From:	Fowler, Kelly
To:	All Mt. SAC Faculty
Cc:	Fowler, Kelly
Subject:	Office of Instruction: The Monday Minute (September 8, 2026 Edition)
Date:	Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:26:06 PM
Attachments:	image005.png image001.png

Welcome to this week's *Monday Minute*!

Welcome to this week's Tuesday edition of the *Monday Minute*. With the College closed yesterday for the holiday, the *Monday Minute* is arriving a day later than usual. I hope you enjoyed the long weekend, and welcome to Week 3!

Here is what is in this week's *Monday Minute*:

- Accreditation Update: Shifting Federal Landscape
- Mt. SAC 2026 – 2027 Budget and Planning Update
- Upcoming Event: Constitution Day
- Upcoming Event: Mt. SAC Diana Berger Art Gallery: rep·re·sen·ta·tion
- Withdrawal Deadline
- Early Alert on Navigate 360 for Student Success Training Opportunities
- Dropping No Show Students
- Gratitude: Common Course Numbering & Department Chair Celebration and Recognition Ceremony
- Important Dates, Information, and Reminders

The Monday Minute – September 8, 2026

Accreditation Update: Shifting Federal Landscape

The federal landscape for higher education and accreditation continues to shift. I am sharing a recent communication from ACCJC President Dr. Mac Powell highlighting several important developments.

Three key areas highlighted in the communication are:

- Student Outcomes: The proposed regulations would require accreditors to evaluate program-level outcomes, including completion, licensure pass rates, and earnings data.
- Academic Freedom and Intellectual Diversity: The proposed regulations would require accreditors to evaluate institutional policies related to academic freedom, intellectual diversity, First Amendment protections at public institutions, and the free exchange of ideas.
- Student and Faculty Perspectives: The proposed regulations would require institutions to measure student and faculty perceptions of the range of viewpoints and perspectives offered by the institution or program.

While these regulations are currently proposed and are not yet in effect, the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) reviewed and discussed these recent federal developments last week. ASC and the Accreditation Core Team will continue to monitor the federal landscape and provide updates to the College community as additional information becomes available.

Mt. SAC 2026 – 2027 Budget and Planning Update (Vice President Joe Dominguez)

As Vice President Joe Dominguez shared in his recent budget and planning update last week, Mt. SAC continues to experience strong enrollment. Although Mt. SAC received state funding for a portion of our recent enrollment growth, approximately $10.8 million associated with additional FTES generated in 2025–2026 was not

funded by the State. This is an important consideration as we plan our course schedules and make decisions about adding sections.

As part of our strategic enrollment management approach, we will continue adding sections where the data demonstrate student demand, student need, and where additional offerings support students' progress toward completion. At the same time, we are taking a more measured approach than in recent years, looking closely at waitlists, enrollment trends, fill rates, course sequencing, program and pathway needs, and students' progress toward completion. While we may not add sections at the same pace we have in the past, we are continuing to respond when the data and student needs support additional classes. Practical considerations, including available facilities and staffing, may also affect our ability to add sections.

We recognize that this shift may require adjustments in how we plan and schedule courses, and we appreciate your flexibility and patience as we respond to state funding, unfunded enrollment growth, changing enrollment conditions, legislative changes, and other external factors. We will continue to work closely with department chairs and deans as we navigate these changing conditions and plan future schedules. Our focus remains on providing students access to the courses they need, supporting their progress toward completion, and balancing those needs with Mt. SAC's long-term fiscal stability.

Please reach out to your dean or to me if you have questions.

Upcoming Event: Constitutional Day

The Geography and Political Science Department, in collaboration with Associated Students, presents:

10th Annual Constitution Day Lecture Series

Election 2026: Democracy, Power, and the Constitution

Join us Wednesday, September 16, in the Summit Events Center for our 10th Annual Constitution Day Lecture Series. This year's theme is "Election 2026: Democracy, Power, and the Constitution." With the November election just weeks away, this year's program will explore some of the major political and constitutional questions shaping the 2026 election. During our featured talks we will discuss the battle for Congress, California's race for governor and statewide ballot propositions, Latino

voters and the changing electorate, political communication and the First Amendment, and the debate surrounding voter identification (Prop 39). Click this link to access our flyer.

Location: Summit Events Center, 3rd Floor of the Student Center (Building 410)
Date: Wednesday, September 16
Pre-Event Activities (food, music, voter registration, pocket constitutions, etc.): 11:00 AM
Lecture Series: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

- *Note: DHH Interpreters will be present. To request reasonable accessibility-related accommodations, please contact the ACCESS Department at access@mtsac.edu at least 5 business days prior to the event and copy the Student Life Office at studentlife@mtsac.edu.*

This event is free and open to all. Please invite your students! If you offer an extra credit incentive, we will provide proof of attendance through a designated student photo moment during the lecture series.

