**Santa Monica College** Professional Ethics & Responsibilities Committee

# Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time**: 02/22/22

**Location**: https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/94356818372

**Chair**: Brian Rajski

**Attendees**: Ian Colmer, Lula Livanis, Valerie Narey

## Call to Order

## Public Comments

### There were no public comments.

## Discussion Items

### **BP 4030 on Academic Freedom comments.** The chair explained that SMC’s board had presented the senate with some board policies, asking for comments on them. BP 4030 was on academic freedom, and since academic freedom is one of the focuses of PERC, the chair had requested the opportunity to bring it to the committee for more careful feedback. The committee decided that they would try to provide a few brief points of feedback, and then to wait and see how the board responded to this feedback. After much discussion, the committee focused on three points: 1) A more explicit guarantee about freedom in teaching. That is, a more detailed guarantee of freedom to select, frame, and present content in the way faculty best feel will lead to student success and advancement of equity, as long as it falls within the Course Outline of Record; and freedom to evaluate and assess in order to maintain standards and integrity, with transferability particularly in mind. 2) Replace STEM language such as that about sticking to the “data” with more discipline neutral language such as adherence to “professional standards/norms set by the community of scholars of the discipline.” 3) A greater guarantee of freedom of expression in public forums and online platforms. A stronger guarantee that public opinion will not influence faculty advancement or assignment.

### **Choosing Spring 2022 *SMC Ethics* topic.** The choice of topic was put off until the next meeting.

## Announcements

## Adjournment

**For all documents, visit** <https://www.smc.edu/administration/governance/academic-senate/committees/professional-ethics-responsibilities.php>