Applied Photography Advisory Committee Meeting

5/1/25 | 12pm | Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDING: Erik Castro, Nick Simko, Richard Dahnoun, Nathan Lomas, Genevieve Shiffrar, Beatriz Camargo, Mackenzie Galindo, Rachel Smith

AGENDA:

- **Student Success and Program improvement Updates**
- **Faculty Professional Development Updates**
- **Visiting Photographer Program Updates**
- **Discussion**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
Student Success	- 11 Applied Photography Certificate students completed this spring - Art 21/22 are at the highest enrollment they have been in many years - 22 Applied Photography Certificate students were featured in the Spring 25 Student Art Show - 9 Beginning Digital Photography students' work were featured in the student show on the Petaluma campus - An Applied Photography Certificate student photographed the Shone Farm Fall Festival - 2 Applied Photography Certificate students are involved in photographing SRJC fashion show on the Petaluma campus	

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Program Improvements	- Art 60 no longer has prerequisites, and is being promoted, with the help of MarCom, across campus - Art 23 Color Photo has been rewritten to focus on color inkjet technology and is awaiting Curriculum Review for Fall 25	
Faculty Professional Development	Nick spoke about attending the SPE conference. Nick attended many lectures that covered a wide range of topics including AI, pedagogy, queer and trans communities in photography, and the history of contact sheets.	
Visiting Photographer Program	Nick shared that the Visiting Photographer Program was off to a great start with 4 visiting photographers who specializing in nature, photojournalism, fine art portraiture, and food. Nick has submitted a grant proposal to continue the program next year, and has added for one visiting photographer to give a public talk to the wider JC community	
Discussion	A discussion was had prompted by 4 questions. **Nick asked about the application of AI:** Erik stated that he uses AI mostly for video work, which he uses to turn film vertically for social media. He uses ChatGPT for planning and considers it a great tool. Rachid echoed what Erik said. He uses AI mostly for the review of pitches and proposals. He stated that it doesn't work for everything but is helpful for some things.	

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	Nathan doesn't use AI, and is opposed to it although he does use it minimally for touchups. Genevieve asked Nick how he approaches AI in the classroom. Nick stated that students have a strong reaction to the idea of AI, and there is a divide in opinions. Rachid stated that a lot of the Adobe software has yet to achieve AI that produces images that he considers a high quality. Nick thinks AI can be an applied tool, but also challenges the nature of reality and causes us to think about the fate of photography. **Nick asked about professional organizations for Students to follow:** Erik suggested the National Press Photographer Association, they focus on advocating for photographers, particularly in law. Nick is meeting with the Society of Photographic Education about creating a community college caucus. Nick will also be advocating for reduced fees for students. Genevie suggested APA, Photo Alliance, and Copywrite Alliance. Rachid suggested American Sociality of Media Photographers. Nathan suggested Photo Alliance as well, and SF Camera Work. **Nick asked for recommendations on portfolio hosting and design:**	

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	Genevieve uses PhotoFolio, as there are a lot of options in terms of design and functionally. Rachid agreed about PhotoFolio. Erik uses PhotoShelter, he also loves the free Adobe templates. Nathan suggested portfolio apps through Adobe which are free, Squarespace is also a good option. **Nick asked for suggestion on the Visiting Photographer program:** Genevieve suggested bringing in a photographer that uses AI in an interesting way. Erik suggested teaching students about licensing. Rachid agreed with Erik and also suggested teaching students about business related practices in the field.	

Notes prepared by: Tara Bogart