

**SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
COMMERCIAL DANCE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Location: [Zoom](#)

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm PST (Pacific Standard Time)

- I. **Call to Order:** 4:02 pm PST

- II. **Members Present:** Colette Brandenburg, Karen Chuang, Diana Delcambre, Meisha Goetz, Jessica Meshkani, Monica Moe Mulvany, Joel Smith, Mark Tomasic, *Chair* (non-voting member), Emily Wanserski.

- III. **Absent Members:** Jackie Lopez, Dana Wilson, Andrew Vaca

- IV. **Interested Parties/Guests:** Marissa Osato Moreno, Roberta Wolin-Tupas, Sasha King, *Associate Dean of Career Education, SMC.*

- V. **Reports:**
 - A. Overview of Dance Department including the following: virtual tour, review of Dance Department mission, faculty, curriculum/courses offered, performance opportunities, and guest artist experiences through the Masters of Dance series and artist residencies.
 - B. Student population report including data on gender, ethnicity, age range, residency status, educational goals, degree completion and retention, full-time versus part-time status, and equity gaps and achievement within the Dance Department as compared to Santa Monica College as a whole. (Data compiled from Dance Dept.'s most recent six-year program review, 2020-21).
 - C. Commercial Dance Certificate of Achievement report including information on required units and courses, potential career pathways, endorsements by SMC students and the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research, and comparable certificate programs within and near SMC. Typical responsibilities of SMC advisory boards were also shared.

- VI. **Discussion Topics:**
 - A. Emily Wanserski suggested the Dance Department look into partnerships with institutions such as the Wallis or Skirball to help fund and create opportunities for students.
 - B. Ms. Wanserski suggested the Dance Dept. create a student feedback survey for Commercial Dance Certificate of Achievement participants to share with the board.
 - C. Monica Moe Mulvany and Diana Delcambre, (both current students in DANCE 77, Navigating Careers in Dance), suggested the course be extended over two

semesters in order to cover the breadth of important career-related topics in more depth.

- D. Colette Brandenburg suggested that more professional audition preparation and information about “real world” expectations would serve the students.
- E. Joel Smith noted that perhaps one business class was not enough to prepare our students, and they could benefit from additional “trade” or “pre-professional” classes in areas such as video editing, audition preparation, marketing and social media, interviewing, on-camera self-tapes, and internships.
- F. Interested party and SMC adjunct faculty member Roberta Wolin-Tupas suggested we add an internship requirement that students would enroll in after DANCE 77, Navigating Careers in Dance. All board members agreed that an internship experience would be a good required course to add to the certificate. Emily Wanserski volunteered to help facilitate connections to arts organizations for internships.
- G. Joel Smith suggested changes to the language of the introductory paragraph of the Program Narrative and questioned the use of the word “professional” in relation to privilege, money-making, and other aspects of the field. Smith suggested the first sentence change from “seeking employment in the professional dance world” to “seeking employment in the commercial dance world and related industries.”
- H. Joel Smith asked about open access to the certificate program, and how the department would measure the success of the program. (Students will be tracked via voluntary surveys about career pathways pursued post-Certificate). Diana Delcambre added that the final portfolio assignment in DANCE 77 is a good indicator of career readiness.

VII. Action Items:

- A. Approval of the SMC Commercial Dance Certificate of Achievement with the following conditions:
 - 1. Add DANCE 90A (Dance Internship) (1 unit) as a required course for the certificate;
 - 2. Change language in the program narrative from “seeking employment in the professional dance world” to “seeking employment in the commercial dance world and related industries.”

Motion to Approve: Made by Emily Wanserski

Motion Seconded by: Jessica Meshkani

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment: 6:08 pm PST