ACADEMIC SENATE PUBLIC COMMENT – 3/25/24

(MARIE ARCIDIACONO KAUFMAN – SPEECH)

Hi Senate,

I would like to have the following shared during Public Comment at the 3/25 meeting:

I would like to echo the Public Comment shared by Morgan Lynn at the Feb. 26th Senate Meeting regarding true hyflex/hybrid options for meetings/events/etc. Morgan said it so well that I'd like to just share what Morgan said, which I found in the Meeting Minutes:

"M. Lynn made a public statement regarding hybrid meetings: “I would like to speak to the importance of creating a truly hyflex, hybrid campus in order to create a culture of belonging at LMC, where people feel valued, seen, and heard. I’m dismayed and disappointed by recent messages that participating “in person” and even restricting participation to in-person only–such as at all-college day, college assembly and department chair meetings– is necessary to be engaged, or to show that we care. This is not inclusive, and even further, it makes people feel like they don’t matter. Many of us endured huge life changes during Covid, resulting in hard choices and changes in circumstances. Many of us pay for child care, care for elderly parents, commute all over the bay area; we are nursing children, have accessibility needs, and so on. Many of us have taken on extra classes or even have taken additional jobs to endure inflation. We need to create a dynamic, hybrid, vibrant hyflex campus at LMC. We cannot retain enrollment and talented employees nor serve the full spectrum of students without innovation and evolution. All of us benefit from having multiple options for how to participate, how to get our voices heard. My sentiment extends to options for students; similarly, I feel like student events and student services prioritize in-person participation, and largely happen between the hours of 9-5, again, marginalizing our virtual and “night” students and even marginalizing faculty, who might want to participate, but are either teaching or working from home. I would like to ask senators to push administration for a more holistic dialogue about campus meetings and modality, to push for hyflex options at any meeting or event possible, and, by doing so, contributing to a culture of belonging and innovation."

I would like to be clear: I am not asking for exceptions to Brown Act at meetings by sharing this information. This is truly about providing a variety of options for faculty/staff and students. While some might take the cynical road that state that having more hyflex options would prevent folks from coming in-person I believe we need to be more optimistic of our fellow colleagues and students and believe that those who truly needed the option would use it and those could come in-person would.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Marie

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