CUYAMACA
·COLLEGE·

ACADEMIC•SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, October 8th, 2026
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Marrujo, Roula Aoneh, Annalinda Arroyo, Nancy Bahena, Fabienne Bouton, Rita Ghazala, Natalia Sigala (as proxy for 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: Erica Balakian, Eddie Franco, Rachel Jacob-Almeida, Jessica Robinson, Bri Hays, Rachel Andersen, Stacie Rodriguez

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 –**

3. **Public Comments** – Eddie Franco introduced himself as an adjunct counselor and shared public comment with senators. Eddie sent emails out to promote undocumented student success week and shared a RISE program flyer with senators. Events will be taking place all week long from October 19th – October 22nd. Eddie asked senators to refer any students with questions or concerns to Eddie online or in-person at the RISE office in I-126.

4. **Announcements** –

   A. Unofficial Shared Notes from 9/24:
   Karen forgot to ask someone to take unofficial notes at the start of the meeting and asked if any senator with good notes of the meeting is willing to share them if they're comfortable doing so.

B. Phone System Department Requirements Questionnaire:
Karen linked the phone system questionnaire again if anyone would still like to take it.

C. Cuyamaca Block Party:
Rachel shared information on the THRIVE Block Party happening on Thursday, 10/22, from 4pm to 6pm on the Grand Lawn.

D. Campus Events:
Tabled.

E. Culture & Community Circle Workshops:
Tabled.

F. Other:
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 09-24-2026 Minutes:
The Senate reviewed the minutes from 09-24-2026. Pulled from consent calendar until the next meeting.

B. For Endorsement: Credit for Prior Learning Roadmap:
The Senate reviewed the Credit for Prior Learning Roadmap that was presented on 09/24/2026. Approved by consent.

6. **Action Items –**

A. Pulled Items:
None.

7. **Information Items** –

A. 2025-26 Program Review Resource Request Report:
Dr. Jessica Robinson, College President, and Erica Balakian, Vice President of Administrative Services, presented slides to senators. These slides are available on the academic senate website. There was a discussion between the president and vice president about the need for transparency and awareness when it came to the budget and the program review process. One of the priorities is keeping individuals updated on the progress of requests and letting them know the status before commencement. There are three committees that get these requests, 11 from ROC (Resource

Operations Committee), 3 from CTC (College Technology Committee), and 7 from FSPC (Facilities, Safety and Planning committee). There was a total of 21 requests, 14 were approved, 5 were not approved by being deferred or declined for this cycle, and 2 were pending for cost analysis. The pair noted that there are some general updates to things like devices, carpet, and facilities in general, that should be updated outside of this process. Erica stressed that if there is a health and safety concern it should be addressed through the work order system or it needs to be elevated to a dean and/or Erica to address it quickly. Program Review should be more focused on innovation. 20 FHPC (Faculty Hiring Priorities Committee) requests and 14 CHPC (Classified Hiring Priorities Committee) requests. The Dual Enrollment position is taking longer than it should be and Jessica noted that continuous delay is largely due to the process implemented by the Personnel Commission. Jessica noted that she will be back on Nov 19th to talk about COMM and ASTR, and additionally touched on the conversation from the previous meeting regarding the changes to the FON approach. There is also a need to take a closer look at our departments and areas where we can address their respective faculty loads. Erica went into detail on the requests from each committee. Dr. Robinson gave context to some of the FSPC requests and noted that many of the requests that are denied or need cost estimates are part of greater conversations that need to happen, specifically with athletics as they tend to be more complex. Cost is not the only point of consideration; intent is a big part of where we are and where we want to go with these requests. Erica gave additional context to how these requests are funded including: Prop 20 Restricted Lottery funds, CC Tech Plan Funding, Resource Requests Funds, Facility Resource Requests Funds, and more. Jessica noted that we shouldn't have a large ending balance because we should be doing a good job of allocating funds appropriately throughout the year. We had a very large Ending Fund Balance of approximately $900,000 from personnel deficit and noted that this instance is due to the time it's taking the personnel commission to hire people. This is causing unnecessary work to be put on other individuals because positions aren't being filled and the work needs to be done. Jessica stressed that this is not okay. Both Jessica and Erica stressed that they want to fund these projects and encouraged everyone to connect and communicate with them on these. They also shared the Budget and Facilities Forum happening on Monday, November 16th, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The senate showed Erica so much love and support for all of the great work that she has done for the college.

