

**ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 29, 2019  
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), Patrick Moe (Vice President), Lisa Smiley-Ratchford (Corresponding Secretary), Yvonne Canada (Counseling), Sangha Niyogi (Social Science), Heidi Gentry-Kolen (Math/Computer Science), Riva Bruenn (Part-time Faculty), Kris Koblik (Professional Development), Joann Denning (CE), Theresa Flores-Lowery (Kinesiology), Ray Goralka (Biology/ Health Sciences), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Susan Parkinson (Part-time Faculty), Craig Gerken (Physical Sciences), Daniel Kiely (Library), Alan Haslam (Representative-at-large), Chalisse Forgette (English), Anne Petersen (SRC)

**ABSENT:** Jane Fisher (Applied and Fine Arts)

**GUESTS:** Lynda Letona (Library), Koah Yankova (QSA Co-President), Unaiza Buksh (QSA Co-President), Toni Fannin, Lindsey Lang, Mary Gutierrez

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF OCTOBER 29, 2019 AND MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2019.**

**It was MSC to approve the agenda of October 29, 2019. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Canada, Niyogi, Gentry-Kolen, Bruenn, Koblik, Denning, Flores-Lowery, Goralka, Seefer, Parkinson, Gerken, Kiely, Haslam, Forgette, and Petersen. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

**It was MSC to approve the minutes of October 22, 2019. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Canada, Niyogi, Gentry-Kolen, Bruenn, Koblik, Denning, Flores-Lowery, Goralka, Seefer, Parkinson, Gerken, Kiely, Haslam, Forgette, and Petersen. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lynda Letona read the following statement: Hi, I'm Lynda, one of the new librarians. Happy to meet you. I'm here with some colleagues and students about a very important library issue related to a bathroom remodel request we are making for the construction of gender neutral bathrooms. This is an issue tied to health, safety, equity and academic success.

At a DVC workshop hosted by the Rainbow Community Center on September 25th at the Student Union, I met and heard some of our LGBTQ students who are feeling alienation or pain due to the lack of gender

neutral bathrooms on campus. Some students estimated a count of 4 gender neutral bathrooms on campus, others 6. When this question came up at the reference desk some days ago, a librarian found a map that notes 2. During the LGBTQ workshop, some students expressed how some of the few bathrooms on campus that are gender neutral seem hidden or locked. The main takeaway is that there aren't many; our students and their allies feel this very deeply. The librarians and staff who are here or who couldn't make it today want to communicate that we see this issue as a matter of urgency for 3 reasons.

1. The library is located in a very busy space. As a major space of community and academic support on campus, we strive to make this a safe space where all students can feel they are treated equitably and feel safe coming to us to study and ask questions.
2. This is an academic and health issue--In a Transgender Law Center guide titled "Peeing in Peace," the guide notes: "Without safe access to public bathrooms, transgender people are denied full participation in public life. For example, transgender youth may be unable to complete school due to a lack of safe bathroom access." (p. 3) According to the research in the guide, "Many transgender people avoid public bathrooms altogether and can develop health problems as a result" (p. 3). This research resonates with conversations I have shared with friends in the LGBTQ community, particularly Trans and gender con-conforming friends, who have expressed how the stress and stigma of feeling that they cannot go to the bathroom in a given building or campus has caused a negative academic impact for them. One friend who was transitioning explained that he partly dropped out from college due to this issue and waited years until he had transitioned in order to return and feel safer. When students feel a sense of belonging and community we know from research and anecdotal evidence that they perform better. Now that my friend has returned to college after years of struggle, he has one semester left to graduate and has achieved a 3.9 GPA. He wants to encourage others to do the same and asks us to help students feel more comfortable in their own skin and accepted.
3. Due to incidents and questions that have come up at the library, we feel a sense of increased urgency on this moving forward.

