



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Fabienne Bouton, Dan Curtis, Frantz Farreau, Rita Ghazala, Sayyida Masoom Gilani, Nancy Bahena (as proxy for Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks), 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: Karla Gutierrez, Rachele Panganiban

Guests: Annalinda Arroyo, Jeanie Machado Tyler, Jessica Robinson, Erika Balakian, Bri Hays, Brieanna Cuellar

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 2:04pm.
 - 2. Introductions** – None
 - 3. Public Comments** – Rachel Polakoski noted that the math department hired Wayne Ross as a full-time faculty member. She asked everyone to clap if/when he arrives and senators did so.

Rita shared that there will be another Storytime event, May 6th at 5:30pm and encouraged everyone to attend.

4. Announcements –

A. Outstanding Faculty Award Nominations Open:

Karen asked senators to send nominations in to acknowledge any faculty that have gone above and beyond to support our community, students, college, and peers. The winners will be announced at fall convocation. The nominations close April 30th.

B. Film Screening of The Voice of Hind Rajab:

On Wednesday, April 29th at 5pm there will be a free film screening of The Voice of Hind Rajab. There will be a 5pm reception with food and a 6pm showing until about 7:30pm with a facilitated discussion afterward to process any feelings that viewers have.

C. Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival AND Cuyamaca Open House:

Both the Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival event as well as the Cuyamaca College Open House event will be taking place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

D. Meeting Location for April and May meetings:

The rest of the meetings for the semester will be taking place in E-206. Frantz asked about having extension cords for meetings to plug computers into.

E. Other:

Other

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 04-16-2026 Minutes:

The Senate reviewed the minutes from 04-16-2026.

B. Endorsement of ROC Ranked Resource Requests List:

The Senate reviewed the ROC Ranked Resource Requests List.

C. Endorsement of CTC Ranked Resource Requests List:

The Senate reviewed the CTC Ranked Resource Requests List

D. Endorsement of FSPC Ranked Resource Requests List:

The Senate reviewed the FSPC Ranked Resource Requests List.

E. Approval of Fall 2026-Spring 2027 Faculty Hiring Priorities Ranked List with Rationale:

The Senate reviewed the Fall 2026-Spring 2027 Faculty Hiring Priorities Ranked List with Rationale. This item was pulled by request for discussion.

F. Endorsement of proposed revision of BP 4035 Controversial Issues:

The Senate reviewed the proposed revisions to BP 4035 Controversial Issues.

The Senate voted to approve the Consent Calendar, minus pulled items, by unanimous consent.

6. Action Items –

A. Approval of Fall 2026-Spring 2027 Faculty Hiring Priorities Ranked List with Rationale:

The Fall 2026-Spring 2027 Faculty Hiring Priorities Ranked List with Rationale was pulled from the consent calendar for discussion. Joan Rettinger noted that the Workforce Development Committee discussed the ranking that came through this year and Joan brought that feedback here to discuss. The feedback included revisions to the rubric in order to give more weight and value to CE on the campus. The gap between student enrollment and Full-Time faculty in CE is only growing and there are not enough Full-Time faculty available for program review or the other important work that then falls to adjunct in order to supplement. CE overall does not support the current ranking list. Additionally, the meeting for FHPC is early in the morning and not easy for CE to accommodate as they tend to be scheduled more in the evening. Rachel Polakoski shared some recommendations like reviewing the ranking lists in totality for several years to use as part of the scoring.

Karen noted that FHPC, which she co-chairs, uses the scores from individuals instead of scores from a larger group discussion. Karen agreed that we need to find a more holistic approach to scoring in this committee to approach these types of issues that are recurring, like in CE, to create a more equitable process and result.

Frantz recommended changing the process for scoring from an individual scoring process to a group scoring process. He also noted that coming up with ways help when cycles are repeating like potentially adding the ability to challenge rankings. Karen noted that taking preventative steps to address why these cycles are happening and what issues are arising ahead of the list coming out would be a more collaborative approach instead of challenging rankings, as this could cause preventable friction between faculty. Karen recommended potentially adding this as an agenda item for a future meeting in order to create space for a more in-depth conversation.

Rettinger/Bouton to approve the FHPC list. 11 Yes, 6 No, 0 Abstentions. Motion Passed.

