

**Members Present** (*bold to indicate present, delete absent*):

Ari Krupnick, Carolina Martinez, Carolyn Martin, Denise Richardson, Annie Liu, Gail Pendleton, Joya Chavarin, Himali KC, Matthew Freeman, Phoumy Sayavong, Ramona Butler, Skyler Barton, Stacey Shears, Thomas Rizza, Amy Lee, Chris Lewis

**Guests** (manually type): Jenny Yap, Amy Lee, Dana Cabello, Mozell Person, Claudia Abadia, Randy Yang, Zaira Sanchez, Lisette Flores, Kyla Oh, John Ino Sanez, Linda McAllister, Alejandra Oseguera, Mary Clark Miller

**Tri-Chairs:** Denise Richardson, College President; Matthew Freeman, Academic Senate President; Tom Rizza, Classified Senate President

AGENDA AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
<b>1. Roll Call / Review Agenda</b>
<p>Tri-chair <u>Freeman</u> called the meeting to order at <u>12:24</u> pm.</p> <p>Motion to approve agenda by: Skyler Barton            Second by: Ramona Butler            Votes in favor: 10            Objections: 0            Abstentions:            Motion passes.</p>
<b>2. Review Minutes</b>
<p>Tri-chair <u>Freeman</u> requested a review of the <u>2/10/25</u> minutes.</p> <p>Motion to approve minutes by: Skyler Barton            Second by: Annie Liu            Votes in favor: 9            Objections: 0            Abstentions:            Motion passes.</p>
<b>3. Public Comment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Richardson is sick today and attending virtually via Zoom.</li> <li>• Matt Freeman: <b>Department of Education's "Dear Colleagues" Letter</b></li> </ul> <p>Criticized as an attack on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) programs.            Concern over lack of response from California Community College Chancellor's Office and Peralta District.            Academic Senate drafting a resolution in support of DEI and marginalized students.            President Richardson stated that the Peralta District will <i>not</i> comply with the letter's directives and will continue existing DEI initiatives.</p>
<b>4. President's Updates</b>
<p>Leader: Denise Richardson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tomorrow is our BCC Showcase, where we will showcase some of our programs. It will be followed by the regular meeting Board meeting. The Board meeting will address a difficult agenda and we expect a large turnout.</li> </ul>

- President Richardson addressed the "Dear Colleagues" Letter from the U.S. Department of Education, describing it as "infuriating" and deeply concerning. She noted that the letter was not broadly disseminated, as she had not received it directly and had to have it forwarded to her. This raised questions about why it was not shared widely among administrators. The letter reaffirms Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection Clause, but applies these protections in a way that targets race-conscious programs. It claims that educational institutions have engaged in discriminatory practices against white and Asian students by implementing race-based preferences in admissions, financial aid, and hiring. The letter references the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, asserting that race-based policies in college admissions are unlawful and must meet strict scrutiny. Additionally, it directs institutions to remove race-related references and practices from websites and programs, which could significantly impact Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, scholarships, and student organizations.
  - Matt Freeman expressed concern that neither the California Community College Chancellor's Office nor Peralta District Leadership had issued a public response to this directive, despite its serious implications. He emphasized that students, faculty, and staff had not received clear guidance or reassurance, leaving the most vulnerable groups at risk.
  - President Richardson clarified Peralta's position, stating that Chancellor Gilkerson has directed the district to "stay the course" and continue DEI efforts as usual, with no plans to alter the college's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, even though compliance with the letter might be interpreted as necessary to maintain federal funding.
- During the discussion, Mat inquired whether the Chancellor would issue a public statement reaffirming Peralta's commitment to DEI. President Richardson could not confirm a timeline for such a response but promised to relay concerns to the Chancellor. She acknowledged the need for greater transparency and leadership, particularly since other community college districts had already released public statements opposing the letter and affirming their commitment to DEI. She encouraged faculty, students, and staff to discuss the letter and strategize responses, including considering civil disobedience, given the historical role of Berkeley as a center for activism.
- To ensure an inclusive discussion, a request for public comment was made by Matt, urging faculty, staff, and students to provide feedback and alternative proposals on how the college should respond. The Academic Senate is preparing resolutions to reaffirm its support for DEI programs, student organizations, and diversity-centered scholarships, while other constituency groups are expected to discuss the issue in upcoming meetings. Faculty and staff were invited to submit proposals regarding how the college should address the letter's implications and protect its students and programs. Richardson reaffirmed her commitment to keeping the campus informed and advocating for a clear, public response from the Peralta District, ensuring that students and faculty do not remain in uncertainty.

