

## Candidate for Vice President of the Academic Senate

### Rachel Polakoski

I'm excited to continue serving as Vice President of the Academic Senate at Cuyamaca College. Over the past year, I've focused on making our Senate work more transparent, efficient, and supportive of faculty—while keeping student impact at the center of our decisions. In my current term as Academic Senate VP, I've worked to improve communication and reduce some of the day-to-day burdens on senators. One example is introducing "unofficial" Senate summaries so faculty can stay informed without waiting for formal minutes. This has helped streamline communication and allows senators to focus more fully on discussion and shared governance during meetings. I also helped implement a new committee service tracking system, replacing an outdated process with something clearer, more accessible, and easier to maintain. Beyond Senate, I regularly advocate for data-informed, student-centered decision-making in college-wide planning conversations, including my work with Cuyamaca College Council. My approach to leadership is grounded in collaboration, care, and a respect for how stretched thin faculty time can be. I'm committed to continuing to find ways to make our processes more meaningful and manageable, while ensuring faculty voices remain central in decision-making. I'd appreciate the opportunity to continue serving in this role and supporting the important work we do together as a faculty.

