

## Educational Planning Committee (EPC)

**November 3, 2025**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

**Present:** Holley Shafer, Mary Kesler, Emily Fox, Nicole McIntyre, Laura Cooper, Kai McCarthy, Brier Welch, Kathleen Antokhin, Hector Saez

**Absent:** Julian Solis, Eresa Puch

**Review Agenda** – Agenda approved

**Minutes from last meeting 10/20/25:** approved with corrections below:

1. Correction to attendance - Hector Saez was present at last meeting
2. Clarify wording on discussion of AI (CoPilot) and Mari (chatbot on the COM website)
3. Delete reference to Scott from IT conducting trainings on CoPilot

**Strategic Priority: Be the Best Place to Study and Learn**

**Stewards: VP of Student Learning and Success - Dana Emerson**

**Dean of Arts and Humanities - Lauren Servais**

**Goal 1. Build a faculty learning community that supports all faculty in expanding innovative, equity-minded teaching practices designed to promote student success.**

**Presentation notes:**

- The PDLC (Professional Learning and Development Center) will be the new hub for all professional learning, launching next fiscal year with a new framework and budget.
  - Structure: Tri-chair model (Dana Emerson, Steve Carrera, Alyssa Graff) to ensure representation from management, faculty, and classified staff.
  - Goals are to
    - centralize professional development to track needs and identify opportunities that benefit all constituent groups
    - identify and scale proven practices from successful programs like CRPP and Learning Communities
- EPC suggestion: Create a Canvas repository for faculty to share materials (e.g., icebreakers, community agreements).
  - Canvas access is not universal for classified staff.
  - Explore a neutral platform or collaborative content creation to ensure accessibility and safety (ProLearning platform may be a resource)
  - Incentivizing and engaging part time faculty remains a challenge
- Incentivize & Support Faculty/Student Research
  - Funding: The Academic Research Grant (ARG) can fund faculty time and student compensation
  - Examples of current programs & events:
    - Fernando Agudelo-Silva's MESA-funded sustainability research.

## **Educational Planning Committee (EPC)**

- The Ideation Challenge (Dec 19 deadline) for student-led projects
- A potential longitudinal study at the Bolinas Field Station using previous data and collecting new data
- Barrier: Faculty capacity is limited by heavy course loads, making participation in optional activities difficult.
- Coordination team for Goal 1 will meet to discuss strategy and implementation

### **Strategic Priority: Be a Catalyst for Positive Community Change**

**Stewards: VP of Student Learning and Success - Dana Emerson**

**Dean of Math and Science – Jeffrey Reeder**

### **Goal 1. Develop a cohesive curricular approach to incorporating environmental action across disciplines.**

#### **Presentation notes:**

- Discussion of a shift from "breaking down silos" to "connecting silos."
- Leverage distinct expertise (e.g., chemistry, art) by creating institutional pathways for collaboration, rather than forcing a single, undifferentiated approach.
- Leverage Campus Resources
  - Organic Farm: Increase academic integration.
  - Partnership: Redwood High School is ending its SRJC partnership and may potentially create a dual enrollment sustainable agriculture program with COM.
  - A new Sustainable Agriculture Certificate is in progress.
  - Bolinas Field Station: Revisit outreach to non-STEM disciplines (e.g., art, communications) now that the facility is complete, addressing past barriers like transportation.
  - Corte Madera Creek Restoration: Students are actively involved in replanting native marsh plants, providing hands-on workforce development skills.

#### **Expand Career Pathways**

- Course Tagging: Tag courses as "sustainability-adjacent" in the catalog.
  - Rationale: Helps students find relevant content and could form the basis for a micro-credential.
  - An audit of existing courses is needed to assess feasibility.
- Dean Collaboration: Suggestion to hold regular dean meetings to foster cross-disciplinary connections
  - Rationale: Provides an institutional forum for strategic planning beyond operational topics.
  - Discussion of scope: Intent is to provide interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities, will not interfere with course outlines or curriculum
- EPC suggestions:
  - Follow up on Dr. Park's interest in One Health/social justice and environmental health connection

**Debrief:**

- AI Chatbot Clarification: The committee is unclear on the scope and capabilities of the college's AI tools (Copilot, Mari).
  - Request clarification from IT on data sources (website only?), file types (PDFs?), and access restrictions.

Next meeting: November 17

Meeting Adjourned