

Riverside City College Academic Senate
December 9, 2024 • 3:00 - 5:00 PM • Hall of Fame

3:00 I. Call to Order at 3:00 pm, quorum met

Roll Call

Academic Senate Officers (Term ending 2026)

President: Jo Scott-Coe
Vice President-Elect: Star Taylor
Secretary-Treasurer: Micherri Wiggs

Department Senators (Term ending 2025)

Applied Technology: Patrick Scullin (arrived 3:05pm)
Behavioral Science: Eddie Perez
Business, Law & CIS: Skip Berry (not present)
Communication Studies: Lucretia Rose
English: Christine Sandoval (arrived 3:02pm)
History/Philosophy/Humanities/Ethnic Studies: Daniel Borses
Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis
Life Sciences: Lisa Thompson-Eagle
Mathematics: Evan Enright
Music: Steve Mahpar (not present)
World Languages: Araceli Calderón

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Will Kim
Chemistry: Leo Truttmann
Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler (not present)
Counseling: Sal Soto (arrived 3:05pm)
Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck
Economics/Geography/Political Science: Kendralyn Webber (arrived 3:04pm)
Kinesiology: Jim Elton (not present)
Nursing Education: Lee Nelson (not present)
Physical Science: James Cheney (not present)
School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Emily Philippsen

Associate Faculty Senator

Lindsay Weiler

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter (not present)
ASC: Jacquie Lesch
EPOC: Wendy McKeen
GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen
RDASLC: Patrick Scullin
SAS LC: Vacant
Curriculum: Kelly Douglass (not present)
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association

Emily Philippsen

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo (not present)

VP Planning and Development, Interim: Kristi Woods

VP Student Services, Interim: Thomas Cruz-Soto (not present)

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Melissa Harman, Faculty Development & Professor, Chemistry

Virginia White, Program Review & Professor, Life Sciences

Deborah Anna Brown, Associate Professor, History

Mary Rankin, Health Services Supervisor

Lorena Newson, Dean Equity, Inclusion & Engagement

Courtney Carter, Guided Pathways Coordinator & Associate Professor,
Counseling

Bryan Keene, Associate Professor, Art History

Shari Yates, Dean, CTE

Kevin Wurtz, Mental Health Supervisor

Maurice Bowers, Student Equity Grants Specialist

3:02 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C (Enright/Thompson-Eagle) to approve the agenda

3:03 III. Approval of the Minutes Nov. 18

- M/S/C (Borses/Weiler) to approve minutes

3:05 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

V. Committee or Council Updates

- A. EPOC faculty co-chair Wendy McKeen or designee will present the Fall 2024 prioritization process results for RCCAS ratification (information + action)
 - o The annual prioritization process was held and leadership council members ranked all the different initiatives from highest priority to lowest priority. These are the result of our process, as completed through EPOC, for Academic Senate to view and receive. Senate will be voting only to accept these results and to record that our prioritization process has been brought to a successful conclusion. Additional note (as indicated on the results form): English was ranked in the 5th

position but it was removed because it was confirmed to be a replacement position. The results of voting went to EPOC first, then to Academic Senate (now), and then to Dr. Woods and President Oliveros.

- M/S/C (Rose/Calderon) to accept the Fall 2024 prioritization process results (unanimous)
 - There has been some talk of a possible directive coming from the district to pull out counseling positions from prioritization rankings. Please stay tuned. All three senates remain vigilant on this issue.
- B. Faculty Development faculty co-chair Melissa Harman or designee will provide a semester recap and preview of Spring FLEX (information)
- Flex hours are up to date in FLEX track. Please contact Sydney Minter or Melissa Harman with any updates that might be needed.
 - Spring Flex is Friday, February 7, 2025. It will be happening one week earlier than usual because the Friday before the spring semester is a holiday.
 - Our keynote speaker for spring FLEX will be Jose Aguilar Hernandez from Cal Poly Pomona.
 - If anyone has any feedback from the AI series, especially if you found it informative, please let Melissa Harman know because Distance Education is eager in helping faculty continue the series.
 - There will be another AI series through AVID education in the spring.
 - Faculty can get FLEX hours for the MLK Brunch on Tuesday, January 21st from 11am-2:30pm.
 - A senator suggested we ensure there are interpreters for spring FLEX, as well as the MLK brunch. There were no interpreters for fall FLEX and there were some faculty that could not participate.

VI. Ongoing Business

- A. Senate leadership will share the final packet of ASCCC resolutions ratified at Fall 2024 Plenary (information)
- Vice President Wilcoxson provided an overview of highlights for ASCCC Resolutions at our last meeting but we did not have the resolution packet in time to add it to the agenda.
 - At the end of the document now available, you can see the voting delegates' names listed as well. The resolutions that did not pass can also be seen; some were surprising.
 - The District Academic Senate discussed resolutions at its meeting last week. If you have any questions or clarifications, please reach out to President Scott-Coe.
- B. Dr. Mary Rankin and Kevin Wurtz from Student Health & Psychological Services will invite faculty to share feedback regarding ongoing needs for support (discussion). Senators offered the following for consideration:
- Visibility was a theme. One suggestion would be to have a mural of some type on the wall with an arrow pointing students to where Student Health and Psychological Services is located, so that students know where the

physical location is and can easily be identified. Something affordable and cheerful.

