



**MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 9, 2023
(APPROVED DECEMBER 14, 2023)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in a regular meeting/workshop on Thursday, November 9, 2023, in Room T-200 on the Oceanside Campus. Vice President Cassar called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar	Jacqueline Simon
William Fischer	Anna Pedroza
George McNeil	

Trustees present via Zoom:

Raye Clendening
Frank Merchat

Administrators present:

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Charlie Ng
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik
Chie IDEA Officer Wendy Stewart

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Spotlight on Career Ed Programs and Outcomes

Career Education faculty and administrators provided a focused update on two programs of interest: Computer Science and Computer Studies and Information Technology (CSIT). Dean Al Taccone and Associate Dean Ben Gamboa were joined by faculty members in the disciplines to discuss program data, challenges and opportunities.

Computer Science Department Chair Catherine Walker and faculty member Mike Paulding reviewed some of the courses offered. Most students are working on a degree in the field. A zero textbook cost initiative is underway supported by three grants, helping to make this effort sustainable. The programs are designated as “preferred providers” to provide internships, which leads to fulltime employment for some interns.

Campus clubs also serve as conduits for both the Computer Science and CSIT programs. The clubs collaborate with partner high schools to increase participation from students who are normally under-represented in these fields.

Ben Gamboa demonstrated how the equity efforts have increased success rates, retention rates, and transfer rates, based on data. An equity gap was identified: 70 percent of students are male; 30 percent are female. However, men of color are an area of focus in the programs due to the underrepresentation.

CSIT faculty member Steve Isaachson, shared how they are meeting industry needs, including through internships. Their program sends people directly to the workforce as well as to universities. He noted the two departments complement each other and work collaboratively.

CSIT faculty member Rick White shared examples of how they are building on networking. Club IT is student managed, and they participate in Cyber League as they build a community of cyber security. Engagement in the region is important, so MiraCosta faculty work with other faculty and programs in the region with a futures lens to anticipate topics and degrees around AI. Curriculum is being written around knowledge, skills, and abilities that students will need to know. The group reviewed where we’re heading with AI, alignment with CSUSM’s bachelor of science in cyber data science pathway collaboration, and cloud computing.

Embedded tutors in the most difficult courses have proven to be important, and it would be beneficial to expand the embedded tutors broadly across all of the courses to increase success and retention. The depth and quality of connection with students is crucial in both CS and CSIT.

Trustees Merchat and Cassar noted the board is looking for continued data on salaries in the industry for students in the CS and CSIT programs, as this is an important program for socioeconomic mobility. The board also asked how the board can extend their reach in the community to foster industry connections.

B. Futures Update

College leadership provided an informational update on Futures. A number of Futures-related themes were identified. From a Student Services perspective, supporting basic needs of students and their families by collaborating with the community and local resources was prioritized as a need with a focus on access and equity.

From an Instructional Services perspective, it’s critical that we redesign ourselves to address core student academic needs and provide scalable, flexible, life-long learning to meet our wage gains and data. Students will be more likely to enter and exit education and work in the future.

Human Resources (HR) expressed the importance of continuing cultural education efforts and identifying what kinds of employees we need to be hiring in the future, along

with the skills they will need. Additionally, HR will explore what AI means for the future of teaching and staffing at the college.

From an IDEA perspective, what should the focus be for the folks in Student Equity and what are the core concepts of the Futures thinking, and how do define diversity in the future and the work of equity? Additionally, what are the gaps, since some may narrow, while others may widen.

From a facilities perspective, it is clear that students need both brick and mortar centers, as well as digital centers.

Superintendent/President Cooke noted the recent Community Leaders breakfast was focused of Futures. In total, 27 new futurists at MiraCosta just finished the Futures Canvas course; they will gather and signal spot and explore ways in which the signals can be embedded in the planning for our future.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
Vice President

Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/Vice President