

**Minutes of Santa Rosa Junior College
Fashion Studies Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
4:30 to 6:00 pm
In-Person**

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Debra Bee—Fashion Studies Teacher, Rancho Cotati High School
Ms. Andrea Kenner—Owner/Tamarind
Mr. Steffen Kuehr—Owner/Tek Tailor, Inc.
Ms. Heidi Johnson—Owner/the Wedding DeTailor

Absent Members:

Ms. Jennifer Olivo—Owner/Jennifer Olivo Designs
Ms. Mary Ann Parker—Owner/Marker Express

Faculty and Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Lyra Bobo— Associate Instructor, Department of Theatre and Fashion
Emily Melville—Instructor/Coordinator of Fashion Studies Program Department of Theatre and Fashion
Ms. Robyn Spencer-Crompton —Associate Instructor, Department of Theatre and Fashion
Vanessa Luna Shannon-Dean of Instruction and Enrollment Management SRJC
Janet Stribling-Administrative Assistant III
Hilary Heaviside- Former Associate Instructor, Fashion and Theater Arts

Was there a quorum—Yes

CALL TO ORDER: Emily Melville called the meeting to order at 4:35pm

Welcome/Introduction

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. ***Collections Program and Contest return for 2023/2024 school year-*** Advanced fashion students can propose a collection of coordinated looks which they will construct to display at the fashion show. I have received 4 and expect 3 more. The design challenge is focused on using lace and embroidered fabrics. We have great prizes this year; Sewing machine, dress form and small overlock. Consider ways to make judging of pieces to be a more interactive experience.
2. ***Fashion Show:*** Scheduled for Thursday, May 9th, 2024
3. ***Second year articulation*** with Rancho-Cotati School. They have had 12-14 completers. Students get honors credit also.
4. ***Green Living Fair:*** Held in SR in October 2023. Presenters and outside groups come in and inform how to reduce impact on environment and be sustainable. Fashion had a mending bar. Focus on teaching and demonstrating mending techniques. Sewing kit and sewing supplies giveaway. What was successful was that it was a student focused event. Biology students had to go to mending bar and take a picture for extra credit.
5. ***Fashion Club:*** A group of fashion students started a fashion club on Petaluma campus.
6. ***Textiles class guest speaker-***Andrea Ferris Co-founder of CICIO. Producing an additive that allows polyester to degrade in the environment more rapidly. She spoke to textile students on

work they are doing to reduce the impact of microfiber plastics on the environment. Fashion would like to invite Andrea to come and speak to the college at large.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Curriculum update for FASH 56:
 - 1. FASH 56 Design and Illustration. Covering the full curriculum in one semester is a lot. Last year we discussed splitting the class into two semesters, but this is a larger issue. Decided to remain the same for now.
 - 2. Need further consideration of how splitting the class will affect the rest of the program's curriculum.
- B. Developing a FASH AA-T:
 - a. AA for transfer specifically designed to transfer to a UC or CSU. Need to explore articulation agreements and reactivate as needed. Course numbers 1-49 are UC articulatable, 50-99 are CSU articulatable.
 - b. One UC school with fashion program = UC Davis
 - c. Seven CSUs with fashion programs = SF State, Fresno, Long Beach, Sacramento, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Northridge, CSU LA
 - d. Many of the CSUs fashion programs are focused on Merchandising rather than Design.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Program Curriculum Development
 - a. Emily shared a list of possible classes that could be reinstated. Includes things like specialty construction (i.e. Shirts, Jackets, Pants), also a second semester of Design or second semester of Patternmaking are things that students ask for.
 - b. Proposed new course idea: Fashion Portfolio class where students could prepare a professional portfolio for higher ed application or career advancement. The committee seemed to think this was a good idea.
- B. Expanding Student Job Opportunities
 - a. Fashion studies students struggle to get jobs in the fashion industry outside of retail. Andrea suggests that working in retail is valuable experience to build an understanding of the customer. Also, her experience is that it is possible for ambitious designers to launch small design enterprises with unique and creative ideas.
 - b. Heidi mentioned that there is a real situation in the wedding industry where many of the women doing alterations are older and are retiring and more people who can do alterations are needed. The wedding industry is booming.
 - c. Fashion would like to expand contacts with local industry in the Bay Area. The committee agreed to create a shared list of industry resources and contacts which could be maintained and updated each year by members.
 - d. Vanessa shared that it could be valuable to connect with the work experience department to help in this area as well.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 5:55pm