



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, August 28th, 2025
2:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Elizabeth Fontaine (as proxy for Fabienne Bouton), Bri Brown, Dan Curtis, Frantz Farreau, Rita Ghazala, Nancy Bahena (as proxy for Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks), Karla Gutierrez, Debra Hills, Amy Huie, Octavio Leal, Rachel Polakoski, Joan Rettinger, Wayne Ross, Miriam Simpson, Jennifer Tomaschke, Chris Torres, Asma Yassi

Absent: Rachelle Panganiban, Fabienne Bouton, Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks

Other: Heidi Wilson, Marissa Salazar, Bri Hays, Aaron Bruce, Liza Kakos, Jessica Robinson, Victoria Marron, Erica Balakian, Jeanie Machado Tyler, Tammy Marshall

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."

1. **Call to Order** – Karen Marrujo, the Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

2. **Introductions** – Academic Senate members and guests introduced themselves.

3. **Public Comments** – None

4. **Announcements** –

A. Onboarding New Senators and Better Empowering Returning Senators:

Karen Marrujo shared slides for new and returning senators which are also available on the Academic Senate website and in a paper packet form. The slides covered several subjects including: what Academic Senate it and its purview; 10+1; who is part of Academic Senate; the role of senators; Senate Officers Committee (SOC); and meetings.

Karen also discussed community norms for Academic Senate and shared a draft of key points. The senators read off these points out loud and Karen asked senators to think about them and give feedback at our next meeting.

5. Adoption of Unanimous Consent Items – *Grouped items for unanimous approval or endorsement without discussion. Any item can be pulled from unanimous consent. In the case an item is pulled, it will be individually considered later in the meeting under “Action Items.”*

A. Approval of 05-22-25 Minutes:

The Senate reviewed the minutes from May 22nd, 2025.

The senate voted to approve the consent calendar. Motion/Second. Simpson/Hills.

Nays: None. Abstentions: Farreau, Polakoski, Ross. Motion passes.

6. Action Items –

A. Items Pulled from Unanimous Consent:

None

7. Reports –

A. Updates from Curriculum:

Karen shared the updates with senators and encouraged them to review them. They are available on the Academic Senate website.

B. Academic Senate President’s Report:

None

C. Vice President’s Report:

Rachel thanked those who filled out forms for committees. She also asked senators to check out openings in the future. The new contract from AFT in October includes pay for PT faculty on hiring committees and Rachel encouraged senators to let PT faculty know.

D. Part-time Faculty Report:

None

8. Information Items –

A. Fall 2025 Workshops:

Bri Hays invited everyone to the fall 2025 accreditation workshops. There is one workshop on campus on September 25th from 11:30 – 2pm and a second workshop on Zoom on September 26th from 2 – 4pm. Flex credit will be given for these workshops.

B. Call for an Academic Election Coordinator:

Tabled

C. Resolution to Change to Regular Meeting Duration from 2:00pm-3:45pm to 2:00-4:00pm:

Karen discussed adding 15min to our meeting time due to agenda load. She asked

senators to think this over. This will return at the next meeting for a vote.

D. Resolution to Authorize Curriculum Committee Approval of Governing Board Curriculum Packets:

Karen discussed authorizing Curriculum to approve their own Board Packets. This would help their timelines and prevent them and prevent us from needing to suspend the rules as much to approve the packets every semester.

E. Call for Feedback for Review of our Cuyamaca Academic Senate Constitution and Bylaws:

Tabled

F. 2024-2025 Facilities and Sustainability Planning Committee – Ranked List:

Bryce Storm introduced himself. This is Bryce's first year doing the Facilities and Sustainability Planning Committee ranked list. This will return as an action item at our next meeting.

Bri Brown asked what the timeline is for these being funded. Bryce said this is unknown and he is still new to the process, but they are being worked on.

Bri Hays elaborated that typically colleges fund these through year-end funds.

G. Proposed Program Review Timeline:

Bri Hays shared the proposed Program Review timeline and how program review flows through the process. Bri emphasized the early bird submission date of December 1st and the final deadline of January 12th. This will return as an action item at our next meeting.

H. Updates from Dr. Jessica Robinson, Cuyamaca College President:

Jessica Robinson introduced herself and introduced Dr. Aaron Bruce, the Dean of Student Success and Equity, and Erica Balakian, the Vice President of Administrative Services.

Dr. Bruce introduced himself and shared his background, experience, and goals. Erica Balakian introduced herself and shared her background, experience, and goals as well.

Dr. Robinson shared her shared governance road show slides. These slides are available on the Academic Senate website and include more granular details.

i. Faculty Hire List:

We have approved hirings of ranked #1-4 from the list. There are also new developments in consideration including: Kathryn Nette's retirement, Beth Viersen's retirement, Ignacio Castaneda Garcia's resignation, and Kim Dudzik's retirement. These considerations are being carefully evaluated for their potential impact. The DSPS Counseling position must be thoroughly evaluated to ensure it is replaced properly. Jeanie Machado Tyler also noted that the #6 ranked Ethnic Studies is moving forward and

will come off the ranked list.

ii. Classified Hire List:

We have approved the ranked #1 Cuyamaca Cares Student Services Specialist (restricted funds) position and the #8 Training Assistant for Teaching and Learning/Professional Development position. Ranked #2 for an Athletic Trainer is now in consideration.

iii. Food Service:

Our current food services cost between 150k to 200k to run per year. The full needs for food services are not currently being met with what we are offering. We want to have fresh produce and hot vending. There are discussions happening around putting Cuyamaca Cares in that food space.

iv. The Bookstore:

We want to downsize the bookstore and repurpose the space to use it better. The goal would be to use the space for our student groups in a centralized location. More information to come.

v. The Student Center:

We are reimagining our student center in totality.

vi. Athletic Fan Support:

The College is looking into bleachers for soccer games and track and field events.

vii. Other:

The F-building funds have been returned to the state. We are closely examining the feasibility of going out for a 2026 bond measure to support infrastructure needs and updates. This will also need a Facilities Task Group to be assembled. We will be getting A/C in the gym. The A-building will be going to the district and in return they will be refurbishing it and helping us with some improvements to our campus.

I. Introductory visit from Dean of Student Success and Equity Dr. Aaron Bruce:

Dr. Aaron Bruce introduced himself and shared his background, experience, and goals.

J. Introductory visit from Vice President of Administrative Services Erica Balakian:

Erica Balakian introduced herself and shared her background, experience, and goals.

9. Adjourn – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 3:49pm.