B. <u>Financial Aid Essentials: Key items to know in order to support students</u>:
Rachel Andersen, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships; Stacie Rodriguez, Financial Aid Supervisor; and Tania Jabour, English Department Chair and Outcomes and Assessment Co-Coordinator, presented slides. Tania expressed that financial aid is a significant way to support student success and equity. Rachel shared the updated Financial Aid website. There are different kinds of applications based on students criteria. There are two financial aid workshops per month during the spring and fall respectively. Generous donors give through the foundation and scholarships can go under-utilized at times. Scholarship applications are open through November 5th for the spring semester and the scholarships applications during spring will apply to the following fall semester. The scholarship application is a single application that

matches students to applicable scholarships. Students must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress with a cumulative GPA of 2.0, complete at least 67% of the courses they attempt, and complete their program withing 150% of the program timeframe (60-unit majors within 90 units, 30-unit majors within 45 units, etc.). Students receive a warning term if they fall out of compliance and if they don't meet the requirements after that warning then they are disqualified and must complete a SAP appeal. Rachel also shared dates and deadlines from the slide, as well as disbursement dates. Tania shared ideas to integrate Financial Aid into the courses that faculty are offering, the criteria for emergency assistance, and the opportunities to connect students with resources. Financial Aid event on October 21st, from 1-3pm.

C. Updates on coordinated campus efforts related to regular and substantive interaction (RSI):
Bri Hays, Senior Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Success & Equity and Acting Vice President of Instruction shared updates with senators. Bri shared context on RSI and noted that this work is critical and needs to be at the front of our priorities. There is a recommendation for compliance, and we need to address it seriously and with intent. Bri shared feedback from the recent team visit. The team noted that we don't have a campus-wide shared understanding of what RSI is, there is inconsistency with the student experience online, there is not consistent timely feedback for students across their courses, there is no consistent way to evaluate RSI, and while faculty evaluations are one tool, there are many ways to ensure that RSI is being met. Karla asked about taskforce opportunities and Bri noted to stay tuned because they are coming in some form. Senators discussed ways to address this and Karen noted that there will most likely need to be conversations with AFT for this. Karen asked senators for feedback on the public comment that she will be making at the upcoming Board Meeting.

D. Revised Institutional Effectiveness Council Charge and Composition:
Institutional Effectiveness Council Co-Chairs, Rachel Polakoski and Bri Hays, shared the revised IECC charge and composition. Not a lot of edits after the big revisions were made last year. This will return at our next meeting for a vote.

E. Faculty Hiring Priorities Committee (FHPC) Charge and Composition:
Tabled.

F. Updated 2024-2025 District Services Pilot Program Review Report:
    i. Key contextual points the report includes:
        1. An outline of the pilot program's launch at the Chancellor's request, designed to establish a systematic, transparent approach to planning and resource allocation across District Services.

        2. An explanation of the two-year duration of this initial cycle, which gave departments time to refine submissions and allowed District Research to thoroughly analyze 20 distinct goals across six departments.

3. The 2026-2027 program review cycle launched this September, building on lessons learned from this inaugural process, and will continue as a pilot until a formal evaluation is completed

G. Faculty Discussion Topics:
   i. Updates from Chancellor's Planning Forum: Building the Future. The forum was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.
   Tabled

   ii. Draft of 2026-2027 Annual Academic Senate Goals.
   Karen shared that RSI is the #1 goal for Academic Senate. Additionally, there are goals to support more effective faculty communication, engagement, and organization across the campus, and nurture stronger partnerships across the District.

   iii. Other.
   None

8. Reports –

A. Committee and Coordinator Reports:
   i. Updates from Curriculum:
   None.

   ii. Additional Committee Updates:
   None.

B. Academic Senate President's Report:
   None.

C. Vice President's Report:
   None.

D. Part-Time Faculty Report:
   None.

E. Other:
   None.

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