To end, one thing we discussed with Eli Clare during his recent visit for the equity series talk is the issue of intersectionality. He expressed, and the librarians present here agree, that we should be talking about various forms of oppression and the way they intersect. We know that some of our students are dealing with multiple issues of alienation and oppression. Gender neutral bathrooms as part of a remodeling effort at the library would create a more equitable campus at DVC. Thank you for listening.

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Email a friend shared with me and allowed me to share with others

"People can't perform to their full potential without the basic necessities of human life. They need to be fed well, feel safe, have a home, and being comfortable in their own skin... Yes, plenty of kids are late bloomers in high school and several years later, but trans people are late bloomers in life. There were other reasons I dropped out of community college in 2009... I did get busy with military training being new to my unit, but I could have figured it out. A big reason why I quit so easily is because I didn't feel comfortable going to the bathroom in public. It's hard to focus on school work when you need something so basic that everyone else has--a restroom. I was out of my element in school. I was out of my uniform. The same uniform that hid my female body. This was all before starting testosterone. I thought maybe if I got lucky enough to someday feel more myself, I would go back to school. I'm proof of the obvious, people need the basic necessities in life to succeed, and not everyone starts off with the same levels in their meters. We miss out on enriching our society if we don't let others catch up.

In biology classes, you are taught that variation is how species and organisms don't just survive, but thrive. You can easily see the importance of diversity when you're studying organisms and their ecosystems. Nature is doing this beautifully. Humans? ... A lot of our societies have a goal of everyone being the same. And humans say we are the smartest species. What a load of crap.”

Lindsey’s recommended sources to check out and also 2 sources referenced here:

- Ted Talk “Why We Need Gender Neutral Bathrooms” Ivan Coyote.  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/ivan\\_coyote\\_why\\_we\\_need\\_gender\\_neutral\\_bathrooms?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/ivan_coyote_why_we_need_gender_neutral_bathrooms?language=en)
- Transgender Law Center’s resource guide: Peeing in Peace  
<https://transgenderlawcenter.org/resources/public-accommodations/peeing-in-peace>

Koah Yankova and Unaiza Buksh, QSA Co-Presidents, commented that it is good the college put in gender neutral bathrooms but many non-gender neutral people have been using them and since there are a limited number of them on campus, it can increase the wait times for gender-neutral people to use them.

### **3. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Canada thanked Freytag and Classified Senate President Marissa Greenberg for organizing the forum that was held the previous day on “Why must we talk about racism at DVC?”. She said this is the first of two forums scheduled this semester, and there will be more in the spring. She said these conversations take time and as we begin, we are setting the groundwork to make spaces where people feel comfortable talking about these things.

Canada said this is the third year that the state has had major impacts from wildfires. She said this will be the new normal. She said during the latest fires the students were passing around a petition to close the school. But, she said, we need to figure out ways to respond differently instead of just reacting. She said one strategy to consider is to “pad” the fall semester schedule with a few extra days so if we need to close the school, we have days built in to make up the lost instruction time.

Gentry-Kolen said several faculty are having issues with technology in their classrooms. The log out timing on many classroom computers is too short. If an instructor is displaying materials through the computer, and they stop to lecture or answer questions, the computer will log out and the instructor then has to take the time to log back in before continuing.

Forgette said on behalf of the English Tutoring Lab Coordinator, there is a lack of communication between District IT and the colleges whenever changes are made to our technology and platforms and this causes confusion and issues with adapting the new technology.

Forgette commented that the writers resource book that an English instructor from SRC talked about at the last senate meeting is not going to be adopted by the Pleasant Hill English Division as there are many instructors that are opposed to it.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Flores-Lowery said the soccer team is scheduled to play this afternoon at home vs American River. Cross Country is waiting to go to the Big 8 on November 1. Men’s water polo is waiting to go to the Big 8 on November 7. They are currently 18-2. Women’s water polo goes to the Big 8 on November 8. Football plays next on November 1 at home vs San Mateo City College.

