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

# Meeting Agenda

**Date & Time**: 04/22/24 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Location**: SSC 290

**Chair**: Brian Rajski

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

## Call to Order

## Public Comments

## Announcements

## Discussion Items

### **Student participation on committee.**

### The chair explained the recent ASU proposal for students to be represented on senate committees. The committee generally seemed opened to the proposal. The chair asked the committee to be ready to vote on the proposal at the next meeting.

### **Academic Freedom discussion.**

### The committee spent most of the meeting having a very informal meeting about the topic of academic freedom during these times of extreme political polarization of various forms. The chair explained PERC’s traditional stance on the topic, highlighting the distinction made between what one technically can say/do and what is best for student success, the latter being where PERC can make suggestions for faculty~~. In order to be prepared for possible ethical cases brought to the committee’s attention, the chair asked the committee to discuss some hypothetical situations to get a general sense of where committee members stood on the issues. There was some discussion of a recent controversy over an SMC’s faculty member’s assignment, though lack of knowledge limited this discussion.~~ In preparation for possible ethical cases brought to the committee’s attention, the chair asked the committee to discuss some hypothetical situations to get a general sense of committee members understanding of Academic Freedom and the SMC community’s degree of understanding of Academic Freedom and Free Speech vs. Hate Speech as well as concerns about these.

## Action Items

### **First read of *SMC Ethics* Spring 2024 newsletter.**

### The committee briefly reviewed the draft of the newsletter collaboratively written using Google Docs. Since the draft seemed to have a coherent focus but repeated a lot, the committee agreed to continue to edit and organize the draft.

## Adjournment

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