

Academic Senate President Report: 4.21.21

Welcome again to the Academic Senate Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Yesterday we were witness to a justice served in the case of Derek Chauvin for the death and murder of George Floyd. Many took a breath of relief or took pause in recognizing this small step towards justice and possible change. Yet, in the next breath recognizing there is much more work to be done. May this very small step towards justice carry us through as we continue to work for change. May this small justice allow us to have hope for justice to be served for others, including those with the name, Duante Wright, age 20.

I will share some positive news in this report and invite others to provide additional information as needed or in the case that I am not complete.

I would like to share that the MESA Program has been funded through Spring 2023 and will continue to be led by our colleague Jennifer Bjerke. Let's give a round of applause for the work that went into getting the continued support for the program. MESA has been doing some great work with our students and providing good programming for them as well. We look forward to seeing MESA continue on the campus and working with our students.

In curriculum this past week, our first Ethnic Studies course/s were approved. This is exciting news and congratulations to the team making that happen.

I would also like to take a moment to share the news of our Accreditation and Outcomes Faculty Lead position has been filled and our colleague, Celia Huston, has been offered and has accepted the position for another round. Thank you, Celia, for all your hard work in this area.

Speaking of Faculty Lead positions, let's not forget there are a few faculty lead positions to be filled. There are the Non-Credit, the Honors and the Distance Education positions being flown now. These positions were sent out via email and another email will go out later today. The deadline is this coming Friday, April 23, 2021.

Outstanding Professor voting is open, and Adam Pave can give more details on that. We had quite a few submissions and we need your vote. Be sure to vote and have your voice heard. The Spotlighting voting is also now open and many of our faculty are on that list of nominees as well, so take a moment to vote there too.