



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, February 12th, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Fabienne Bouton, Dan Curtis, Frantz Farreau, Rita Ghazala, Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks, Karla Gutierrez, Debra Hills, Amy Huie, Tania Jabour, Octavio Leal, Joan Rettinger, Wayne Ross, Christopher Torres, Heidi Wilson, Liza Kakos (as proxy for Asma Yassi)

Absent: Rachele Panganiban, Rachel Polakoski, Miriam Simpson

Guests: Teresa Hodges, Josh Franco, Jessica Robinson, Rachel Jacob-Almeida, Victoria Marron, Bri Hays

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. **Introductions** – The senators introduced themselves.
 3. **Public Comments** – Josh Franco shared a public comment regarding shared governance committees and councils meeting early in the morning or late in the afternoon. For most people, especially parents, it is extremely difficult to attend at these times and Josh wanted to bring awareness to this issue. Joan Rettinger noted that CE faculty shared this sentiment. A lot of CE faculty teach late and have meetings early which is an impossible schedule to maintain. Dan Curtis shared that the H-drive is having issues, and he was told that it could eventually affect the I-drive as well. Karen offered to invite IT to come speak on this issue and Jessica Robinson promised to follow up as well.
 4. **Announcements** –
 - A. Cuyamaca College Academic Senate Community Norms:
Karen noted that all of the announcement items will come back at the next meeting but for the sake of time, will be tabled. Please check these items out when there's

time.

B. Strategies for Sustainable Advocacy and Positive Change:

Tabled.

C. Accreditation Open Forum Announcement:

Karen noted that there is an open forum next week and a site visit in September.

D. Cuyamaca Rising Scholar Program flyer:

Tabled.

E. Academic Senate Election Coordinator:

Tabled.

F. Chancellor Lynn Neault visit:

Karen asked senators to come up with questions for Chancellor Neault's visit.

G. Other:

None.

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 12-11-2025 Minutes:

The Senate reviewed the minutes from 12-11-2025.

The Senate voted to approve the Consent Calendar by unanimous consent.

6. Action Items –

A. Items pulled from Unanimous Consent:

None

7. Information Items –

A. Updates from College President Dr. Jessica Robinson:

President Robinson updated senators on faculty hiring. These are from the 2025-2026 faculty hiring prioritization committee list items.

President Robinson shared the rationale for the Umoja Coordinator/Counselor hiring position change. We are in recruitment for the first 6 on the FHPC list so we are looking into #7, general counseling. The list was revisited to discuss the retirements of Beth Viersen in DSPS and Kim Dudzik in BIO. The decision was made to pivot

from the general counseling position to a combined general counseling and Umoja counselor position. This is done to align with identified equity gaps and the college's strategic priorities. Chris Torres asked about clerical staff support for Umoja. President Robinson and Victoria Marron gave clarification to the hiring process and support that is being provided to Umoja and Puente, which is typically through student workers. Karen noted that the feedback from our current Umoja counselor is also being considered in this rationale. Frantz asked what the Umoja and Puente programs are. Jessica, Victoria, and Chris gave context on both programs. Jessica noted that shared governance considerations were taken very seriously. Teresa noted that this would help fill the gap of a seriously disproportionate situation. Teresa also shared her lived experience and thanked Jessica, and everyone else involved, for doing this work. Tania echoed this sentiment and noted that there is currently not a lot of fullness for our black students but adding this small step will be a step in the right direction. Debra noted that the fullness of the black students also touches on the non-English speaking Black and/or African students as well. Frantz Farreau shared his lived experience and noted that feeling included relies heavily on truly inclusive spaces for all and not just selectively included space.

President Robinson shared the rationale for moving up the English (Puente) position. This was ranked 10th on the FHPC list. Humanities and religious studies was ranked 9th. We are a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). This is one of our largest groups of students and this causes Puente to have a waitlist. This is a difficult decision, and the provided document reflects as much rationale and consideration as possible. Moriah, as the chair of Humanities and Religious Studies, thanked the president for all the work on the rationale document. She also noted that, even though this is personally difficult, this better addresses the current needs of students. Moriah noted that the decision to skip the position this time around instead of including it in the current round of hiring is very difficult and there will need to be follow-up conversations to figure this out. Nancy Bahena, students that interact with faculty in areas that they have interest in, are directly affected by those experiences. Tania noted that there needs to be better structured spaces for programs like Umoja and Puente and additionally for space to have these kinds of difficult conversations. Frantz noted that student feedback is an essential part of fixing some of the issues that students experience. Chris noted that these two programs have significantly closed gaps in the success rates for students. Karen thanked Jessica for this work and Jessica thanked Karen for her unwavering commitment to having difficult conversations that are in the best interest of students.

B. Revisions to Institutional Effectiveness Council Charge and Composition:

The senate reviewed the revisions to the Institutional Effectiveness Council charge and composition. Bri Hays noted that one of the goals for this documents is to make it a solid document for other councils and committees to use and reference if needed. The revisions here were done to reduce redundancies and clarify several aspects of the charge and composition. This will be back for senate endorsement at the next meeting.

C. Community Campus Police:

The senate reviewed campus policing and the provided documents from the Chancellor. This came to us at the end of the last semester. Karen noted that there is now a linked document from the Chancellor sharing her vision for campus policing and asked senators to please look at it. Academic Senate wants to make a taskforce in tandem with AFT on this issue and there will be a callout for this taskforce.

D. Recommended Practices to Increase Student Evaluation Participation for Grossmont's Academic Senate:

The senate reviewed the recommended practices. There has been work about the evaluation language in the contract. There is a best practices section in the contract that is difficult to implement and AFT has requested input and feedback. Grossmont has developed some suggestions. Please review this and provide feedback.

E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and National University:

The senate reviewed the MOU, the executive summary of the MOU, and the feedback to Barbara Gallegos. This has been a standing item since the last semester. This has not been voted on yet as we are waiting for further work to be done.

F. For Feedback: Draft of District Memorandum of Understanding Approval and Implementation Process:

Karen asked senators to please review this and give feedback on the MOU approval and implementation process draft.

8. Reports –

A. Updates from Curriculum:

None.

B. Additional Committee Updates:

None.

C. Academic Senate President's Report:

Karen asked senators that if there is anything that needs support from Academic Senate to please reach out.

D. Vice President's Report:

Wayne Ross shared the linked updated service committee with senators and asked them to please look at it.

E. Part-Time Faculty Report:

None.

F. Other:

None.

9. Adjourn – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.