



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

2:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Hanaa Alkassas, Fabienne Bouton, Bri Brown, Dan Curtis, Rita Ghazala, Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks, Karla Gutierrez, Debra Hills, Amy Huie, Raquel Jacob-Almeida, Raad Jerjis, Rachelle Panganiban, Joan Rettinger, Miriam Simpson, Jennifer Tomaschke, Asma Yassi

Absent: Sasha Carter, Sahar King

Other: Jessica Robinson, Annalinda Arroyo, Nicole Salgado, Bri Hays, Liza Kakos, Kathryn Nette

Recorder: Aiden Lovewell

The Senate minutes are recorded and published in summary form. Readers of these minutes must understand that recorded comments in these minutes do not represent the official position of the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate expresses its official positions only through votes noted under "Action." In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act guidelines, Senators voting "nay" or abstaining will be identified. All other present members will be assumed to have voted "aye."

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- 1. Call to Order** – Karen Marrujo, the Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes: February 13th, 2025** – The Senate reviewed the minutes from February 13th, 2025. The senate motioned to approve the minutes. **Motion/Second:** Amy Huie/Dan Curtis. **Nays:** None. **Abstentions:** Rita Ghazala, Miriam Simpson, Asma Yassi. **Motion Passes.**
 - 3. Public Comments** –

Annalinda Arroyo let senators know about log-in issues with office computers and cautioned to be careful of updates. She experienced issues logging back in to her office computer and called IT for assistance. The update could potentially remove individuals from the database and it appears as though several computers were affected.

Joan Rettinger shared that at 5pm tonight there is a bankruptcy and student loan seminar in this room with snacks being provided.

4. Announcements –

A. Academic Senate Communication and Semester Goals + Priorities:

Karen Marrujo shared some slides with Academic Senate and explained that she wants to be transparent with our priorities in the committee. Karen asked senators to please double check the slides and provide feedback. Some goals for AS this semester include: SEMC, which has had some faculty appointments and work is being done to establish the first meeting schedule, better communication and collaboration, establish regular communication with the Vice President of Administrative Services, increased opportunity for faculty attending plenary where we sent three people last year, and to have an increase amount of district leadership visits to Academic Senate.

B. Academic Senate Elections:

Karen explained that the elections for Academic Senate are happening now and senators should have received emails right now that include a shared timeline. Any questions can be sent to the election coordinator, Kim Dudzik.

C. Updates from ASCCC Academy in San Diego: Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education:

Karen shared Academic Senate's partnering with the VPI to send 6-7 people to the ASCCC Academy event which helped spread out representation. Karen highlighted the value of the experience. Bri Brown went to a session exploring the capabilities of AI where participants were invited to create their own bots to do specific tasks using Playlabs. We are hoping to partner with Grossmont College and bring one of the speakers, Nicol Turner Lee, here to continue the conversation around the implications and concerns of AI usage.

Raad asked if there is a tool for identifying AI-based plagiarism. Moriah noted that there is no reliable way to do this yet but there are a lot of conversations around this issue and these conversations will continue and be shared as much as possible.

D. Assembly Higher Education Committee:

Karen explained that Rachel Polakoski provided testimony at the 1:58:52 mark in the linked video regarding acceleration in the Math department to help students succeed.

E. District-Wide Faculty Evaluations Taskforce Update:

Karen gave an update on the Faculty Evaluations Taskforce and noted that it is still ongoing. Work is currently being done on templates for forms. This work will take a while because it is very nuanced. Progress is being made and there will be more updates to come.

F. Resource for Protecting Our Students:

Karen shared the link for resources that we have so far for protecting our students and encouraged senators to share it.

G. Outstanding Faculty Award:

Karen asked senators to check out the link and to share it with others. The deadline is April 30th. The award is colleague-nominated and processed in SOC.

H. Events:

i. Student Loans and Bankruptcy Seminar:

Karen Marrujo echoed what Joan shared earlier about the seminar happening today at 5pm in this room.

ii. Internship Workshop Series:

Karen asked senators to check out this event and to share.

iii. Author Talk with award-winning poet Gill Sotu:

Karen asked senators to check out this event and to share.

I. Other:

Karla shared that there is a new round of funding for developing OER if anyone is interested in applying for the funds. She will share an announcement when there is a concrete deadline. Rachele asked about how much the district gets from the funds. The funding breakdown is the same breakdown as all the other OER funds in the past.

5. Action Items –

A. Draft of Academic Calendar (for endorsement)

i. Version 1: Draft of Non-Aligned Calendar:

Academic Senate shared and voted on version 2, the aligned calendar draft, first and approved it. This version was not brought for a vote.

ii. Version 2: Draft of Aligned Calendar:

Karen gave context to the calendar, explaining that it would start a week earlier and this would affect enrollment. Karen brought this up in a meeting with the chancellor and the impression was that alignment is not necessarily a priority. The committee might be endorsing alignment, but this feedback may or may not be applied further.

Rachele noted that the adjuncts are affected the most by this with alignment being the best for them and non-alignment hurting them. Karen noted that the chancellor is aware of this.