- Associate faculty have a difficult time finding health services. We can enable student support by having Student Health and Psychological Services come and speak with associate faculty specifically.
- Is there are physical person that can be contacted through email rather than going through the BIRT process? Also, can the feedback loop be closed so faculty can know if the student has been contacted for a second time?
- Is there a way that faculty and classified professionals can get some type of training and/or development to better assist students with emotional support especially since COVID 19, perhaps in coordination with Faculty/Professional Development?
- Faculty were encouraged to walk students directly to the center when they are experiencing immediate distress.
- Questions about where to locate reporting form for CARES? Clarification that the form is now located in a link at the bottom of RCC home page.
-

M/S/C (Ellis/Sandoval) to extend discussion on this topic for 5 minutes. (unanimous)

- Care Solace was beneficial in helping a faculty member assist one of their students in finding a provider because the students' doctor was not helpful.
- How much of the health services is there to serve colleagues in relationships with one another? Is there a resource available in helping colleagues be emotionally intelligent with one another?
- Is there any information on the website that lets students know who is bilingual or LGBTQ friendly?
- Guideline for common situations: Might faculty have a cheat sheet, including frequently asked questions and/or common phrases that faculty can refer to when students are struggling with hopelessness or anxiety?
- Can a link for Student Health and Psychological Service resources be built in the Canvas shell for faculty?
- Post-election, students are feeling anxious and vulnerable with the rhetoric of national leaders. Workshops and or other resources could be useful.

VII. New Business

A. President Scott-Coe or designee will provide an overview of the proposed Course Caps process drafted by the cross-district workgroup (information + first read)

- The course caps process draft will be back for second read in Spring 2025. Please take this document back to your departments to bring forward any questions or notes.
- There has been an extensive collaboration between faculty and administrators in drafting this process. You can see the list of all participants in the taskforce.
- The draft identifies key principles for defining course caps: integrity of teaching and learning practice, principles for optimal course efficiency/scheduling, workload equity, and financial sustainability.

- Page 3 (at the asterisks) includes a note that changes to caps cannot take place without following the procedures and consulting with discipline faculty.
 - The procedure for proposing modifications to course caps is outlined on 3-5 of the document: one section for faculty proposals and one section for administrative proposals.
 - Senator Questions & Comments:
 - Should the course cap for a course be consistent across the district? Response: As indicated in this draft, the goal is for harmony/consistency and transparency across the district.
 - In the visual arts where students need more physical room, necessary space is something that needs to be addressed as related to course caps discussion.
 - When there is a rollover of a schedule, certain sections of a course may be capped off at a higher number, so impacts need to be considered.
- B. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
- a. District Resources Committee faculty representative
 - Professor Dan Hogan from RDAS volunteered for this position
 - M/S/C:(Scullin/Sandoval) to approve Hogan to serve on the District Resources Committee. (unanimous)
 - b. Faculty Development Rep. for Faculty Guide/Handbook Team (Winter SPRs)
 - Professor Jan Andres has come forward to volunteer to help with the winter project for the handbook.
 - M/S/C (Thompson-Eagle/Kim) to approve Andres in joining the group that will work on updating the Faculty Guide/Handbook. (unanimous)
 - c. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS
 - To be resumed in the spring semester

VIII. Officer Reports

- A. President Scott-Coe and Secretary Treasurer Wiggs will provide any end-of-semester updates (information)
- Welcome to Professor Star Taylor, who will be completing Dr. Ajené Wilcoxson's term as Vice President of Academic Senate (through June 2026).
 - The priority registration work group will be reconvened through EPOC. More information about that coming soon.
 - 12 retiring faculty have reached out to indicated their desire to be put forward for Emeritus status. Others that come in for consideration can still be put forward later.
 - Bookstore concerns remain at the top of mind; working to get this subject on the district academic senate agenda.
 - Computers for students have not been forgotten as a need and we are working to get clarification.
 - Thank you to those senators who attended District Academic Senate meeting last week.

- Classified professionals, especially those involved with leadership councils/strategic planning, have reported discomfort interacting with some faculty members, noting that some faculty resist responding to emails or discussions initiated by classified professionals. Over the break, please consider why this might be happening and what we can do to help change this across campus.
- Our academic senate faculty recognition trust account has a substantial amount of money. Previous senate discussed using the money to sponsor an endowed scholarship. More to come in spring.
- We have had 5 faculty express interest in 3 slots, funded by the district, for the ASCCC AI conference. We will be reaching out to folks Wednesday. There will be more opportunities to come, and we will keep sharing them.
- Please share with students to encourage participation in an upcoming January event: “Critical Perspectives on the 2024 Presidential Election: Analysis and Action,” January 16, 2025 12:30 – 2pm in the Hall of Fame and on zoom. This event is sponsored by CALA (Community Action Leadership Academy), coordinated by Dr. Parissa Clark and Dr. Mike Chavez.

IX. Closed Session

- A. Pursuant to Government Code 54957(b)(1), Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: College President
 - There was no reportable action taken during the closed session.

X. Adjourn at 4:16pm

M/S/C (Calderon/Thompson-Eagle) to adjourn. (unanimous)