



## ACADEMIC • SENATE

### Minutes

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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, Rachel Polakoski, Joan Rettinger, Wayne Ross, Miriam Simpson, Christopher Torres, Heidi Wilson, Liza Kakos (as proxy for Asma Yassi)

**Absent:** Rachelle Panganiban

**Guests:** Lynn Neault, Jessica Robinson, Jeanie Machado Tyler, Rana Al-Shaikh, Sade Burrell, Zefora Ortiz, Annalinda Arroyo

**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 2:02pm.
  2. **Introductions** – Senators and guests introduced themselves.
  3. **Public Comments** – Joan Rettinger, raised concern about losing parking spots behind the E-building. There have been three occasions where there were no available spots. Joan requested to be notified when the parking spots that are blocked off by construction tape are available for parking.
  4. **Announcements** –
    - A. Need Academic Senate Election Coordinator:  
Tabled.
    - B. SLOs on Canvas Trainings:  
Tabled.
    - C. 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 02-26-2026 Minutes:

The Senate reviewed the minutes from 02-26-2026.

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. Student Services Spotlight:

Sade Burrell, Zefora Ortiz, and Rana Al-Shaikh presented their Student Services spotlight. Each person shared context and data concerning different categorical programs. The team shared information on the EOPS team structure and its purpose of supporting first generation college students on campus. They also shared data on student population, EOPS eligibility requirements, and the timeline for EOPS grants. The team shared information on CARE and its purpose of supporting single-parent households. CARE has similar eligibility requirements as EOPS but includes workshops. The team shared information on NextUp including data on current and former foster youth from 2013-2026. May 20<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual foster care awareness day from 11am-1pm. The team shared information on workshops that took place in fall 2025 and spring 2025. The team also shared information on RISE, which is the program that supports undocumented students or mixed status families, including data, what services RISE provides, and workshops from 2025. The team shared additional information on CalWORKs and its S.T.E.P.S. program, as well as DSPS and their services.

Rita asked about when students can apply for these programs. The team explained that, for some programs, they can be applied to all year long and others need to be applied for earlier in the semester to meet the eligibility requirements such as counselor meetings.

Tania recommended involving instructors in the grade review process, so they become aware of when a student needs extra support.

Debra asked if translation services for our newcomer non-native English speakers are provided. Sade noted that there are some language translators for the counseling

appointments and if we don't have an appropriate translator, we collect that data so we can try addressing that equity gap when possible.

B. Visit from Chancellor Dr. Lynn Neault:

Chancellor Dr. Lynn Neault visited Academic Senate and discussed topics with senators. Chancellor Neault discussed the Chancellor's forum from October and gave updates on progress made. [Here is the document link provided by the Chancellor.](#)

The District's priorities involve eligibility for growth funding, institutionalizing the community engagement project, exploring a new student system, stability and consistency in procedures and processes, pursuing a bond measure in 2026, implementing a centralized facilities unit, and rebuilding and restructuring district services.

One faculty member noted that we faculty, and specifically counselors, should be involved in the exploration of a product for a New Student System.

It was also asked how faculty positions are split between both campuses and it possible for that process to reflect the budget allocation percentage between both campuses. The Chancellor agreed to look into the matter and report back.

During her update the Chancellor made it clear that campus safety is and has been the primary focus. The current structure is not working, and we need to gather input. Our options are to try and increase our sheriff presence or to have our own police force on campus. We are exploring models from other colleges and gathering information. The conversation begins with restructuring CAPs. Senators noted that the job description for CAPs doesn't accurately reflect the services that are being provided and asked why those job descriptions aren't what is being enforced, to which the Chancellor agreed and said that the lack of alignment with the official job description is a reflection of a long-standing culture and stated that we need to methodically evaluate the current CAPs system and how we want CAPs to be culturally and practically.

Following the Chancellor's updates, senators called for more intentional partnership with the District so that the District can understand the unique needs of the campuses. Senators shared examples of friction points that are being faced and the feel of changes in culture over time that have culminated in a feeling of a large cultural shift that has led to faculty as a whole worrying about District overreach on local matters. Specifically, senators shared concerns over the lack of local control over areas that in the faculty CBA fall under the VP's discretion as it seems VPs have been directed to remain inflexible across both campuses. Faculty feel the inflexibility is a reflection of the culture and level of micromanagement coming from the District that has hindered the campus's ability to innovate and adequately serve students. Senators specifically requested that the Chancellor share her vision for the District and campuses purviews, particularly at the VP levels.

The Chancellor acknowledged the concerns and assured the senators that she was not

aware of any strict policies directed at areas falling on VP purviews as they are not coming from her and that she supports a culture where the VPs are able to use their discretion to serve their campuses. The Chancellor also assured senators that there is direct and intentional commitment to doing the work needed for addressing concerns.

C. Community Campus Police:  
Tabled.

D. BP 4035: Controversial Issues:  
Tabled.

## 8. Reports –

A. Committee and Coordinator Reports:

i. Updates from Curriculum:  
None.

ii. Outcomes and Assessment Committee:  
None.

iii. Additional Committee Updates:  
None.

B. Academic Senate President's Report:  
Tabled.

C. Vice President's Report:  
Rachel Polakoski shared her VP report with senators. There is still a dire need for an elections coordinator.

D. Part-Time Faculty Report:  
Tabled.

E. Other:  
None.

9. **Adjourn** – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 3:56pm.