Mt. SAC Diana Berger Art Gallery: **rep·re·sen·ta·tion**

The exhibition runs **September 17 – October 17, 2026**, with an opening reception on **Thursday, September 17, from 4:00–7:00 p.m.**

Exhibition Opening Reception:
Thursday, September 17, 2026, 4:00-7:00 PM
Show continues through October 17, 2026

It features ten artists:

- **Lisa Adams**
- **Asad Faulwell**
- **Wendell Gladstone**
- **Douglas Miles**
- **Umar Rashid**
- **Sonia Romero**
- **Lezley Saar**
- **Manjari Sharma**

Brenda Starks

- **Jiao Yang**

Admission is free and the exhibition is at the Mt. SAC Diana Berger Art Gallery.

Deadline to Withdraw

The deadline to withdraw from a course with a "W" is now set at the **75% point of each class,** in accordance with AP 5075: Course Adds and Drops, which was recently updated to align with Title 5 (§ 55024) regulations on withdrawals. If you viewed or printed your schedule prior to Wednesday, August 19, it may still display the withdrawal deadline at the 60% point. Please review your schedules carefully to ensure that the section dates reflect the updated deadline.

Early Alert on Navigate 360 for Student Success Training Opportunities

Faculty are often among the first to recognize when a student may be struggling or could benefit from additional support. The Early Alert System in Navigate 360 provides a way to connect students with appropriate resources and support early, when that outreach can make a meaningful difference in their success.

This training includes information on the Early Alert System and will provide participants with instructions on its use and the impact the system has on students.

Upcoming Training Dates

- September 18th | 10:00 - 11:00 am
- September 25th | 2:00 - 3:00 pm
- October 9th| 10:00 - 11:00 am

Register on **POD Connect** Today!

REMINDER: Dropping No Show Students

As a reminder, Mt. SAC also has two Administrative Procedures (APs) that also address dropping No Show students:

- AP 5075 Course Adds and Drops states that "an instructor may drop a student who has not arrived within the first 30 minutes of the first course meeting of an in-person or synchronous online course. For asynchronous online courses, students must complete the No Show activity designated by their professor within three days to demonstrate attendance or they will be dropped from the course for nonattendance."

- Additional information in AP 4105 Distance Learning states (bottom of page 3), "faculty will drop, as a No-Show, any student who has not actively participated in the course or has not completed the faculty-determined check-in activity. Faculty members have discretion to establish any date between the official start of the term and the third day of the term."

Per Title 5 Section §58004, professors have the responsibility to clear their rosters of inactive students who are considered "No Show" students in online, hybrid, and face-to-face courses. For in-person courses, attendance is determined by physical presence, while in online courses, participation is measured through participation as defined in policy and on the professor's syllabus. These policies apply regardless of course waitlists. To provide clarity for students, professors are encouraged to include a statement in their syllabus outlining their course-specific drop policy, including how and when No Show students will be dropped.

Please continue to reach out to your Dean or Division Office if you have any questions.

Gratitude: Thank you to our Department Chairs and CCN Adopters

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Common Course Numbering & Department Chair Celebration and Recognition Ceremony! It was wonderful to come together to recognize our Department Chairs, those who helped lead the implementation of AB 1111 Common Course Numbering, and the many faculty,

classified professionals, and administrators who contributed to these efforts. We are grateful for the expertise, collaboration, and commitment each of you brings to our students and the Mt. SAC community.

Important Dates, Resources, and Reminders

Here is a list of important dates, resources, and reminders:

- Facutly Prioritization Requests Due: **Monday, October 5**
- Inaugural State of the College: **Thursday, October 29, 2026** (registration link)
- Veteran's Day (Campus Closed): **Wednesday, November 11, 2026**
- Thanksgiving Holiday**: November 26 and 27 (Thursday and Friday)**
- Last Day of the Semester: **December 11, 2026**
- Grades Due (full-term classes): **Tuesday, December 15, 2026 (8 pm)**
- Mt. SAC Faculty Center for Learning Technology website
- Mt. SAC Student Services Resources
- Canvas Student Support Hub (log in to access this resource)
- Mt. SAC 2026 - 2027 Academic Calendar
- Fall 2026 Credit Course Section Cancellation Protocol
- Mt. SAC Calendar of Events

We are here to help and support you throughout the semester. Please continue to reach out to your Instructional Division, Student Services Office, or School of Continuing Education if you have questions or need assistance.

We hope you have a wonderful week!

Thank you,
Kelly Fowler

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