

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-02

SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Whereas, the Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction development, grading policies, education program development, student preparation and success, degree and certificate requirements, and policies regarding faculty professional development, and shall reach mutual agreement on college governance structures, faculty roles and involvement in the accreditation process, processes for program review, and processes for institutional planning and budget development; and,

Whereas, an October 7, 2018 the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report¹ asserts that continued growth of greenhouse gas emissions will lead to global increases in natural disasters, environmental deterioration, and poverty, and the U.S. Global Change Research Program 2018 report states that “Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth. Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century”²; and,

Whereas, Mt. San Antonio College approved a Climate Action Plan through the President’s Advisory Committee on May 30, 2018,³ which includes timelines for greenhouse gas reduction, implementation of Green Building Standard design and construction, water use reduction, waste

¹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. Retrieved from <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

² U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), 2018: *Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II* [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.

³ President’s Cabinet Action Notes. 30 May 2018. <https://www.mtsac.edu/president/cabinet-notes/2017-18/CabinetActionNotes053018.pdf>

diversion and management, institutionalization of climate actions, hiring a full-time Sustainability Director (by the end of 2018), securing faculty release time for a Sustainability Coordinator (to be allocated starting in Fall 2019), establishment of a Sustainability Center, integration of sustainability into curriculum and into professional development planning and activities, and engaging in research and community outreach; and,

Whereas, implementation of the Climate Action Plan has not yet moved towards agreed upon commitments; a Sustainability Director has not yet been hired; a Sustainability Coordinator faculty reassigned position has not yet been negotiated; and in September 2018, Mt. San Antonio College canceled its institutional membership in Second Nature, the organization which was to provide oversight, guidance, and a reporting platform for meeting established climate commitments.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate advocates for the Administration of the College to move forward with the implementation of the Climate Action Plan following agreed upon standards set out in the plan; and,

Resolved, that the Academic Senate recommends to the Faculty Association that reassigned time for a Sustainability Coordinator to implement academic and professional components of the Climate Action Plan be negotiated, and asks the Administration to move forward on hiring a Sustainability Director to oversee the implementation of other components of the Climate Action Plan.

Submitted by:
The Academic Senate Executive Board

First reading: April 11, 2019
Second reading: April 25, 2019
Approved: April 25, 2019