Link of Dear Colleagues Letter: <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf>

## **5. Annex Space Allocation**

Leader: Denise Richardson

### **Proposal to Move MESA to the 5th floor**

- The proposal is to move MESA into Rooms 541, 542, and 543.

- **MESA Grant Space Requirements:** 500 sq. ft., study rooms, lounge, tutoring areas, lockers, and offices for program director and counselors. The center should be near the science classes.
- The Center currently serves over 70 students in-person regularly.
- **Concerns from Faculty:**
  - Loss of faculty lounge and copier access.
  - Need for alternative space for part-time faculty.
- **Proposed Accommodations:**
  - Modern Languages Office as temporary space for part-time faculty.
  - 4th-floor lunchroom and conference rooms for faculty use.
  - We could move the copier from the faculty lounge into the 5<sup>th</sup> floor duplication room, which has the space to hold two machines.
- **Next Steps:**
  - **Facilities Committee will take this as an action item on March 14.**
  - Faculty encouraged to propose alternative locations.

#### **Other Program Moves:**

- Umoja and Wellness Center to move into vacant ASL classrooms on the second floor (Rooms 222, 223, 223A, 226 and 226A).
- Bookstore space currently unavailable for reassignment as the district explores a new vendor to take over beginning Fall 2025.
- UCRC (Undocumented Community Resource Center) to relocate to the new building.

#### **Proposed Action**

- Review current building plans and usage, as well as the new Milvia's building plans. We've previously mapped out where departments would move to, but may now need to revisit those plans as current activities and needs have changed.
- Upon reviewing the plans, begin mapping out phases for the move and plans for any delays.
- Faculty and staff can submit alternative proposal ideas to the Facilities Co-Chairs (Denise Richardson & Armando Franco) before March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The discussion regarding Annex Space Allocation was presented as a well-communicated and collaborative process involving various shared governance bodies and affected stakeholders. The proposal to relocate programs and services due to the necessary move from the Annex was first discussed in the Facilities Committee, then brought to the Academic Senate, and later presented at the Roundtable for broader input. Throughout these discussions, faculty, staff, and student representatives were invited to share concerns and propose alternatives.

Several meetings and consultations were referenced to demonstrate the extensive communication with affected parties:

- The Facilities Committee initially reviewed the proposal and provided feedback.
- The Academic Senate meeting included a report from the VPI, Chris Lewis, detailing the proposed relocations and inviting faculty input.

Berkeley City College  
**College Roundtable for Planning and Budgeting**  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 24, 2025

- The Chairs Council meeting on February 23rd also included a discussion where department chairs raised specific concerns.
- Program leads, such as those for MESA, Wellness, and Umoja, were consulted about their potential new spaces.

Examples of adjustments made based on faculty and staff feedback include:

- The concern about faculty losing copier access in the 5th-floor lounge was addressed, with the administration committing to relocating the copier so faculty could continue to use it.
- Part-time faculty were given a designated alternative workspace in the Modern Languages Office to ensure they still had access to office space.
- The concerns about Wellness and Umoja moving to second-floor classrooms were acknowledged, and discussions with program leads ensured that the new spaces would meet their needs.

Additionally, faculty and staff were explicitly invited to submit alternative proposals before the March 14th Facilities Committee meeting, where the issue would be considered as an action item. The administration encouraged further discussion, feedback, and alternative solutions, reinforcing that the decision was not final and that shared governance bodies had a voice in the process.

Overall, the discussion on Annex Space Allocation reflected a transparent, multi-stage process with several shared governance discussions and efforts to accommodate concerns raised by faculty, staff, and affected programs.

