



The Associated Students of Saint Mary's College of California  
**Associated Students Senate Meeting**

February 16th, 2023 | 5:00 pm | Claeys Lounge, Soda Center

A. Opening Business

5:00 PM

- a. Call to Order
  - i. 5:00pm
- b. Roll Call
  - i. All present except Senior Chair Yolanda Ochoa
- c. Review of Minutes
  - i. Motion to pass the agenda as is by Senator Farris, Seconded by Senator Martinez
- d. Review of Agenda
  - i. Motion to pass the agenda as is by Senator Farris, Seconded by Senator Martinez
- B. Public Forum 5:02 PM
- C. Docket 5:02 PM
  - a. All in favor to suspend Robert's Rule of Order
  - b. Presentation by Richard Plumb- *President of Saint Mary's College of California*
    - i. Why is tuition increasing? The costs of everything has gone up (water, power, etc)
    - ii. College has 10 million budget ; 60% goes into salaries
    - iii. Starting next year there will be a \$300 fee for all students which goes to Student Life.
    - iv. Vision statement: Where do we want to be in a particular time frame – Strategic plan: Transformation 2028 ; By 2028 SMC will be a nationally innovated catholic community
    - v. SMC Credits —> Carnegie Credits
    - vi. Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion– Most diverse senior leadership ; Since SEPTEMBER diverse hires ; Chief of Public Safety
    - vii. 40% Budget come from undergraduate tuition – School relies a lot on donors to help pay the costs of education here at SMC
    - viii. Strategic plan – Started about 4 years ago – in the beginning phases several hundred students participated in those listening sessions ;
    - ix. Senator Farris: How is the college able to fund these programs (specifically the nursing program)? Answer: We will not take any specific funds from the college to fund for these programs. Current staffing is not in any
    - x. Senator Jamil: Why was tuition raised twice? Answer: Tuition is only raised once a year

- xi. Senator Ruiz: Core curriculum changes for sophomores/juniors, will there be compensation for changes? Answer: When a major change is made into a program (Grandfather clause) Those students can finish the program that they started into. (Rising Sophomores) I believe you have the choice to opt into the new curriculum change.
- xii. Audience: How do you opt into the new program? Answer: You would have to work with your advisor on that. Current students will be guided into the new curriculum.
- xiii. Senator Martinez: What is one setback that you wish you could improve on? Answer: Anytime we open a hole into the wall or dig in the ground we get surprised. There are always surprises. When we hit something that doesn't go as well as we like – reflect back –In everything that we do we always reflect back and figure out ways to improve.
- xiv. Senator Hansen: Communication issues. How can we communicate better? Answer: SMC is one large community that is made up of multiple constituencies. Everyone is trying to work together to help the students through their education.
- xv. Audience: SMC prides itself on diversity, representations.. I heard that cultural night was reduced to one night. Why is cultural night being canceled for debate? Answer: This is a complete surprise to me. When you hear a rumor, use your critical thinking skills.
- xvi. Senator Berry: Will cultural nights come back? Answer: The real question is how do we want to tackle these nights. Multiple nights or one single night. There is zero talk about canceling it. It will not be canceled “*over my dead body*”.
- xvii. President Onedera: Do you think AS could be an outlet to communicate to the people? Answer: Yes. In my previous institutions the senior staff and rep from student gov met once a month to communicate with the student body.
- xviii. Senator Sigh: Could you give a brief summary as if i'm a small child (or dog)of the new strategy? Answer: In September, I brought in a new VP. Shes an absolute freaking rockstar. a real dynamo. There are 4 diverse high schools that we are becoming the college of destination for. Saint Mary's is a hidden gem.

- xix. Senator Martinez: How do you plan on strengthening the alumni community? Answer: We are rebuilding our entire alumni office. Alumni will still be in the loop with events, current events, etc.
- xx. Audience: What will SMC do about the understaffing of the Title IX office? Answer: We are searching. Title IX is much broader than the talk on campus. We recently had the teal out game in January— students standing against SA & SV. We want to focus on all of Title IX but particularly on SA & SV.
- xxi. Senator S: While you are searching for Title IX coordinator, how are you ensuring the campus is safe in the meantime? Answer: If a title ix coordinator is what you think will make the campus safe then there is a problem. We have faculty, staff, students, to support in the meantime. There is a committee that deals with the after math of the event, I have asked to have another committee put together dealing with education on situations and prevention. We all have to work together to keep each other safe.
- xxii. Senator Farris: How does the college plan to balance the increasing number of students? How does the amount affect future finances?

#### D. New Business

6:02 PM

- a. Discussion on Student Media (KSMC & Collegian); talk about moving them from under AS jurisdiction to a department.
  - i. We are at a bit of a crossroad with our student media. This has always been AS organization jurisdiction. Interest in newspapers has been lost.
  - ii. If we have media, should it be continued as an AS jurisdiction? Or should we step aside and pass it along to another organization.
  - iii. Benefits: Remain independent voices, may bash on Jim or Plumb
  - iv. Drawbacks: Need you to fund it. We will have fixed costs possible 10,000/year.
  - v. Senator Farris; Have you talked to the people in Collegian? Answer: They are very new. Most don't know the intricacies.
  - vi. Senator Moreno: If they stayed under AS, would they get the same budget? Answer: Yes.
  - vii. Would it be both KSMC and Collegian under AS? Answer: Up to AS to discuss.

- viii. Speaker of the Senate: Grace Farris– They should remain under AS Community because we want to preserve the historic value. We should preserve free speech. It doesn't seem like there will be many cons beside the money aspect. I think we should work out a way for them to get course credits.
- ix. Senator Martinez: Remaining under AS would help them preserve their history. It would help AS communicate better. I want to be open to the discussion of replacing stipends – Credits, etc. This would make it attractive to students.
- x. Senator Ruiz: Communication between students and the body is just not there. I don't think money is the issue. I think this would be good for communicating with students.
- xi. Senator Moreno: I am also in agreement. Funding is a quick fix.
- xii. Senator Hansen: I think we should gauge the interest of the general public.
- xiii. I think it would be an interesting responsibility. How would we effectively make sure it is properly managed? In terms of media, I think they might be a little bit outdated. Is there any potential we could possibly pivot with newer media outlets.
- xiv.

## E. Reports

6:30 PM

### a. Committee Reports

- i. Finance Committee -VP for Finance
  - Welcome Yolanda!
- ii. Institutional Affairs Board- AS President
- iii. Student Organization Council- VP for Student Orgs.
- iv. College Committee on Inclusive Excellence -AS President
- v. Sustainability Committee- Senator Ochoa
  - Sustainability Committee:
  - Last meeting was before break, we have 3 strongly interested vendors submitting proposals which were due by Feb 3th so we will go over then at our next meeting.
  - We will be continuing to work with "recycle smart & Mount Diablo resource recovery" for sustainable move out
  - Facilities is working towards rebooting the colleges "sight lines contract" which will include greenhouse gas emissions inventory