

PCCD Unification Taskforce Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 12pm to 2pm

In Attendance: Leslie Blackie, Nancy Cayton, Chungwai Chum, Tammeil Gilkerson, Yang Hu, Eva Jennings, David Johnson, Amy Lee, Rebecca Opsata, Rosa Perez, Bianca Ramirez, Tom Renbarger, Jeff Sanceri, Jennifer Shanoski, Richard Thoele, Kristina Hoessl

Absent: Gary Albury

Notetaker: Mark Johnson

1. Welcome

Chancellor Gilkerson welcomed everyone.

2. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

3. Meeting Schedule Discussion

A Doodle poll was sent to Taskforce members to help schedule future meetings. Not all had taken the poll, so the Taskforce considered the options during the meeting and agreed to hold monthly meetings on second Thursdays from 12 to 2 pm, with the meeting in January to be rescheduled (faculty not yet back from winter break). The next meeting will be on December 11th. Tom is not available on Thursdays so DAS President Leslie will follow up with Tom to determine if he should continue or select a different rep.

4. Review Notes from October 31, 2025, meeting

All agreed the notes looked good. Richard Thoele noted that he understood these were in-person meetings so he was marked absent, but requested it be noted that he attended online.

5. Debrief November 3 Data Summit: Observations & Other Questions

Members agreed that the [Data Summit presentation](#) was helpful. The group discussed observations and questions that surfaced. Questions included:

- Tom reported an anthropology faculty at COA shared concern with the data for COA not being accurate for number of degrees awarded, and whether classes would continue to be offered at COA.
- Richard suggested getting more information on SEP completions beyond just the first or second term. Kristina shared that there is a lack of acknowledgement and communication about the importance of SEPs. She shared that she spoke to a student athlete who said she'd never met with a counselor and had zero clue of a plan.
- Jennifer suggested a survey on student desire for online vs. In-person classes.

- Jeff asked whether the changes in the number of offerings for night classes were solely replaced with online options or if there were cancellations that impacted the evening offerings.
- Question about anthropology programs and the need for longer-term SEP data analysis. They discussed the importance of communicating resource availability to students and the potential for increasing evening and weekend classes. The Taskforce noted the need to clarify program analysis data and forward relevant questions to the appropriate taskforces.

6. Brainstorm communication plan

A. Peralta FAQ Development Planning

The group discussed developing a FAQ to address community concerns about Peralta transformation planning. They agreed to create separate FAQs for students, employees, and community partners, focusing on key questions like class availability, job security, and student services. While some answers are not yet available, they can still provide reassurance that students will be able to complete their degrees and no campuses are closing. The group decided to collect more questions from their respective constituency groups before the next meeting, with a focus on categorizing them by topic. They also discussed using multiple communication channels, including email, Canvas, and direct teacher announcements, to reach different audiences effectively.

The group discussed the potential renaming of the Peralta Community College District, with Jeff sharing concerns about the historical implications of the current name due to its association with Spanish settlers and the displacement of Native Americans. Nancy noted that a District name change would help signal a more significant transformation and may distinguish the past from moving forward; however, Jennifer noted that she didn't want to waste money on rebranding the District and college for swag, signage, etc., when those dollars could go to instruction. Tammeil suggested that we consider the possibility of a design challenge to create a new "P" name while keeping the PCCD acronym and mapping the timeline for determining the new college logo, mascot, and colors to allow sufficient time for development. Tammeil shared that graphic design faculty are already reaching out wanting to design potential logos. Mark shared that Marcus Creel was also interested and didn't want it to wait until the last minute. Leslie shared that the CTE Expo always uses student work for the promotional materials and engaging students in design is a great idea. Eva shared that there are FabLabs and the cost of making signs, etc., could be more affordable if we went in house.

Suggested questions (and DRAFT answers) included:

- Is my college closing? (no, no college is closing – a campus may have a different name but is not closing)
- What classes will my college keep offering? (likely the same but with some changes based on recommendations from SSEMC and the other two taskforces)

- What's the accreditation status? (Great – all our colleges are fully accredited. We're working with ACCJC for a smooth transition, and they've been very supportive)
- What will my diploma say? (Depends on the timing of graduation)
- Will I lose my job? (Unlikely. There will be some administrative impact so we cannot promise no job losses, but remember, one of the goals here is to identify areas where we can grow and provide more opportunities for students.)
- Will this impact my financial aid? (No. We've talked with DOE and they were supportive of the plan)
- Will there be offices for [student services] at every college / campus? (We don't know yet and depends on recommendations by the SSEMC and other taskforces)
- Should I find another college? (Absolutely not! We are rebuilding our class offerings and support services to provide students with an even better educational experience.)
- Are we going to cut classes? (The goal here is to grow classes in the areas students need, whether that's for transfer to university or career ed classes for a job)
- Will I be able to finish my degree?
- What is the Oakland City College mascot? What are the school colors? (We don't know yet but we'll map the process for deciding in Spring 2026. We welcome suggestions!)
- How do we protect the legacy of Laney and Merritt? (The campuses will retain the names, e.g. Oakland City College Laney Campus or Oakland City College Merritt Campus)
- Will any buildings be closed? (Too early to say. PCCD has just begun work on a new Facilities Master Plan that will be informed by the Transformation plan and the college educational master plans. The Facilities Master Plan will have many opportunities for community input and should finalize around December 2026).
- How would a merger impact the student experience? (note: discussion that merger wasn't a good word to use and needed to be defined)
- How do you staff evening & weekend colleges? Is food service available?

Mark will create a Google Doc to share draft FAQ and answers with Taskforce members, so students can access it.

B. Cross District Student Support Services Conversations

The group discussed conducting focused group conversations with various student services and learning communities to gather feedback on program efficiency and support needs. Chancellor Gilkerson proposed convening smaller discussions between now and the December 11 Unification meeting to hear ideas and feedback from different groups. Chungwai suggested starting with student-focused discussions to better understand their needs before developing internal models, and the group agreed to review existing student voices data to inform their approach.

The group discussed mapping administrative structures and shared governance committees across the district's colleges to help see how the structures are configured. Richard suggested beginning with categorical programs. Amy suggested Veterans Coordinators and mental health specialists. Tammeil recommended basic needs coordinators and learning communities be

included. Jennifer recommended convening department chairs to hear lots of great insights and questions. Becky and David recommended a discussion with the directors of student activities and campus life. , .

Jennifer asked when the group would discuss administrative structures, with concerns about examining overall district office and centralized services costs. Tammeil noted that the leadership team would be discussing and bringing a recommendation forward. Jennifer also asked about Total Cost of Ownership and whether there was a plan for understanding the true cost for offering classes, such as chemistry that costs more and has fewer students. How will this be considered alongside the budget allocation model. Leslie and Tammeil shared that this work will happen in the Planning and Budget Committee. Becky and Davide shared that an athletics assessment project is underway involving surveys and focus groups to evaluate program efficiency and facility utilization, with plans to present findings to SSEMC.

Chancellor Gilkerson shared a document that took comments from our October 31 meeting and reframed them to help us define what excellence looks like. There was general agreement with the list, with Jennifer pointing out that considerable work is needed for the bullet that begins “We make enrolling easy...” She has her own experience trying to enroll in dual enrollment courses was so hard and students find it hard to navigate the website, too, that we should work hard to address the “low hanging fruit” and things that have needed to be done for a long time. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 11th, 12pm-2pm.