- Ari Krupnick asked whether the vacant bookstore and UCRC would be usable?
  - President Richardson: The district has asked all colleges not to make any long-term plans for the space. The district is currently exploring options for contracting with another vendor to provide books, supplies, and related student services, meaning the space may be repurposed in the future. Although the space might be available for temporary use during the summer, it is not a viable long-term solution for housing programs relocating from the Annex. As a result, the Facilities Committee is focusing on other available spaces within the main campus for these relocations. The UCRC and Puente swapped their spaces, so it did not open up additional spaces.
- Skyler expressed appreciation for the proposed move of Umoja Village to Room 226, noting that it is a large and well-suited space. However, he emphasized the importance of including student leaders in discussions about future moves, particularly regarding the transition to the new building in Fall 2026. He recalled participating in past planning meetings where he strongly advocated for dedicated space for Umoja and other student support programs but has not been involved in recent conversations about the final allocations. Skyler suggested that students should have a seat at the table in ongoing discussions to ensure their needs are met in the new building. He also pointed out the need to revisit the approved architectural plans to confirm that spaces for student services, including Umoja and other support programs, have been appropriately designated. His comments reinforced the importance of transparency and student engagement in the decision-making process as the college prepares for these transitions.
- Mary Clarke-Miller raised concerns about the impact of the proposed Annex relocations on part-time faculty, particularly within the Multimedia Arts (MMART) department. She noted that MMART has 30 part-time faculty members and is actively working to bring more of them back for in-person instruction. Given the space reconfigurations, she requested support in restructuring the MMART department to

better accommodate these faculty members. Additionally, she highlighted that the department's equipment is outdated and does not run current software, posing further challenges for faculty and students. To address these issues, she proposed that the facilities committee discuss potential solutions at its next meeting, including identifying ways to provide adequate space and updated technology for MMART instructors.

- In response, President Richardson invited Clarke-Miller to formally submit a request to add this discussion item to the next Facilities Committee meeting agenda, ensuring that part-time faculty space concerns would be reviewed as part of the ongoing space allocation process. Clarke-Miller confirmed she would attend the meeting to continue advocating for these needs.

**6. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on BCC Website**

Leaders: Matt Freeman & Ari Krupnik

**Proposal for a Website Governance Committee**

- **Issue:** No clear process for making large-scale updates to the college website.
- **Proposal: Temporary ad hoc committee** with representation from students, faculty, classified staff, and administration.
- **Next Steps:** Matt Freeman and Ari Krupnick will prepare a formal proposal to be presented at the next roundtable meeting. It will be the Academic and Classified Senates' responsibility to assign members to this new committee, who will draft the charges.
- Zaira Sanchez and Carolina Martinez expressed interest in being part of this committee.

**7. Shared Governance Updates - Integrated Planning Committee / Integrated Planning & Allocation Resources / Facilities Committee / Tech Committee**

**Integrated Planning Committee (Stacey Shears/Chris Lewis)**

- IPC has not met yet.

**Budget Advisory Committee (Denise Richardson/Phoumy Sayavong/Fatima Shah)**

- They have met to review the budget. The college is within budget expectations for this time of year. We will not be hiring a VPAS and Associate Dean of Student Engagement & Basic Needs for the foreseeable future.

**Facilities, Health, and Safety Committee (Denise Richardson/Armando Franco)**

- The main topic was the Annex space allocation.

**Technology Committee (Mozell Person/Erika Yeh/Tom Rizza)**

- District tech committee will be working on a District IT master plan in March. Colleges were asked to provide their own prioritization reports to the tech committee. They will hold a special meeting this week and will meet with Antoine this Thursday to put that list forward.

**Enrollment Management (Stacey Shears/Chris Lewis)**

- Has not met and has not scheduled to meet yet.

