

11/4/24: Counseling Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Allen, Ross, Moy, Alturk, Perez, Towle, Scurry and Castro

Counseling Updates/Accreditation

Debrief over Merritt College Professional Development. Survey results were presented that showed positive feedback of the event that was hosted and want to continue the event every year. Counselors in the meeting discussed how they want to make sure they attend future events the district hosts, but feedback was seeing if we could do it once a year or in-person instead of a twice a year virtual event.

CIS 60- please see co-chairs previous emails regarding new prereq and refer any students with them who have issues with the class

APU/CPR due December 2- please start logging into CurriQunet to make sure there are not any issues. Co-Chairs will email counselors and ask for support with certain parts

Progress Check on Evaluations - discussed deadline and timeline of completion. All counselors are on track. Co-Chairs emailed the district to ask when they will get back virtual evaluations- no response yet. In-person evaluations have already been sent back.

Guest Speaker: Dean Khoo

Dean Khoo discussed how Sara and Edwin are going to transition to 100% General Counseling in Spring 2025 as their counseling load. Rosa will transition in Fall 2025 after finishing her year of FYE with her current cohorts. Sara mentioned asking counselors if they want future guest speakers to support with any development training as all of us can be "career services" Dean Khoo presented data in a PowerPoint to show the need of having more general counselors and how we can continue seeing more students who come into the office to help with enrollment. Dean Khoo mentioned that the college does not have a budget to hire new counselors and this will address the need in the department without having to hire them. Dean Khoo briefly went over the transition and handoff of programs. Dean Khoo will send an email. The rest of the counselors will continue working in their programs.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth and Gregory came from NHS

They took over the program when Ben left - both PT Instructors

The courses started off as ENVMT rather than NHS- which is why classes are coded this way

Program got brought back in 2017 after beginning in the 70s, most classes are in-person and are hands on

They have 3 CoA's

Conservation and Resource Management- focuses on parks and management classes

Natural History and Resources- educates students on the biodiversity of the Bay Area and beyond and how that biodiversity interacts with humans in different ecosystems and scales.

Urban Agroecology - for folks learning on how the city gets fed

A good way to think about the program is "trade school for the environment"

Mostly a career transitioner program . The core of the students are folks who do not have a degree. Had a student that was 76 years old.

<https://www.instagram.com/nhsmerritt/>- instagram page

<https://www.nhsmerritt.com/>- website

Discussed how people get confused with NHS and LANHT.

LANHT is for students looking to make their garden pretty

NHS is how to make community a better place, climate change

Counselors can visit them for food, also give to the foodbank

Email Elizabeth and Greg if you have any questions or concerns for students

Program and Committee Updates

Career/Committee

Handshake should launch this week, waiting for IT to confirm final testing. Will put the logo on the Career Center website so students can login. Students will be emailed this week about signing up.

Interdisciplinary degree update- sent drafts to counselors to provide final feedback by Wednesday

FYE/Committee

FYE students going to UCSC on Nov 14

Matric/Committee

Please complete the PFT Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56LPRKV>

SAS/Committee

Basic needs ran out of funds- no new money until Spring 2025. Basic Needs has updated their website.