

**President's Advisory Group
Committee Meeting Notes
February 25, 2021**

Attendance: Alicia Aguirre, Seble Ayalew, Mitchell Bailey, Carlos Bolanos, Amy Buckmaster, Karen Engel, Rosanne Foust, Bill Graham, Patty Hall, Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Pam Jones, Michiko Kealoha, Graciano Mendoza, Jamillah Moore, Sara Murdock, Manuel Pérez, Tammy Robinson, Megan Rodriguez Antone, Karen Schwarz, Patricia Siguenza, Melissa Stevenson Diaz, Auggie Torres, Jr., Tykia Warden and Roslind Young. Guest Presenter: Jade Shonette.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Jamillah Moore, President of Cañada College, welcomed the group and introduced new members Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Karen Schwarz and Wade Painter who was not able to attend.

Student Story

Student Jade Shonette spoke about her experience at Cañada College as an international student from the Bahamas. She is currently the San Mateo County Community College District Student Trustee. Ms. Shonette will be transferring at the end of the spring semester. Her involvement in the ASCC helped her to apply as a transfer student to four-year universities, including Princeton, Harvard, NYU and Howard University.

President's Luncheon Recap and Next Steps

Rosanne Foust provided a recap of the October 2019 President's Luncheon, which was tagged Hearts for Humanity. The luncheon was held seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic and there was a great need for funding of food and basic needs as well as supporting small businesses. The luncheon raised \$40,000 which went directly to support students' basic needs. Rosanne encouraged the group to continue efforts to support students' needs and their futures.

- Amy Buckmaster thanked the President's Advisory Group and the luncheon sponsors, including Auggie Torres and the Chamber. She thanked the Board of Trustees, particularly former Cañada President and Trustee Tom Mohr, and said that Tom was the heart of the community.
- Pam Jones also recognized the students.
- President Moore recognized the work that both the Chamber and SAMCEDA are doing. She thanked Tykia Warden, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation, and her team.

President's Update:

Dr. Jamillah Moore said Cañada College continues to help students, many of whom are in extreme need. The College was facing that challenge before the start of the pandemic.

- Black History Month: Cañada celebrated Black History Month with a conversation with Dr. Cornel West and Latino Thought Makers' Rick Najera about social justice and equity and the shared histories between Latinx and African Americans, focusing on a message of love and non-violence. The presentation was followed by a panel with a discussion on how this message reflects on our students and our community. The event raised \$4,200 to assist with students' basic needs. She acknowledged that people are struggling because of COVID-19 and racial strife and the levels of isolation around that. The College is trying to do more to bring students and staff in closer to let know they are loved, they are seen and they are appreciated.

- Drive-Through Food Banks: The district will continue to hold the drive-through food banks at Skyline College and CSM. The program began in April 2020 and has been operating for almost one year. The food distribution runs from 11:00am to 1:00pm and set up begins in the morning. The program has hit a milestone by distributing food to 50,000 families with a combined weight of two million pounds valued at \$3.8 million. The district wants to make sure that it continues to serve the community and will continue partnering with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley at least until the end of this academic year in May. Vice Chancellor Mitch Bailey acknowledged President Moore. She has participated in every food drive and has encouraged her family and Cañada team to participate as well.
- COVID-19 Relief: The SMCCCD has distributed gift cards so that students are able to pick up groceries. The program is being supported by the Basic Needs Task Force, with staff from around the district to help students who are vulnerable and in need. Services include food pantries, emergency assistance, hotel vouchers, rental assistance, drive up WiFi services, hotspots and Chromebooks. Students have access to these resources, as well as personal counseling. The district is also working with the vendor, Timely MD, which helps to provide virtual counseling services to students.
- COVID-19 testing is being conducted at CSM, from 7:00am-7:00pm, Sundays-Thursdays. It replaces the testing location at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds.
- The San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees approved that the Colleges will be operating in a virtual mode for summer and fall 2021 for the safety and well-being of our staff and students.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Karen Engel, Dean of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness, shared information about enrollment at Cañada and the other colleges in the district. COVID-19 has had a negative impact nationally for two-year public colleges.

- Cañada had a 10% decline in overall enrollment since fall 2020. Surveys of the California Community Colleges showed their percentages declined in enrollment, FTES (full-time equivalent students) and headcount. Cañada was down, but not as badly as some of its peers across the state.
- Dean Engel noted that the College's head count is up slightly and data also shows that while the same volume of people are coming through the college, they are taking fewer units. Overall enrollments and course registrations are down about 10%.
- Cañada is noticing a change in the composition of its students. There has been a dramatic decrease in international students and locally of our non-ESL students, low-income students, and older students with the largest decline in enrollment for students of color. There is an increase in currently enrolled high school students and currently enrolled four-year college students who are taking classes at Cañada.

Professor Alicia Aguirre talked about the impact of COVID-19 on our students. The decline in enrollment may be a result of federal policies regarding immigration and issues with housing and with the economy. Students face a lack of resources around food insecurity, hot spots, access to laptops, housing, healthcare particularly due to COVID, because they are essential workers. Many have family members who have had COVID. They need childcare, access to textbooks, financial aid and scholarships. She worries about the transition when in-person instruction resumes and how we will get the students back in the classrooms.