Niyogi told Council the Racial Justice Task Force is scheduled to meet just after this senate meeting today and will be working on defining their charge.

Nyogi reminded Council that the second and last Racial Justice speaker for the semester is scheduled on November 4. At 12:45 in the Diablo Room. George Ciccariello Maher Ph.D. of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics will speak on “Global to Local White Supremacy and How to Fight It.”

Seefer told Council the Student Veterans 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Small Business Boot Camp titled “Plan and Pitch” will be this Saturday, November 2 from 8am-6:30pm in the Diablo Room. Attendees will have the opportunity to actually prepare a business plan as part of the workshop.

Freytag told Council two faculty are needed for the Sabbatical Leave committee. Let him know if anyone is interested.

Freytag told Council the DVC Sustainability Committee in conjunction with the District Sustainability Committee is presenting a visioning exercise on November 15 from 1-3pm in SSC 232. He encouraged senate representatives to attend to inform discussions about sustainability goals for the next decade.

## 5. APPOINTMENTS

### Student Equity Workgroup

Taylor Oliver

### Student Equity and Success Committee

Ian Thomas-Bignami

**It was MSC to approve the appointments listed above. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Canada, Niyogi, Gentry-Kolen, Bruenn, Koblik, Denning, Flores-Lowery, Goralka, Seefer, Parkinson, Gerken, Kiely, Haslam, Forgette, and Petersen. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

## 6.. CAMPUS SAFETY DRILLS

Toni Fannin told Council the Safety Committee has developed a plan to hold safety drills on campus. She reviewed the committee charge and membership that includes representation from SRC, Maintenance and Operations, the Marketing Office, Police Services, DSS/Student Services, Student Life and the CARE team. She reviewed the Safety Monitor Program that has been developed. Each semester, two trainings are offered for safety monitors. They are provided with safety bags, safety flip charts, training on Evac chairs, and fire extinguisher training.

Fannin said the College community has repeatedly asked the Safety Committee to organize and run evacuation/shelter-in-place drills. The Safety Committee supports this and Police Services supports the Safety Committee. She said Susan Lamb has asked for input from the Academic Senate on appropriate dates for a drill during Spring 2020 and moving forward. She said the question for the senate is “Can you agree on a week in the term (i.e., week 11) for a recurrent evacuation/shelter in place drill?”. The designated week would be identified so faculty could plan appropriately.

Fannin told Council about events put together by the safety committee are coming up. They are: Safety Monitor Training 2 on October 16 or October 23; Safety Monitor Training 1 during the first week in

December; and a Walk About to observe areas on campus for safety and lighting features on November 6 at 6 PM; and Safety Forums. The Safety forums are scheduled on the following dates and times:

- DVC PH Safety Forum Fall Semester: December 2, 2019 2 – 3:30, BFL CCC
- DVC PH Safety Forum Spring Semester: May 11, 2020 2 – 3:30, BFL CCC
- SRC Safety Forum Fall Semester: December 15, 2019 2:30 – 4:00, E230
- SRC Safety Forum Spring Semester: May 7, 2020 (Time and location TBA)

## **7. MATH AB705 UPDATE**

Lindsey Lang reported on the efforts in the Math division to address the requirements of AB 705.

The efforts include: scheduling co-requisite support classes for the three entry level math classes that are part of pathways for certificates or degrees; inviting instructors to groups where they can share ideas, suggestions and best practices; decreased the class maximum in two entry level courses; implementing pilot programs in support courses that will have embedded tutors in the class for one hour a week; also an embedded counselor in those classes 1 hour every other week where they will do some short presentations as well as some one-on-one counseling.; the creation of a new co-requisite course for second level math classes; and a revamp of Math 124 for Liberal Arts majors as an alternative to taking statistics.

Lang said the information that we have online about math classes does not give students information on which math is best to start with on a particular pathway. She said we need to make sure students are starting in the right classes because those classes are impacted and it is difficult to move students around after the semester has started if they find out they are in the wrong course.

