



SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Legal Studies

SAC Legal Studies Advisory Meeting Minutes Spring 2023

May 25, 2023, Noon via Zoom

Industry Attendees: Thu Ha, Joanna Burchell, Chris Esparza, Michael Berger, Francie Leon-Guerro, Jessica Christoff, Violeta Schultz, Judge Eric Scarbrough

SAC Staff: Kristen Robinson, Kim Smith

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Staff News**
 - a. **New FT TT David Sauber** has been hired and will start Fall 2023, with emphasis on ethics, having worked for the state bar and in private practice.
 - b. **New Adjuncts:** Michael Berger will teach at Valley at SAUSD in dual enrollment, Camilo Romero work with CLIRRC and community involvement.
3. **ABA update & Program Assessment**
 - a. **20-21 Grad Data and 21-22 Grad Data** are being analyzed. Interim report is due in two year.
4. **Program/Curriculum Updates**
 - a. **Vietnamese/English Interpreting Cert** is being submitted and we will hopefully be launching that certificate.
 - i. *Motion: Advisory Committee moved to approve New Certificate. (Thu Ha, Violetta second, passed unanimously.)*
 - b. **All para courses and programs** getting general updates over summer
 - i. *Motion: Approve all paralegal curriculum and paralegal program updates. Francie moved, Jessica second, passed Unanimously.*
5. **CLIRRC Program & Internships**
 - a. **Work Experience Class**, back to 40 students per semester. Irving Valdovinos.
 - b. **Fundraising (20,000)**, SWP application (Asked for \$70,000).
 - c. **Expungement Clinic**, other clinics during 2022-23 school year
 - d. **2023-24 planning**
 - i. *Proposed Motion: Work experience and clinic work are critical to the SAC Legal Studies Program, students, and the legal industry, and the advisory committee fully supports this work. Chris Esparza, Franci, Passed Unanimously*
6. **Paralegal Bachelor Update & Status**
 - a. **Preparing for next round (Resubmission)**
 - i. **Workforce Need:** Industry letters of support
 - ii. **Institutional Capacity**
 - iii. **Program/Curriculum Design**
 - iv. **Alignment and Non-Duplication**

- v. **Proposed Motion: *The Advisory Committee reaffirms our commitment to advancing SAC's Bachelor of Paralegal proposal to the CCC Chancellor's office. The regional economy shows a strong need for paralegals with bachelor's degrees and SAC has proven the quality of their program and ability to serve diverse populations, thereby improving the profession generally. We support the reapplication when that opportunity presents itself. Jessica first, Francie second, passes unanimously.***

7. Pathway to Law School Updates

- a. Grads. 78 students with transcribed cert. Only program that requires work experience and ethics class.
- b. Events have been happening on campus. 11 students to Pepperdine Law School for an event.
- c. New Dual Enrollment with Valley HS
- d. Grant Application

8. Committee Input

- a. Labor market trends
 - i. Joanna: OCDA has started promoting more employees within that have been getting education in paralegal studies or other education and allowing them to be paralegals without a certificate based on their long term employment and experience using section 3 and 4 of BP 6450. We are still doing a healthy intern program and getting students again interested in criminal law. I am still a proponent for education and certificates. I am finding that those that are not going through a program do not have ethics or an understanding of the importance of the paralegal field.
 - ii. Labor market-The County is fighting a huge gap in employment. With over 1400 vacancies county wide, the county is trying to revamp new employee incentives, by Joanna.
- b. Job Fair at SAC, combined with a mixer. Mock job interviews. Linked in pics.

Next Meeting: August 18 at Noon