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

# Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time**: 03/04/23 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location**: HSS 203

**Chair**: Brian Rajski

In attendance: Brian Rajski, Valerie Narey, Ian Colmer, Luz Badillo, Jillian Alexander

## Call to Order

## Public Comments

## Discussion Items

### **PERC updates**:

### The committee chair reviewed the recent history and scope of the committee to refresh old and new members on the functioning of the committee after it had been on hiatus during the fall due to the chair’s sabbatical.

### **Updating the gender-inclusivity statement on the Model Syllabus**: The committee discussed this statement from the equity committee and agreed to add it to the working version of the Model Syllabus. The chair proposed working with the Equity Committee next fall to do another serious revision of the Model Syllabus with equity as a focus, and the committee agreed.

### **Statement on Academic Freedom:**

### The chair asked the committee to continue to read, research, and reflect on this topic, especially given recent controversies on academic freedom at SMC and across the nation. The committee agreed to revisit and more directly handled the topic in the fall, perhaps as the topic of its newsletter.

### **Choosing the topic for the Spring 2024 *SMC Ethics* newsletter.**

### The committee discussed potential topics for its spring newsletter. These initially ranged from faculty’s right to free speech to the proactive teaching of the use of A.I. in education. The question of free speech was highlighted as a potential topic for the next year to work on alongside the Statement on Academic Freedom. The topics of equitable pedagogy and considering students’ external circumstances led to a focus on the changing rules for withdrawals and the idea of a broader sense of student success. The committee discussed, what does student success look like post pandemic? It might mean more than just staying in the course and finishing with a high grade. It might mean how to best exit or withdraw from a class so as to maintain the students’ morale and ability to come back at a later point and successfully complete their studies. The committee agreed to collaboratively explore a newsletter on this topic using Google Docs.

## Announcements

## Adjournment

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