7. Information Items –

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

- i. Jessica shared updates on with senators regarding the Faculty Obligation Number (FON). This number is the total required full-time faculty for both colleges and goes up or down depending on Full-Time Equivalent for Students (FTES). This used to be a definite number and is currently at 93 with recruitments included. The District Budget Committee will be having a discussion on FON in May. It will be likely that we will start hiring faculty more based on needs and budget. Jessica will return with more information on FON in May after that DBC meeting.

- ii. Erika Balakian shared updates on our bookstore. Over the past year there has been some discussion about bookstore location on both campuses. Less of our courses are using physical textbooks and the bookstore hours are reflecting that slow decline. This has pushed us to review the need for a physical bookstore on our campus and led to the decision to shift the storage of books and supplies over to Grossmont campus. Barnes and Noble, who our current contract is with, notified us that reducing the physical footprint down to just Grossmont would be insufficient to continue the contract. This conversation ended with us coming to a mutual agreement to transition to an online bookstore instead of contracting through Barnes and Noble. The physical bookstore will close down on the day of commencement. We are also reviewing our current food vending machines due to different concerns like expired products and location options around campus. We will be partnering with student clubs to offer Cuyamaca swag through Tappi's. We will also be transitioning to a free model for student supplies through Cuyamaca Cares once it transitions to the new I-building space, as well as distribution locations in places like the library. The offerings will include, scantrons, pencils, pens, notebooks, and more essentials. Additionally, workbooks for the ESL program cost a lot of money and we realized that we can print them ourselves and save money for us and our students. We are also getting rid of the paid printers for students and will offer students free printing options.
- iii. Update on Administrative Positions. We have submitted for a new FMO Director after Bryce left in December and this position has been greenlit for recruitment. We will hopefully have someone in the position around August. For the time being, we have a professional consultant, Tim Flood, who is helping through June and possibly July if he is able. We have an interim dean for CTE, Miguel Alvarez and Jeanie has a new Admin Assistant, Mary Flaherty. After June 30, we will be eligible to permanently replace the CTE Dean position. The Dean of Equity departed recently and this has caused us to begin reviewing this position in totality. Bri Hays noted that there is thoughtfulness and intentionality behind reviewing the position and that she will be taking over for the Equity Dean position in the interim. There was some data that was sent to deans that was incorrect and is causing confusion regarding professional development hours. There will be a revised set of data that will go out next week.

B. Updates from Bri Hays, M.S., Senior Dean, Institutional Effectiveness, Success and Equity:

Bri Hays shared next steps/contacts related to the Student Success and Equity Dean functions.

C. Student Services Spotlight updates from Brianna Cuellar, Dean of Counseling:

Brianna Cuellar shared updates from Student Services. Brianna shared her experience and job history briefly with senators. Brianna also shared the overall counseling role at Cuyamaca College and highlighted work being done in these counseling spaces such as general counseling seeing about 2500 students unduplicated, the spaces where counseling is infusing its work to reach as many students as possible like the Career Café, the progress of Umoja and Puente, and more. Counseling is putting in great effort to build the relationship that students have with counseling and increase engagement. This is being done by reaching out to areas like the Veteran's Center, Athletics, Rising Scholars, and many more. Brianna encouraged faculty to reach out if they have any ideas on ways to collaborate with counseling.

- D. Documents presented at the Technology Planning and Policy Council (TPPC):
Karen shared documents from TPPC for senators to review. These will return at our next meeting for discussion. The agreement from the AI taskforce is that if an issue falls under 10+1 then they would have Academic Senate approval from both colleges or it would not move forward.
- E. Developing a proposal for a Taskforce for Increasing Engagement in Shared Governance:
Tabled.
- F. Creation of the Academic Senate AP/BP Review Workgroup:
Tabled.

8. Reports –

- A. Committee and Coordinator Reports:
 - i. Updates from Curriculum:
None.
 - ii. Additional Committee Updates:
None.
- B. Academic Senate President's Report:
Grossmont's PSC 123 course was approved by the GCCCD Board despite the resolution the Cuyamaca Academic Senate passed at the last meeting on 4/14. The curriculum committees at both colleges need to rework the alignment process to address the gap that this course highlighted. Based on the discussions held at the board meeting on 4/21, it is now a priority for Cuyamaca faculty to find a way to repair relationships and better represent to the board the amazing work being done by Cuyamaca faculty.
- C. Vice President's Report:
Rachel Polakoski shared her VP report and updated committee service opportunities with senators.

D. Part-Time Faculty Report:
None.

E. Other:
None.

9. **Adjourn** – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.