Lang said there are a lot of problems now placing international students in math classes because the Accuplacer assessment is no longer being used and the state had not provided a new one yet. International students cannot use Multiple Measures to assess placement.

Lang said they are developing support classes for two types of students. One group of students are those that don't have enough math preparation and the other group are those students who have not developed study skills. She said they are creating support classes not just to meet the law, but to truly support students. She said the challenge is the support provided by the college for these efforts comes with a warning that some of these efforts cannot be supported forever, such as embedded tutors and counselors in the classes and compensation for faculty that are working on these efforts.

## **8. PROGRAM REVIEW TEMPLATE LANGUAGE**

Denning reminded Council that they reviewed two options for a statement on the Program Review Template regrading identifying funds for CE classes. She said after hearing feedback, she is proposing to simplify it and use the first sentence in the first option statement. "Programs applying for Strong Workforce or Perkins funding must contain a State approved Career Education TOP Code".

**It was MSC to approve the modification of the language on the Program Review Template to clarify eligibility for CE funding. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Canada, Niyogi, Gentry-Kolen, Bruenn, Koblik, Denning, Flores-Lowery, Goralka, Seefer, Parkinson, Gerken, Kiely, Haslam, Forgette, and Petersen. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

## **9. DISTRICT WIDE SENATE PLENARY SESSION AT DISTRICT OFFICE**

Freytag told Council the topics on the agenda for the District-wide Academic Senate Plenary Meeting on November 12 are Faculty Roles in management hiring processes, and Faculty roles in budgeting processes. He said there may be other topics on the agenda. Let him know if anyone has any suggestions.

## **10. ASCCC PLENARY RESOLUTIONS**

Council did not have any feedback on the resolutions that will be coming forward at the ASCCC Plenary Session in November. Freytag reminded Council to review the resolution topics and send him any comments or recommendations for voting at the session. He said the resolutions can be added and/or changed during the session prior to voting so he will send out emails if anything comes up. The session is Thursday, November 7 through Saturday, November 9. Voting is Saturday morning.

## **11. REVIEW OF ACADEMIC SENATE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Freytag told Council we will begin a review of our Constitution and Bylaws and look for any changes or updates that may be needed. He told Council changes to the Constitution are voted on by the whole senate, while changes to the Bylaws are voted on by the Council.

## **12. VPI REPORT**

Gutierrez told Council DVC is being recognized by the Champions of Higher Education as one of the top California Community Colleges in implementing the Associate Degree for Transfer. She, along with Patrick Moe and Chris Knox will be attending a recognition event on November 14 in Los Angeles.

Gutierrez told Council the ASDVC President has been contacting individual faculty on behalf of students who are impacted by the fires. She said faculty should work directly with their students as to what works best for them individually. Gutierrez added that the administration is aware that some employees may be impacted and to work with their managers if they need any accommodations.

## **13. AS PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Freytag reminded Council they had a discussion at the beginning of the semester about the impacts of the fires last year and what we could maybe do to lessen any impacts this year and in the future. One suggestion was made to change the calendar starting in 2021-2022 to schedule extra days that could be scheduled to make up for any closures that may have to happen.

Freytag told Council there are conversations taking place about the concerns expressed by faculty about issues with technology in classrooms and communications from the district.

Freytag said at Cabinet, he will be discussing communications with students about AB 705 requirements and getting accurate information to students for the application and registration processes. Haslam commented that he would like to see data after the semester about the placement process and how it worked and that the data needs to be disaggregated by student populations. He reminded Council that the original bill was supposed to be addressing equity for students.

Freytag said the Equivalency forms and process are now available on Senate web page. He said departments have been asked to send lists of majors they would accept for equivalencies if needed. He said this would

help broaden applicant pools and provide the opportunity to contact an applicant for an equivalency form if they feel they would fulfill the requirement.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Langelier-Patton  
Administrative Secretary*