**8. Governance Updates - Faculty Senate / Classified Senate / ASBCC**



**Academic Senate (Report by Matthew Freeman)**

- The Academic Senate meeting on February 5th focused on several key issues, including updates on the Annex relocations, faculty morale, and a renewed commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts. Vice President of Instruction Chris Lewis provided a report on the proposed moves from the Annex, ensuring faculty were informed and had an opportunity to give feedback. The Senate also discussed drafting a resolution to reaffirm its commitment to supporting marginalized students and DEI programs in response to recent federal challenges. This resolution, which updates language from a similar measure passed in 2017, will be considered for approval at the next Senate meeting on March 5th. Another significant discussion centered on faculty morale, which has been negatively affected by financial constraints, personnel reductions, and political pressures. Senate members highlighted concerns over stress, illness, and workplace anxiety, emphasizing how these issues impact student interactions and overall college culture. The Senate stressed the need for institutional leadership to address these concerns and foster a more supportive environment. Additionally, members called for proactive advocacy against budget-driven decisions that prioritize financial data over human impact. The meeting reaffirmed the Senate’s role in pushing for greater transparency, faculty support, and continued investment in student success despite the current challenges.

**Classified Senate (Report by Tom Rizza)**

- The Classified Senate meeting focused on strengthening campus solidarity, professional development opportunities, and enhancing interdepartmental collaboration. A key discussion centered on a staff solidarity statement in support of LGBTQIA+ students, building on similar efforts presented at the previous Roundtable meeting. The Senate also discussed updates to campus student resources and the importance of keeping the college website up-to-date with relevant support services. Additionally, two workgroups were created—one dedicated to developing interdepartmental meeting spaces for classified professionals to enhance collaboration and communication, and another focused on exploring professional development opportunities and funding. These initiatives aim to foster a stronger sense of community among classified professionals while ensuring access to resources for growth and skill-building. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 2:30 PM, where members will continue these discussions and refine their action plans.

**Associated Students of Berkeley City College (Report by Himali KC)**

- N/A. This is the second meeting that we have not had any student representatives here. Tri-Chair Freeman will be looking into this further as he values student representation at our meetings.

**9. Announcements**

- President Richardson highlighted several major accomplishments for Berkeley City College despite the current challenges. She shared that BCC’s student headcount has reached 7,049, marking the highest enrollment since 2016. This milestone reflects the college’s resilience and ongoing efforts to support student success and increase enrollment. She also noted that BCC ranks fourth among all California community colleges for UC transfers, with a 41% UC admit rate and an 83% enrollment rate. She emphasized that, while the campus is facing challenges, including budget concerns, program relocations, and national political pressures, it is important to recognize and celebrate the college’s successes. She encouraged the community to remain focused on the positive aspects of their work and the progress being made. Despite uncertainties, BCC continues to thrive, and she expressed pride in the

Berkeley City College  
**College Roundtable for Planning and Budgeting**  
 MEETING MINUTES  
 Monday, February 24, 2025

dedication of faculty, staff, and administrators working to support students.

- Carolina Martinez shared an announcement about a successful event held on Saturday, highlighting the strong turnout of students and parents. She specifically recognized Lisette for her hard work and dedication in organizing the event, which contributed to its success. The event provided valuable engagement opportunities for students and their families, reinforcing the importance of outreach and support services at BCC. Carolina expressed her appreciation for everyone involved in making the event a meaningful experience for attendees.
- Tom Rizza shared an announcement that was made about the faculty tenure celebration scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th. The event will recognize Nima Kianfar and Adriana Regalado for achieving tenure. The announcement, originally shared by the district on Saturday morning, was highlighted as an important occasion to honor faculty members for their dedication and contributions to Berkeley City College. Attendees were encouraged to join in celebrating this significant milestone.
- Phoumy Sayavong: We have sent our college climate survey to our students. We have prizes for those who participate. Please encourage your students to participate in this important survey.
- Carolyn Martin encouraged everyone to visit the 4th floor to view a new art exhibition featuring work from artists associated with an organization that supports artists with developmental disabilities. She described the exhibition as exceptional, noting that some of the artists included have also had their work displayed at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.
- Zaira Sanchez announced the Cash for College student event that will be held on Wednesday from 6-8pm for those who need help with completing FAFSA or California Dream Act. Dinner will be available. They will also have a Zoom session on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom will send an email out to students. If anyone needs the flyer with the registration, let Zaira know.

**10. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned by Tri-chairs Freeman, Richardson, and Rizza at  1:25  pm.

*Next Meeting: Monday, March 10, 2025, 12:20PM-1:30PM, Room 451A/B (or via Zoom)*

Minutes from live meeting: Annie Liu, (510) 981-2851, aliu@peralta.edu