

PCCD Unification Taskforce Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 12pm to 2pm, PCCD Boardroom

Taskforce Goal: Develop an actionable plan for transforming into a three-college district, including programmatic, operational, accreditation, and communication components, to ensure a smooth and equitable transition.

Taskforce Members Attending:

- ✓ Tammeil Gilkerson (Facilitator, Administrator)
- ✓ Nancy Cayton (Service Employees International Union)
- ✓ Richard Thoele (Service Employees International Union)
- ✓ Chungwai Chum (Peralta Classified Senate)
- ✓ Yang Hu (Peralta Classified Senate)
- ✓ Jeff Sanceri (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Jennifer Shanoski (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Leslie Blackie (District Academic Senate)
- ✓ Tom Renbarger (District Academic Senate)
- ✓ Eva Jennings (Administrator)
- ✓ Gary Albury (Administrator)
- ✓ Amy Lee (Administrator)
- ✓ David Johnson (Administrator)
- ✓ Rebecca Opsata (Administrator)
- ✓ Kristina Hoessl (Student)
- ✓ Bianca Ramirez (Student)

Unable to attend:

- ✓ Rosa Perez (Student)

NOTES

1. Welcome

Tammeil kicked off the meeting at 12:08pm and welcomed attendees in-person and online.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Review Notes from January 29, 2026, Meeting

The [notes](#) were distributed to the Taskforce on Monday, February 9. No corrections were suggested.

4. Student-Centered Curriculum Alignment Work

Tammeil invited Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Dr. Tina Vasconcellos as a guest to follow up on the public comment from 1/29/2026 by Heather Sisneros asking about how the merging of Laney College and Merritt College's 215 overlapping courses across 33 subjects would be handled. Tina provided a progress report on cleaning up the curriculum to remove silos and improve student completion rates.

Standalone Course Cleanup: Colleges are deactivating courses not linked to specific pathways.

- Merritt: 75 deactivations.
- Laney: 67 deactivations.
- COA: 44 deactivations.
- BCC did not have a big number because they've been assessing and deactivating more regularly

Degree Alignment: The district is reducing local AA/AS degrees that overlap with Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs). Currently, 11 degrees remain that require specific justification (e.g., Merritt's Child Development degree, which is kept for its direct link to employment). Tina shared that SSEMC is working on a rubric to help make recommendations on consolidation and location.

The district is assessing whether to move toward "Discipline Hubs" to prevent colleges located in close proximity from competing for the same students with identical course timings. The Taskforce discussed moving away from "hiring in silos." There is a push to bring campus hiring lists to a district-wide group to ensure the district is not over-staffed in certain disciplines while under-staffed in others. There was a recommendation for the creation of a Taskforce on Faculty Prioritization to standardize rubrics and processes across the colleges to prepare for the unified Oakland City College structure.

Tammeil emphasized that hiring faculty in silos results in competition, which is not the approach taken with the 12 new tenure track faculty openings being discussed at PBC on Feb 20. She also noted that the new Executive VPs will be a district-wide cohort.

A brief discussion occurred regarding **Common Course Numbering (CCN)**. It was noted that Statistics is now being pulled as its own department (**STATS**) rather than under Math. To avoid negatively impacting faculty staffing and departmental data, the group agreed that Statistics should continue to be grouped under "Math" for internal data purposes.

Students Bianca and Kristina asked about why it matters, stimulating a rich discussion about "articulation" – making sure that curriculum is clearly articulated so it can be accepted for transfer by UC and CSU universities. Common course numbers with detailed instructional content help with transfer of community college credits.

5. Communication Plan – Updated FAQ Review

Mark noted that the latest [draft FAQ](#) was shared with taskforce members on February 9th. There was general agreement that they looked good, but we then workshopped a few more questions, with members approving the revised version for posting at <https://www.peralta.edu/transformation/unification-plan-faq>.

6. Student Services Listening & Ideation Session Framework

Tammeil and Gary reviewed [the Student Services Listening & Ideation Session Framework document](#). The student services participants have been invited for the sessions that will happen on February 23 and February 26. No preparation is needed, they just need to show up and participate. Tammeil and Gary will bring the data collected back to this group at the March meeting. These are listening sessions intended to help discover how we can best support students and employees.

In January, we had broached the idea of doing something similar for faculty department chairs, but they were not included in the February student services cohorts. Jennifer volunteered to follow up with department chairs for similar listening sessions.

7. Shared Governance Structure for OCC

Leslie reviewed three documents, each intended to help inform discussion and decision making about how shared governance might work at Oakland City College. She and the District Academic Senate (DAS) have documented our current structures including how [college level governance committees are organized](#), [how faculty senates are organized](#), and provided an [outline for steps for developing the shared governance structure at OCC](#). She noted some differences between Laney and Merritt, with all Merritt senators being “at large” while Laney senators have specific departmental representation, how the election periods differ. The docs presented are just a starting point for deeper discussions. As noted previously, Leslie reached out to ASCCC leadership for advice and was told that PCCD is trailblazing new territory.

Tammeil commented that this is really good work and asked how we might leverage this work to create a rubric that might also be used for the Classified Senates and the Associated Student governments.

Tom pointed out that once decisions are made in how we organize the senate(s), we will need to update some BPs/APs. There will be impact on Board Policy and Administrative Procedures.

8. Next Steps

Next steps were identified for:

- Mark to post the approved FAQ online
- Tammeil and Gary to share the student services listening session data at our next meeting
- The Shared Governance Summit is coming up on Friday, February 27th in the afternoon at Merritt College
- Tammeil will work with Becky, and taskforce student members Bianca, Kristina, and Rosa to prepare the Unification Taskforce presentation to be given at the Shared Governance Summit on 2/27
- Review BP 1100 and BP 2510 for discussion at the next Taskforce meeting
- Next Unification Taskforce meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026, from noon to 2pm here in the District boardroom

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder of the four-day President's Day / Lincoln Birthday (and unofficially, Valentine's Day) holiday weekend.