

**ACADEMIC SENATE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
APPROVED**

*In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and SB 751, minutes of the DVC Academic Senate Council record the votes of all committee members as follows: Members in attendance will have their votes recorded including names of members voting in the minority or abstaining is recorded.*

**PRESENT:** John Freytag (President), Lisa Smiley-Ratchford (Vice President), Daniel Kiely (Corresponding Secretary), Bridgitte Schaffer (SRC), Emily Moss (Library), Susan Parkinson (Biology/ Health Sciences), Craig Gerken (Physical Sciences), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Anthony Gonzales (English), Kris Koblik (Professional Development), Sangha Niyogi (Social Sciences), Concha Gomez (Math/Computer Science), Jackie Ponciano-Babb (Kinesiology), Leo Bersamina, (Applied and Fine Arts), Joann Denning (CE), and John Matthesen (Adjunct), Gargi Kulkarni (Adjunct)

**ABSENT:** Alan Haslam (Representative-at-large), Taylor Harrison (Counseling)

**GUESTS:** Jason Mayfield

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021.**

**It was MSC to approve the agenda of September 28, 2021. The following members all voted aye: Smiley-Ratchford, Schaffer, Kiely, Moss, Parkinson, Gerken, Seefer, Gonzales, Koblik, Niyogi, Gomez, and Ponciano-Babb, Bersamina, Denning, Matthesen and Kulkarni. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jason Mayfield asked if anyone had any feedback on the proposed 22-23 Academic calendar. He said people can email him any comments they have. He said however, it's not likely they will change it but he wanted to keep the senate in the loop.

Freytag said this will be on the next agenda.

**3. COUNCIL COMMENT**

None.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**5. APPOINTMENTS**

**Scheduling Committee**  
Shuleen Martin - PhySci

It was MSC to approve the appointments listed above. The following members all voted aye: Smiley-Ratchford, Schaffer, Kiely, Moss, Parkinson, Gerken, Seefer, Gonzales, Koblik, Niyogi, Gomez, and Ponciano-Babb, Bersamina, Denning, Matthesen and Kulkarni. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

## 6. BROWN ACT UPDATE

### [Brown Act Ammendment Changes the Rules for Teleconference During a State of Emergency](#)

Freytag updated Council on the status of the Brown Act. He said a bill was passed to establish clear rules for teleconference meetings during such emergencies, effective immediately and until January 1, 2024. He said agencies are required to verify every 30 days and every 30 days thereafter, their exemption from traditional teleconference requirements. This makes it so that we don't have to publish addresses of everyone attending and they don't each have to post an agenda for the public.

Koblik asked if the Brown Act committees under the Senate each have to do the same or are they part of the Senate as far as the verification goes. Freytag said he thinks so and suggested we proceed that way unless we find out otherwise.

Gerken asked if stating the verification in our minutes is adequate. Freytag said he thinks so. Again, he will check to make sure.

**The amendment to the motion to include all senate committees will be verified by the Senate Council was accepted.**

**The following members all voted aye: Smiley-Ratchford, Schaffer, Kiely, Moss, Parkinson, Gerken, Seefer, Gonzales, Koblik, Niyogi, Gomez, and Ponciano-Babb, Bersamina, Denning, Matthesen and Kulkarni. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.**

## 7. SENATE GOALS

### [Academic Senate Goals 20-21](#)

Freytag said at the end of the last Senate meeting we had gone into breakout rooms to discuss our goals but did not have time to finish the conversations and report out. He said he has set up the breakout rooms again to finish those conversations and report out. Smiley-Ratchford asked that the groups write up the main ideas that come out of their group for the goals writing group.

Freytag reminded Council of the guiding questions. Are our goals as they're currently written still relevant? Any concerns about the goals in the particular section your group is discussing? Are they attainable? Is the wording challenging for any particular reason? Is there anything missing from how we are thinking and serving our students currently as a college? Are the goals capturing what we as a Senate Council would like to achieve for this year? How do we make them more tangible with one or two achievable things within each section? The topics in the rooms are: Commitment to equity and social justice; Academic excellence in the student experience; College operations; and creating a more racially just, equitable campus.

