



SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Legal Studies

Meeting Minutes for 3-26-2021

Attendees: Faculty members Kim Smith, and Rick Manzano, Kristen Robinson. Student Morgan Nguyen and School Counselors Jane Mathis and Daniel Peraza. District attendee Lorraine Sanchez. Industry members Laurali Kobal, Joanna Burchell, Francisca Leon, and practicing attorney Violeta Schultz.

Introductions were made and the meeting began promptly at noon.

Staff News

RM announcement: Richard Manzano will retire in June and will be missed. Tom Erickson with SAUSD will also retire, as reported by Lorraine.

Adjunct Hires: Kim Smith reported on new hires Max Salling, Amina Fields, and Shannon Bales and where the department was planning them with regard to class load.

ABA update

Richard Manzano confirmed that the ABA report had been submitted and that we are awaiting information on a site visit. Covid, of course, throws in a few variables, but we are still waiting to hear from them in the Spring. KR reported that there will be a role for the advisory committee. RM is submitting information on the substantial change in the SAC program.

Program

ADT in Public Policy: Kristen Robinson reported that SAC now officially has a new associate degree of law, public policy, and society. This is an associate degree for transfer to the Cal State System. Majors that will accept span from public policy to sociology to women's studies, and more. KR is "very excited." There is a continuing push for the ADT pathway so from a strategic standpoint, we are looking good.

Ethic classes also just got a CID number so that that class is more easily transferable. We are discussing a remote work certificate; Vietnamese interpreting has now been approved in addition to Spanish.

Pathway2Law Update: KR reported that P2L still needs to be completed as part of the ADT in LPP&S as that P2L cert is needed to qualify students for those benefits. About 22 students have now qualified. An event per month has been held for this group. On April 20, a SAC alumni panel will be held.

KR reported that KS submitted a program assessment. The Paralegal, Pathway to Law School, Legal Office Technician and Legal Office Interpreting Spanish programs are still necessary and required for the students at SAC.

Violeta Schultz spoke re other **Mexican Attorneys** sitting for the CA bar exam and that they had reached out to her via SACs PL program.

Advisory Committee Input

The Committee provided input on hiring trends, especially as they relate to remote working. The following comments were made:

- Francisca reported that in her firm the hope is that staff will return to the office. Nevertheless, there is probably a higher probability that working from home will be allowed. Proper conduct on Zoom, use of those remote technologies, and tech support.
- RM commented on the expense of office space and other firms downsizing their space commitments.
- Joanna reported that she was still working with the OCDA from home. Attorney, clerical, investigative have been on site and have been told that they will be returning into a smaller building. There is an understanding among staff that Zoom, MS Teams, etc., must be understood because the Courts will continue to use those. Remote interviews will be important.
- Affordability is a good factor when it comes to online learning. KS invited committee input on the program remaining remote in large part. Student response seems positive thus far as discussed by RM. Time, parking, affordability, and learning all seem to align with this trend. Instructor training is an important factor.

Tech Event: Kim Smith reported there will be a less formal “Tech Event” this year, held in conjunction with Advanced eDiscovery, para 144, that focuses on Trial Presentation, which is the tail end of the EDRM (Electronic Discovery Reference Model). We were able to secure funds to supply student attendees with books by both speakers. The Trial Presentation Companion, by Shannon Bales, and Demonstratives by John Cleaves. Videos will be provided to the California Lawyers Association for them to use for CLE. Hopefully, we will be able to return to a more robust event once Covid concerns abate a bit.

Library: Kim Smith reported that SAC maintains a robust library of legal titles in several locations at the college and online. Most notably, SAC students have free access to CEB materials for the duration of their Paralegal program at SAC. Second, several new NOLO books have been added to the collection:

Criminal Law Handbook
Nolo’s Deposition Handbook
Represent Yourself in Court
Create Your Own Employee Handbook
Plan Your Estate
Living Wills and Powers of Attorney
California Tenants Rights
California Landlord’s Law

Panels and Outreach: Kim Smith reported that SAC held a Pathway to Law panel of students from Pepperdine School of Law and has one upcoming hosted by the Multicultural Law Caucus and Black Law Students Association on Black Male Leadership in the Law. The Legal Education Access Pipeline also put together a presentation on law and sports that students were invited to attend.

New SAC Adjunct Professor Amina Fields also presented on her journey to a legal career and on immigration law on March 12. On April 13, Professors Fields, Smith, and Robinson will participate on a panel in conjunction with La Quinta High School's moot court team. Attendance will be open to all high school students.

Motions Made:

Morgan made a motion and Jane made a second to include ethics into the ADT in Law, Public Policy, and Society degree. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.