

Hello Academic Senate,

My name is Adam Morgan, and I am the Department Chair for the Business Applications & Technology department within the Business Division. I apologize for not attending in-person, but I am currently teaching an in-person Middle College High School dual enrollment class. The Business Applications & Technology department teaches students computer skills from the basics of typing to advanced Microsoft Excel functions and formulas. In our classes, MCHS students have earned thousands of industry certifications in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, as well as advanced certifications in Microsoft Office applications.

I started teaching MCHS classes as an adjunct faculty member in 2016, teaching 4 classes per year. Since that time, the prior Dean of Business conducted several meetings with Administrators at MCHS, and our program grew exponentially. Our program expanded from 4 sections to 28 sections per academic year. At the end of this semester, MCHS freshmen will earn over 500 Microsoft Office Specialist Industry Certifications, and 100 transcribed certifications from Santa Ana College in Computer Fundamentals for Business. Unfortunately, this success will not be the case moving forward.

The former Dean of Business was put on administrative leave in Spring 2022, and was one of the investigations noted by People and Culture in their presentation. Because there was no leadership in the Division, I had to conduct all meetings with MCHS administrators myself. Although I had a great working relationship with them, I did not have the rapport with them at the level of the prior Dean. MCHS administrators were concerned about what was happening in the Business Division, and I left these meetings with a sense that MCHS was considering other options for the incoming freshmen.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the BA department will have 4 MCHS sections instead of 28, erasing the growth of the last 8 years. This will result in about 400 less Microsoft Office industry certifications, and a loss of all transcribed Computer Fundamentals for Business certificates for MCHS freshmen. This loss of certifications and sections will certainly hurt my department and Santa Ana College at large, but ultimately, it will hurt the students the most.

As the primary instructor for all MCHS freshmen, I have welcomed every MCHS student to Santa Ana College. I am the first professor that they have in college, and I am the only professor that all the students have in common. I was among the first professors back on campus following COVID because of how much these classes mean to me, and it breaks my heart knowing that I'll no longer be teaching them moving forward. MCHS students created a petition to keep the BA classes as part of their freshmen curriculum, and they produced a video to promote the petition during the MCHS News telecast on 4/21 at the 9-minute mark on the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0MqtO05Rds>

I'll never know if MCHS would've been able to keep my classes if the Dean had been there to support our program during our meetings, but it certainly could've helped. Thank you for your time.

Adam Morgan