



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, February 26th, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Rachele Panganiban, Christopher Torres

Guests: Rachel Anderson, Annalinda Arroyo, Stacie Rodriguez, 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 and guests introduced themselves and discussed varying opinions, recipes, and recent interactions with cottage cheese.
 3. **Public Comments** – None.
 4. **Announcements** –
 - A. Next Academic Senate Election Coordinator:
Karen noted that we have need of an Academic Senate election coordinator as there are elections this semester. We now have a workflow document for this position that will help the next coordinator. This work is mostly facilitating nominations and communicating to nominees.
 - B. Game Night:
Karen shared information on the ThRIVE game night happening after this meeting at 4pm in the I-building. Please consider going if you have time. This is organized by Karla Gutierrez and Scott Stambach. Karla shared that there will be snacks at the

event.

C. SLOs on Canvas Trainings:

Karen shared a link to the SLOs canvas trainings on the agenda and on the AS website. This round of training will be split into two sessions with session 1 focusing more on Canvas and how to use it and session 2 focusing on how to tie SLOs to the assessments of those SLOs. Session 1 will be on Monday the 9th from 5-6pm and session 2 will be on Monday the 16th from 5-6pm.

D. 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 02-12-2026 Minutes:

The Senate reviewed the minutes from 02-12-2026.

B. Revisions to Institutional Effectiveness Council Charge and Composition:

This item was pulled and will be discussed under Action Item A and voted on separately.

C. Recommended Practices to Increase Student Evaluation Participation:

The Senate reviewed the recommended practices to increase student evaluation participation.

The Senate voted to approve the Consent Calendar, minus Item B, by unanimous consent.

6. Action Items –

A. IEC charge and composition (Consent Calendar Item B):

Rachel noted that the time for this meeting was from 9am to 9:45am but has now been changed to 9am – 11am to accommodate part-time faculty.

Curtis/Jabour to approve the IEC charge and Composition. 16 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

7. Information Items –

A. Student Services Spotlight:

Rachel Anderson, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, shared updates with senators. Rachel acknowledged the amazing work and experiences that she has had with faculty on this campus. She shared context on where financial aid has been,

where it is, and where it's going. Staffing in the financial aid office has gone from 4 people to 10 in the last year and a half. Some key highlights include new compliant policies and procedures, renovated website with student-centered language, consistent staff meetings, certification completions, and staffing transformations. These changes, and the work being done, have had measurable positive impacts. A significant goal for Financial Aid is to have the FAFSA application rate for our college go from the current 35% to 50% over the next 3 years. The committee discussed various ways to partner with Rachel on incorporating financial aid throughout the campus. These slides will be available on the Academic Website documents for this meeting.

- B. Supporting Black Student Success: Statewide Research Implications for Cuyamaca:
Bri Hays, Senior Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, shared slides with senators. Bri shared context regarding the previous and current Student Equity Plan's. The slides include information on our data on access, course success, how Umoja can help students, the implications for our college, and the facilitator of and barriers to transfer for African American/Black students. These slides will be available on the Academic Website documents for this meeting.
- C. Process Document for Review: Cuyamaca Discretionary Reassigned Time Request & Review Process:
The senators reviewed the process document for review. This breaks down the process for reassigned time roles. The goal is to be more organized and consistent. 1.5 years ago, there was disagreement on who decides the appointees for these roles but there is now an agreement that SOC appoints to these roles. A final draft of this document with a finalized timeline will return for final endorsement.
- D. For Feedback: Draft of District Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Approval and Implementation Process:
The senate reviewed the draft of the District MOU approval and implementation process. This was brought at the last meeting and now there is more feedback. Karen gave context to the MOU between GCCCD and NU. There are differing opinions from the colleges and the district on how this process would work.
- E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and National University:
These notes are same as the notes for Information Item D.
- F. For Feedback: Administrative Procedure 4230 (AP 4230) – Grading and Academic Symbols:
The senate reviewed AP 4230. Karen asked senators to please provide feedback and noted that BPs are essentially the spiritual guide of policies and APs are the execution of those BPs, which tend to be more operational. Karen asked senators to think about what we want our relationships between APs and BPs to be like.
- G. Community Campus Police
The senate reviewed documents pertaining to the community campus policing options

at Cuyamaca College. A taskforce is being put together for this issue. 5 people from each campus and Jim Mahler from AFT will participate in this taskforce. Karen noted that Chancellor Lynn Neault will be coming to our next meeting and asked senators to prepare some questions ahead of time. The senate wants to discuss the process for communication from the district, to have the Chancellor outline her vision for the purview of the district and the purview of each college and their administrators, especially at the Vice President level.

8. Reports –

A. Committee and Coordinator Reports:

i. Updates from Curriculum:

Annalinda, CIM is almost operational. Stay tuned.

ii. Outcomes and Assessment Committee:

None.

iii. Additional Committee Updates:

None.

B. Academic Senate President's Report:

Karen. BP 4035 on controversial topics was discussed at ESSC and the idea of eliminating it was introduced. This was paused to give individuals time to process what BP 4035 is and whether it should be kept as is, modified, or removed. Joint AS discussed creating an official tool or means to do evaluations on administrators at all levels.

C. Vice President's Report:

Rachel Polakoski shared her VP report with senators. Check out the committee services linked in the agenda. The link takes people to an Airtable with more detailed information. Rachel highlighted that we have open hiring committee positions, including for the Dean of CE. Rachel emphasized the need for an AS Elections Coordinator.

D. Part-Time Faculty Report:

None.

E. Other:

None.

9. **Adjourn** – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.