

PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Minutes

April 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice President David Plotkin
College Council Representative Sue Goff
PTF President Leslie Ormandy
Admin/Confidential President Sunny Olsen
ASG President Clare Hansen

Vice President Alissa Mahar
FTF President Laurette Scott
PIO Lori Hall
Classified President James Logan
Recorder Denice Bailey

Guest: Jennifer Anderson, Karen Ash

GUIDED PATHWAYS UPDATE

David reported the Guided Pathways Taskforce has concentrated on making sure we connect Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work with Guided Pathways and that the paths, models, and supports are informed by DEI. We want to be better about integrating separate projects into one umbrella and communicating that to the college.

David provided project updates from the sub-committees:

- A year ago, Navigate software was implemented. Students are using it and advisors are able to track students better.
- The Early Alert pilot is happening, which is notification that a student is not attending class. In the future, we can expand this to students who are in danger of failing or are needing help due to homelessness or food insecurity. We need to provide sufficient training for this component.
- Curriculum is finalizing the Education Focus Areas (EFA) and working on laying out first terms for each of them so students have a common experience. This will help students plan their education intentionally in preparation for their future career. Students can still change EFA if they wish. They are working with Marketing to create better visualizations of program maps.
- The pre-college group is focusing on integrating a training module for students taking pre-college courses. This is a way to introduce certain populations to college. We will continue to communicate to high school partners about program maps and EFA pathways so students can take appropriate classes while still in high school.

Project Managers Max and Carol have shepherded these projects. They have a forecast of costs for Guided Pathways, including possible increases in positions. They also have a detailed timeline and engagement map to determine where to focus outreach analysis and have done a risk assessment.

ARC POLICY REVIEW: FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENT

Jennifer and Karen attended for this agenda item.

Jennifer said there are components of the Financial Aid Disbursement policy that may be impactful for students. They have brought it to PC first for feedback on whether it should be moved forward for approval.

The college follows everything required by Title IV. Our current practice is to disburse aid on the first of each term. The disbursement is modified every time a student changes their course schedule. Students are unaware that their financial aid is impacted when they change their course schedule, and that it could possibly delay their aid. Financial aid processes more than a thousand change-in-aid forms each year. Students currently cannot charge books at the bookstore. CCC is also a target for fraud rings.

The proposed ARC policy change establishes a specific date and time to verify student enrollment and disburse aid based on that date. No changes would be made after that date, regardless of changes to schedule. Disbursement would not occur until after the add/drop deadline. This is a delay in disbursement for students. This change would allow students to charge items at the bookstore even if financial aid has not been disbursed.

Laurette asked if this applies to course materials charges. Jennifer said she would find out.

Karen said this proposal helps reduce fraud rings and allows add/drops without impact to students' aid package. It is a best practice that aligns with what other community colleges in the state are doing. This would allow students to withdraw within the first two weeks of the term without having to repay financial aid. We could create an option for automatic financial aid awarding in the future.

They propose implementing this change in summer 2020, and students would be administratively withdrawn in the first two weeks if they have not attended class. They are aware that there are strong benefits to the policy, but also things that may be tricky. Is it worth moving forward with this proposal?

Clare said the two week delay could be a problem for a lot of students. They live off of their aid. Jennifer said new students would likely not notice the difference. Current students would be given plenty of notice to adjust for the timing, or we could offer/develop some bridge loans for students in need.

Sunny asked if students would get receipts for books if they are bought on financial aid, that they then could be returned for cash. Alissa said the deadline to return books is the first week of the term. Karen said she believes returns would be credited back to the student financial aid account.

Leslie cautioned not to discount the concerns about students getting the payment two weeks late. Karen said they are working at looking at the whole picture of what support is available: food from the Cougar Cave, day care vouchers, etc., that will help students bridge the gap. Clare said ASG could offer bridge grants as well.

Laurette said we need to look at add/drop dates. She said PCC's add/drop dates are well before the term starts. David said he believes all community college have an add/drop date 1-2 weeks after the start of the term.

Clare asked if it could just apply to new students. Karen and Jennifer said no, there can only be one process for disbursement.

Laurette talked about the difficulty of tracking attendance for on-line students. Faculty are hesitant to drop students and creating bigger problems for them. She does believe it is important to be consistent with other colleges. It makes sense but there are a few things that need to be figured out. Sunny agreed and said the opposite happens as well, when students are not registered but are attending class.

Karen said last term we had more than 20 fraud files and we had to pay back around \$57,000 to federal aid. This policy will help with that.

David asked the group this ARC policy should move forward. Yes. Jennifer asked the group to contact her directly with any other thoughts or questions. She said this would go to ISP committee next and they will talk to students as well.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

ASG – Clare reported:

- PC is invited to come to events during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. There will be a “What were you wearing” display and other activities, such as Bystander training.
- ASG elections are upcoming.

FTF – Laurette reported:

- She is working on elections for new senators.
- She is working with Max and Jaime on skills day.
- Bargaining is ongoing.

PTF – Leslie reported:

- PTF are hosting a Meet & Greet and farewell to Susan Edwards.
- Bargaining is ongoing.
- She is working on an issue with the college.

Classified – James reported:

An inappropriate email was sent over the weekend from a member to many people at the college. He apologized and said they are trying to fix the problem.

Admin/Confidential - Sunny reported:

- Admin/Confidential had a gathering on PI day.
- It was a successful All Staff breakfast.
- It is time to place orders for graduation regalia.
- The new president for admin/confidential next year will be Matt Goff.
- Admin/Confidential have one more lunch coming up this year.

College Council – Sue reported:

- The College Council meeting was canceled for the accreditation visit.
- The next meeting is this Friday.

Adjourn 4:24 pm