

Questions for Academic Senate Q & A Session with President Lopez

Hiring Process Related

Question 1: Imagine that four candidates for a job are forwarded to the final round of a hiring process. After the final round interview, a College Dean or Vice President and yourself as the President have decided on who to forward to the Board of Trustees for hiring. But the candidate that you and the other administrator have chosen was ranked lowest after the first round interviews by all of the faculty and classified staff on the hiring committee. How would you handle this type of situation?

Spring Class Planning Related

Question 2: Given the inherent uncertainty around what Covid-19 caseloads will look like in January, what do you think is the best way to advertise Spring courses to students?

Question 3: When is the college going to decide and publicize what spring classes will look like i.e., F2F vs something else? Waiting until the last minute, like we did this time, is asking for another collapse of F2F enrollments. When will the schedule reflect these changes (assuming they happen)?

Vaccine Related

Question 4: Could you explain in detail what is required for a student to get a vaccine exemption for a “sincerely held” religious belief? How is it verified that the student is part of a real religious organization rather than one that could be created specifically for the purpose of getting a vaccine exemption?

Question 5: Is it possible to know the number of individuals overall—employees and students combined—who have either medical or religious exemptions for the vaccine? (If we knew the total number of exemptions was low, it would be reassuring to know that returning to campus would be safe.)

Academic Related

Student-counselor relationship. *Question 6:* When are we going to see student names attached to a specific counselor? It has always been difficult to reach the other campus resources when a student goes “sideways”, covid makes this even more difficult because of the ease with which students can hide from us. This is especially problematic when the students are international. It would be helpful if, when I looked up the email of a struggling student, I would also find his or her counselor’s email, so I could alert them to the problem.

-International Student Support. *Question 7:* I am currently getting requests from other college programs though out the district (international students in particular) which, in essence, say “**can you watch the international students in your class and report to us when they are not doing well**”—what? Seriously? How about the program responsible for tracking those students do what Middle College does? MC, at the beginning of these semester sends a list of which kids are in our classes—period. Then, around midterms, MC sends a very nice email with the names, g numbers class CRN and asks for the current student grade and progress report. Our District programs, in contrast, **emailed me the first week of class** and said “**let us know when something happens to student “x” that might create a problem for their unit load**” Really? I have nothing better to do than note this student’s name down, track his or her progress, and then it's my job to decide when enough bad work and give this program a heads up? That’s not my job—or is it?

Welcome Video for Cañada College

Question 8: The current welcome video makes little-to-no mention of multiple important academic programs. Will we create a new Welcome Video this year that better represents our academic offerings?