

Minutes

Meeting Details

- **Team Name:** Student Equity Committee
- **Date:** May 16th, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- **Location:** Bradshaw Building – Second Floor, Hall of Fame
- **Attendees:** Cynthia Outlaw, Terry Welker, Herbert English, Courtney Carter, Daniel Slota, Virginia “Ginger” White, Malika Bratton, Sal Soto, Corey Timberlake, Sharon Walker, Lorena Newson, Kristi Woods, Maurice Bowers
- **Guests:** None

Call to Order

- **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM by Lorena Newson.
- **Community Building Activity:** Maurice led the committee in an engaging 20 question Kahoot! Exercise; the winners were (1) Herbert English, (2) Courtney Carter, and (3) Sal Soto.

Information Items

- *Due to low attendance, we are moving thru the agenda out of order*
- Approval of meeting minutes are being moved to next meeting due to meeting not meeting quorum.

Discussion Items

- **BSI Presentation (10 Minutes):** Herbert English opened the meeting speaking about the application process and respective timeline. Provided an overview on Senate Bill 1348 (authored by Steven Bradford, signed into law in 2024) establishing the nation’s first state level designation for Black Serving Institutions in higher education.

- Criteria:
 - The designation, once received, is valid for a period of five years and requires renewal.
 - Eligible institutions are California UCs, CSUs, community colleges, and private institutions.
 - In order to qualify for this designation, the institution must have 1,500 Black students or 10% of the population must be black.
 - The institution must also demonstrate a commitment Black student success thru an application of dedicated resources and provisions of effective academic support.
- Black/African American are last in every category on this campus, so we must be dedicated to the work.
- AB335 (authored by Mike Gipson) – BSI Grant Program (different from ANAPSI and HSI), we will have designated funding (\$75 million) to be allocated to BSIs.
 - First-round deadline – June 6th
 - Second-round deadline – August
 - Final deadline – November 10th
- RCC has a presence within the California Community Colleges as having established the Umoja Homeroom in 2008, the first college in the state to sponsor the HBCU college tour, an active Umoja program and A2MEND Student Charter.

- **Student Equity Planning & Development Data Review and Discussion (20 minutes)**

- Update on Progress
 - Over the Spring semester, there has been a series of Student Equity Writing Workshops and Student Equity Hours focused on various populations on campus. Dr. Newson has been coordinating and compiling input from everyone as the lead facilitator, and provided extracted information from the draft

of the Student Equity Plan for review. Components of the plan consist of reflecting on the 2022–2025 plan, which elements of the plan that we wish to continue into the new plan based on where we started, provide an executive summary of how we're moving forward, discuss strategies for closing equity gaps for our most disproportionately impacted student populations, an intensive focus – Vision 2030 alignment, and comprehensive educational planning. The timeline of the draft is as follows:

- First draft to Academic Senate – June 9th
- Revisions and update over the summer
- Second draft to Academic Senate – September 8th or 15th
- Draft taken to District (DSPC) – September 19th
- Draft taken to Chancellor's Cabinet – October 13th
- Revisions and update before Board Meeting (until November 3rd)
- Submit plan to the Board – late November
- Draft of the Student Equity Plan was reviewed.

Round Robins (Upcoming or previous student equity-related events and activities) (15 minutes)

- BFSA – Co-sponsoring with UMOJA a Financial Wellness Workshop with Billie Miles, Tuesday May 27th and Thursday May 29th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Hall of Fame. Also collaborating with CLAS and the Career Center on Tuesday, May 20th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Hall of Fame “Leading with Purpose” Women's Leadership Service Panel.
- Library – There is a traveling exhibit “Immigration Awareness” being held in the Library thru the month of May.

Old Business

- Oliver Thompson Faculty Award – Working with the Faculty Development committee to present the award annually; Student Equity subcommittee will receive eight applications, which will then be forwarded to the Faculty

Development committee to select the one recipient. We need volunteers to sit on the Faculty Spotlight subcommittee to develop the application and criteria for the Faculty Spotlight award. Maurice Bowers volunteered.

- Budget dissemination (discretionary funds) – During the budget meeting, a discussion was had that there will be a pot of discretionary funding that the Student Equity committee could disseminate. We need four to five individuals to serve on a subcommittee that would talk about what the criteria would look like.

Open Forum (10 minutes)

- Sal Soto – encouraged us to attend the various community graduations being held (Lavender, EOPS, Veterans, etc.)
- Malika Bratton – reminded us of Black Grad Saturday, June 7th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Quad.
- Ginger White – shared out that the funding that was pulled (which was not spent) was for payment students for their time in doing research (STEM). She said other funding avenues are being considered to be able to pay the students for their time.
- Courtney – ongoing conversations taking place concerning the standard of care (specifies the service ratios for students, counselors, educational resource advisors, tutors) based on FTES. For every 500 FTES, there will be one counselor, two educational resource advisors, and ten tutors. District Guided Pathways/Enrollment Management retreat Friday, May 30th – student success team members have been invited.
- Dr. Woods – the district is suggesting that we increase student tutors and educational resource advisors, along with space, which is impacting logistics and significant changes in the way we serve.

Acknowledgements

- Recognized Prof. Deborah Brown and her receipt of the Ooti Award from the California Community College Ethnic Studies Faculty Council during their Annual Spring Conference on May 3rd, 2025.
- Recognized Dr. Lorena Newson on her recent election in serving as First Vice President of the NAACP Victor Valley Branch 1082 for the 2025–2027 term.
- Recognized Terry Welker and her participation in the Social Justice and Career Advancement Institute (Cohort #3), a professional development cohort sponsored by the Association of California Community College Administrators.
- Acknowledged by Sal Soto, Courtney Carter on his working initiatives that are positively

impacting RCC and across the district.

- Recognized Dr. Corey Timberlake on receiving full Faculty tenure during a recent Board of Trustees meeting.
- Dr. Star Taylor was hooded at 10:08 this morning.
- Malika Bratton will be the keynote speaker on servingness at Compton College, as well as receiving her A.A. degree here at RCC during the upcoming commencement.

Good of the Order

Next Meeting

- **Date and Time:** Scheduled for June 6th, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Bradshaw Building – Second Floor (Hall of Fame).

Adjournment

- **Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM by Lorena Newson.

Recorded and Prepared by:

- Maurice Bowers, Administrative Specialist – College Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement & SEC Co-Chair

Date:

- May 30th, 2025