The groups went into the breakout rooms for about 25 minutes and then reported out.

### [Group 1](#)

Niyogi reported for group 1. She said they noted that there is a lot of overlap between goal 1 and goal 4 so we can maybe discuss collapsing them together. The first thing to do with goal 1 is to update the language of the goal based on the Chancellor's Call to Action.

Faculty are the first point of contact with students so, when students run into any kind of issues, whether it's mental health issues, pandemic related stuff or other issues that have come up for them that are impacting their success. They agreed we need to have a protocol document for various situations and how the instructor should handle it. Also, for instances such as having to cancel a class and go to a virtual format for whatever period of time.

They discussed creating spaces of virtual communities to discuss and share how transitioning back is going. Kiely added that we need to create a digital community that's not bound by departments or divisions or interest areas. They did not discuss specific goals or ideas for professional development. However, they discussed the need to build scaffolding for the initiatives and work. Currently, it's a one-time kind of experience and we don't build on that enough. We often bring in outside workshop leaders, facilitators and speakers. But, we have an existing infrastructure here that we can tap into more and more. Kiely said hiring is also part of this goal we need to continue to work on.

### Group 2

Sefer said they did some major changes to the language to be more specific. They decided that it's not just how a course is taught, but the length that it's taught. So, they changed the language to encourage departments to take a student-centered scheduling approach and to consider modality and length when scheduling course offerings in alignment with our mission values and vision map by the educational master plan and with safety, accessibility and equity in mind for all of our campus communities. They discussed that departments and divisions should talk about scheduling at the beginning of each scheduling period.

Sefer said they changed the second bullet to reflect that it is not just online offerings, but all courses need to be developed with a focus on equity and excellence in both pedagogy and academic integrity.

Sefer said for the third bullet about non-instructional spaces. They decided that since we are setting up new student centers, they also wanted to put a focus on the existing centers for affinity groups and learning communities to make sure they don't disappear with the advent of the student centers.

Sefer said for the fourth bullet they added that we want to work with administration to offer stipends to faculty club advisors.

### Group 3

Smiley-Ratchford said they built out on the 2 bullets in the goal. They worked to make the goal actionable with more specific language about what we will do. They added that we will have ongoing conversations about the influence by Covid on the schedule. They also added a couple more bullets about making time during senate meetings for “teachable moments”, and we will have discussions and make recommendations regarding the planned Measure E updates to instructional areas.

### Group 4

Gonzales said first they boiled down the introductory paragraph to just a header, to match the other three goals. So, it is simply “A Racially Just and Equitable campus”. They discussed if it is still relevant and they agreed it is to ensure that the work of the Racial Justice Task Force continues. They did add the word valued to the first bullet.

The next bullet, as Niyogi mentioned earlier overlaps with the first goal. Instead of coordinating conversations and learning opportunities on the topics of equity, social justice, and anti-racism, we will promote and support those conversations in all areas of the college with one event per semester as a measurable outcome. They added that we will leverage things already happening rather than duplicating, and to work on how to infuse the existing work into all areas of the college.

The next bullet they took out the words “current national climate” because it seems too specific.

The next bullet they added to strive towards solidarity, and they took out the named groups with the more encompassing terms of minoritized or underrepresented groups.

They did not change the last bullet.

Parkinson said her group talked about how to make these measurable and it occurred to her that as the agendas are being put together, it should be considered if each agenda item is tied to one of our goals. And perhaps if it is not tied to our goals, we consider revising our goals or revising our agendas.

Gerken said we need to talk about the realignment of our committees with interest areas. Freytag said it is certainly something we need to address but he is not sure it's a goal. Freytag added that we need to think about if these are 1- or two or more-year goals.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:05p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Langelier-Patton*