- Rosanne said the data is helpful. She would like to have a conversation around building training programs to help people who need it most in order to raise hope.
- Dr. Manuel Pérez, Vice President of Student Services, said that an information report on the higher education emergency relief fund was presented at the March 3 Board of Trustees Meeting. The proposal is to have a portion of that funding be used to support undocumented students with six or fewer units and ESL students who were directly impacted by COVID to cover enrollment fee-related expenses.
- Patty Siguenza asked if there is data on the decline of enrollment. She asked if there are projections for 2021 and if those numbers are expected to continue to decline. Efforts around increasing enrollment could help prevent a decline in the number of people entering the workforce.
- Dr. Engel said the colleges are continuing to see a dramatic drop in financial aid applications across segments. People who really need college the most are deciding they cannot afford it and must work to support their families. She feels that trend will impact higher education negatively and community colleges in particular.
- Pam Jones said that students have a fear of deportation and would like to see them supported. Dr. Moore said there is a lot of fear and we are encouraging students and working with staff in the DREAM centers to determine where the gaps are. Vice President Pérez said there are gaps in technology and resources. Virtual legal clinics are being set up and they are leveraging resources for students to provide a sense of confidence and trust within the community. Cañada is preparing to hire a permanent full-time Program Services Coordinator in the DREAM Center and will be holding a formal search shortly. He encouraged members of the President's Advisory Group to spread the word about the position.

Education Master Plan

Cañada is beginning the important process of developing a new Education Master Plan (EMP), which is a longer-term strategic plan and an instructional vision of where the College wants to go. This is a required part of accreditation. The current five-year plan expires in 2022, so the new plan will be launched for the next five-year period. The College will think critically about who it is trying to serve, how students are served and how do we think about our Antiracism Framework that is being developed.

The College would like to invite a community member to join the EMP Task Force to review data and reports so that by early fall 2021, the group can present a draft of a revised plan that will go up for adoption in 2022. If any member of the President's Advisory Group members is interested, please contact Marketing Director Megan Rodriguez Antone.

Antiracism Task Force, Dr. Jamillah Moore and Dr. Manuel Pérez:

Cañada College has created the Antiracism Task Force to interrogate, explore and activate additional resources around conversations on issues of racism. A draft list of commitments was developed by the Task Force in fall 2020 to look at poverty, oppression and racism in our communities. The Antiracism Task Force membership includes two students, two classified professional staff, two faculty, two managers, two resource persons, one of whom is based at the district office to help build the Antiracist Framework.

Why Are We Doing the Work?

The Task Force wants the entire College to identify areas of inequity that our students, faculty, staff and management experience around discrimination, racism and anti-Blackness. This group will do the research, explore why the College should do this work and why it is important.

How will we Do the Work?

The Task Force's Engagement Group is looking at the implementation and how to enact the framework. They will look at providing ongoing professional development for new and continuing employees. Dr. Tammy Robinson, Vice President of Instruction, participates on the Engagement Group. They are looking at how people talk to one another and the terms that are used in order to develop a common vocabulary in order to eradicate racism. They also talk about the land we stand on and the students and people we serve and what we as a community can do better.

Communication Braiding

The Task Force will look at "braiding" the messaging and work strategically to help continue to remove barriers in order to move forward with the antiracism work. They will provide spaces for campus feedback and create spaces for sharing. The College is setting up "Tea Rooms" and holding conversations about antiracism on campus, called Critical Conversations, which will include a reading of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to be an Antiracist*. These discussions are open to the community.

Other projects to note:

- The Associated Students of Cañada College have formed a campus inclusion team initiative on issues around discrimination and racism.
- The San Mateo County Community College District has formed the Council on Antiracism Task Force, which is a district-wide effort. Cañada is playing an important role on the council and Dr. Moore, Dr. Pérez and Cañada faculty and classified professional staff are members.
- Sequoia Union High School District has offered and engaged our high school partners in informing our Antiracism Framework and the counselors at Sequoia have asked to meet with Dr. Moore and Dr. Pérez to talk about the shared proposal on antiracism.
- More information is on the Cañada website at <https://canadacollege.edu/antiracism/>.

Bill Graham thanked Cañada for its leadership and the work it is doing to address racism. He is happy to see more diversity in healthcare and commends Cañada for helping to build the workforce, having the conversations and creating the space for communities of color to enter the healthcare field.

Dr. Moore said the work is incredibly important to our students and that equity and inclusion is at the heart of the mission of what community colleges do. She encouraged people to participate in future events and conversations that the College plans to hold. The college can also make presentations to your community groups and events as well.

Sara Murdock of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group said they are soliciting student and emerging professional feedback, particularly within the California Community College system, around how they can help them bridge from their student and training experience to paid internship and living wage job opportunities. She will be connecting with Dr. Robinson and others.

Closing:

President Moore thanked the Advisory Group for their help in finding more support systems and resources to help students and for their help in bringing these programs forward.

Mitch Bailey said the Board of Trustees has approved another \$1 million toward food insecurity and are also looking into housing and other basic needs for our students. Mitch also acknowledged retired Trustee, former Board President and now a member of the President's Advisory Group, Karen Schwarz,

for her more than two decades of leadership, for her support and for acknowledging that people, families and students come first.