



ACADEMIC • SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, September 10th, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Roula Aoneh, Nancy Bahena, Fabienne Bouton, Annalinda Arroyo (as proxy for Dan Curtis), Rita Ghazala, Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks, Amy Huie, Tania Jabour, Camille Jack, Karla Gutierrez (as proxy for Rachel Polakoski), Christopher Torres, Asma Yassi

Absent: Frantz Farreau, Debra Hills, Olga Sukhanova, Heidi Wilson

Guests: Jessica Robinson, Rachel Jacob-Almeida, Jane Gazale, Erica Balakian, Bri Hays, Tammi Marshall, Robert Davis, Brieanna Cuellar, Karun Kapur, Steven Domingo

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** – Senators and guests introduced themselves and shared core summer memories

3. **Public Comments** –

4. **Announcements** –

A. Academic Senate Member and Guest Introductions

i. SOC Membership Updates
Tabled

ii. Unofficial Notes to be shared

Karen shared that Rachel won't be able to take her unofficial notes this semester as she is assisting with MSE Dean duties. Karen asked senators to continue the tradition in whatever form we want to. Karla offered to take the unofficial notes this week.

B. Updated Committee Service Opportunities
Tabled.

C. Participatory Governance Faculty Application Form
Tabled.

D. Adjunct Committee Pay Procedures
Tabled.

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 05-28-2026 Minutes:
The Senate tabled the minutes from 05-28-2026 to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. Action Items –

A. Pulled Items:

7. Information Items –

A. Updates from Dr. Jessica Robinson, Cuyamaca College President:
President Robinson shared updates with senators. She discussed important topics including faculty recruiting and participatory governance with senators, along with documents that will be released online. We are moving forward with 4 positions: Biology – Physiology, English – Umoja, Counseling – Dual Enrollment/General Counseling, and Surveying.

The biology position is a critical need for enrollment and the sustainability of multiple essential programs.

There is currently no full-time English faculty member assigned to Umoja and this role aligns with our mission, vision, and values, particularly when it pertains to our Black and African American students.

Dual Enrollment is a big priority for our college and hiring this position would build even more support.

The Surveying position was ranked 5th but got approved as the 4th hire. There is increasing enrollment and sustained workforce demand.

These positions are being recruited due to 3 retirements and 1 faculty leaving. Dr.

Robinson gave context to the FON and how that will impact the process of hiring faculty going forward. There will be a much more intentional look at the totality of hiring. Putting faculty hiring at the forefront of the budget, looking at our full-time and adjunct loads for patterns, and more. Dr. Robinson noted that she will be back in October to give updates.

Moriah thanked Dr. Robinson and Erica for their collaboration and intentionally with their new approach to the FON.

Dr. Robinson also discussed facilities updates. We were in recruitment for FMO director but, unfortunately, it was a failed search, and this means that we must leave it open for 6 months. We will pick up the search in January and potentially have someone in the role by the 2027-2028 academic year. George Attar will be our Interim Maintenance Supervisor.

Dr. Robinson noted that Measure G for the bond is critical and asked senators to spread the word.

We have a partnership with Kumeyaay Community College and we were approached by them in regard to the partnership. They sent our college an official letter asking us to remove any reference of Kumeyaay and Kumeyaay Studies from our college and college website. The response has been to comply with the request and have conversations with everyone on campus about the implications of doing this. As a result, Kumeyaay Studies will be moving to program discontinuance. There are about 20 students working on certificates of achievement right now in this program and we will need to work with them closely to smooth over any issues.

Moriah gave context and noted that this impacts people in real life. Stan Rodriguez is no longer with our college because this decision leads to the end of his program. This is extremely difficult for many people and isn't being done lightly.

Dr. Robinson also shared the process of institutionalizing certain positions. Associate Dean of Strong Workforce is one of the positions that our college and our sister college strongly need.

B. Visit from District IT:

Karun Kapur and Steven Domingo shared their PowerPoint presentation with senators. This presentation is available on the Academic Senate website. The current Mitel system reached its end of life in 2025 with support ending in 2029. Mitel filed for bankruptcy and Mitel stopped its security patches for our system in December of 2025. Additionally, we cannot buy any new hardware or feature updates. This causes a critical risk to our district and we are acting as quickly as possible to find a solution.

The project will replace the on-premises phone system, implement cloud-based telephony system, support the district and both colleges, and will have features based on recommendations from everyone in the district. They shared the timeline for this

project and noted that they want feedback ASAP because the process has already started and earlier feedback is better. There is a questionnaire that is about 24 questions long to submit this feedback, with no end date.

C. Updates on Instructional Projects from Bri Hays:

Bri Hays shared her PowerPoint with senators. The presentation will be available on the Academic Senate website. Bri shared updates on accreditation and RSI. The site visit will be on September 21st and 22nd. The IEPI Partnership Resource Team was approved to help us with our Distance Education needs. Moriah spoke on RSI and how there is intentional need to support faculty in implementation as well as being aware of the totality of the situation that faculty are in. Bri also shared what is being done in preparation for the visit. There will be an open forum in the Cicatti Theatre on September 21st at 1:30 and a faculty interview at 4pm in I-209. There will be a report out on September 22nd at 10am in the Cicatti Theatre as well.

D. MOU: Cuyamaca College & Service to School (S2S) Partnership:

Robert Davis and Brianna Cuellar shared their PowerPoint presentation with senators. Robert Davis has been the Veterans Center Supervisor since October of 2025 and Brianna Cuellar is the Dean of Counseling. The S2S organization helps veterans and active-duty students to get into one of the 31 partner Ivy League campuses through application support, mentorship, admission support, and transfer process support. This is a great opportunity for our students to get the help they need in order to transfer to an Ivy league school. This will be a one-year pilot with the goal of implementation, learning from students, and evaluating the result to improve and hopefully continue the program. We are the first community college to be a part of this nationwide.

E. Faculty Discussion Topics:

Tabled.

8. Reports –

A. Committee and Coordinator Reports:

i. Updates from Curriculum:

None.

ii. Additional Committee Updates:

None.

B. Academic Senate President's Report:

Tabled.

C. Vice President's Report:

None.

D. Part-Time Faculty Report:

None.

E. Other:
None.

9. Adjourn – Karen Marrujo adjourned the meeting at 4:02pm.