2:00 in LRC-215.

**N. Commencement Committee Reports – Long/Pardess**
1. Regalia and gowns will cost $5 this year. Remember to order gowns from Zoila Rodriguez, the bookstore manager.
2. Graduation rehearsal will take place on Monday, June 5th, at 4:00 pm, for all people participating in the graduation ceremonies.
3. For the first time ever, the college choir will participate in the ceremony this year. They will be wearing choir robes donated by the bookstore.
4. The Commencement Keynote Speaker will be David Rodriguez, a Mission College Graduate, from Sylmar. David currently works for the State Department in Washington D.C. in the field of International Affairs.

Grand Marshall: David Pardess, Faculty Marshalls: John Klitsner and Louise Barbato.
Faculty Ushers: Monica Moreno, Mike Climo, Diana Bonilla, and Lilamani de Silva.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Ladinsky, Secretary