Moriah rhetorically asked why we went through the compressed calendar struggle only to not be aligned.

The senate motioned to approve the draft of the aligned calendar.

Motion/Second: Raquel Jacob-Almeida/Rachelle Panganiban. **Nays:** Dan Curtis.

Abstentions: None. **Motion Passes.**

6. Information Items –

A. Updates from Cuyamaca College President:

Jessica Robinson shared an update with Academic Senate. Jessica wanted to highlight a few topics to continue conversations and shine light on some topics that people aren't sure about. She gave an update on the VP Administrative Services recruitment. Nicole Salgado is leaving March 31st. This is not an instructional position so it falls under personnel commission but we are requesting exemption. Instead of receiving top 3 rankings from the PC, Jessica will receive all the rankings for an increased pool of applicants. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do the forum model because it was deemed too similar to our old processes. Interviews are taking place next week.

Jessica gave an update on onboarding new faculty. There are individual processes for onboarding but nothing universal for the college. We are having conversations all over the campus and gathering a lot of information that we will take and use to meet with HR. We touched on this topic at convocation but we are following through on next steps. We are hoping to pilot this effort in spring.

Jessica shared an update on the facilities plans for the new F-building. We will need to move the data center which will cost much more than expected. We were receiving \$16 million initially from district but it will be \$12 million instead. The district needs those funds to work on their district spaces. The district is looking for another space to house their operations either at Grossmont College or by purchasing a stand-alone building. For Cuyamaca College that means that now we don't have as many funds. We had an assessment done on space usage as well as a migration plan created. On March 11th there will be a meeting from 2-4pm with a final report on usage and what the migration will look like. The facilities assessment is not final but rather the beginning of bigger conversations that will develop a plan.

There was an executive order from the Department of Education. Feb 14th there was a letter from DOE stating discrimination law and attacking DEIA. Jessica noted that we are an open education institution so all students that apply are accepted. This letter means that not stopping DEIA risks the college losing federal aid with the biggest concern being federal financial aid for student. On Feb 21st, there was an order to pause this initiative for now. Jessica wanted to come as the President of the college and say that this is not law but rather advisory and we will stand by our values and beliefs of being committed to our DEIA initiatives. Therefore, will not be changing our efforts or policies. If anything changes, Jessica committed to coming back to give us an update.

Moriah shared a few contextual references for this issue that will be posted on the Academic Senate website including: A letter received from the DOE on 2/14/2025, a

letter in response defending DEI by Dr. Shaun Harper, and a Multi-State Guidance letter concerning DEIA initiatives.

B. Program Review and Integrated Planning: Updates and Improvements:

Bri Hays, Kathryn Nette, Liza Kakos, and Nicole Salgado shared updates and improvements on program review and integrated planning. Built this new committee to work on the information being shared today. Bri shared slides detailing several topics of program review such as: why do we do program review, accreditation, Education Code, faculty role in program review, what the Program Review Steering Committee is, responsibilities and guiding principles for the committee, annual integrated planning process, and continuous improvement items. Bri encouraged everyone to review the slides and to share them with others.

C. Faculty Hiring Priorities Committee (FHPC) Goals:

Tabled.

D. Update on Digital Art Lab Resource Request:

Karen Marrujo shared an update on the digital art lab resource request. We reached out to VPI for support and we are waiting to hear back. We would like to have direct collaborative conversations instead making faculty navigate this alone.

E. Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (SEMC) Update:

Tabled.

F. Revisit Together We Rise Resolution:

Tabled.

G. Building F Migration Plan Update:

Tabled.

H. Outside Employment Proposed Revision to AP 2710: Conflict of Interest:

Karen Marrujo discussed the proposed revision to AP 2710 and asked senators to please look at this. There are concerns about what it will require employees to do if they work outside of the college. HR would need to approve anyone simultaneously working outside of the college. The Vice Chancellor of HR presented this and Karen noted that this is already an AP but they are adding this clause to it.

I. District Health and Safety Committee Charge and Composition:

Tabled.

7. Committee Reports –

A. Updates from Curriculum:

None.

- B. Additional Committee Updates:
None.

8. President's Report –

- A. Review Period for Reassigned Time Faculty Roles:
Tabled.

- B. District-Level Participatory Governance Updates:

- i. Academic Calendar Alignment Conversation:

1. Timeline of GCCCD working with SDCCD for the 2025-2026 Calendar creation:
Tabled.

2. Impact of Changing the Start Date of the Fall 2025 Semester to Match SDCCD:
Tabled.

- ii. Remote Work Update

Karen shared that counselors and faculty were not heard about the concerns regarding their remote work being revoked. Karen requested that anyone wanting to demonstrate their support should attend the upcoming board meeting on March 11th at 4:15pm at Cuyamaca College.

- C. Other
None.

9. Vice President's Report –

- A. First Information Item:
None.

10. Part-time Faculty Report –

- A. First PT Faculty Report:
None.

- B. Second PT Faculty Report:
None.

11. Adjourn – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 3:52pm.