

Riverside City College Academic Senate
May 12, 2025 • 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: Star Taylor

Secretary-Treasurer: Megan Bottoms

Department Senators (Term ending 2025)

Applied Technology: Patrick Scullin

Behavioral Science: Eddie Perez

Business, Law & CIS: Skip Berry

Communication Studies: Lucretia Rose

English: Christine Sandoval

History/Philosophy/Humanities/Ethnic Studies: Daniel Borses

Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis

Life Sciences: Gregory Russell

Mathematics: Evan Enright

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Araceli Calderón

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Will Kim

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Kendralyn Webber

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson

Physical Science: James Cheney

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Emily Philippsen

Associate Faculty Senator

Lindsay Weiler

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

ASC: Jacquie Lesch- Arrived at 3:13pm

EPOC: Wendy McKeen-Arrived at 3:21pm

GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen- Arrived at 3:21pm

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Vacant

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association Emily Philippsen

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods

VP Student Services: Vacant

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

- Heather Smith-RCC DE
- Denise Kruizenga- Muro-RAC
- Janet Lehr- RCC DE
- Kayla Henry- RCC ECE
- Courtney Carter-Counseling
- Kris Acevedo- Communications
- Natalie Halsell- Professional Development
- Tammy Vanthul- Nursing
- Shari Yates-Dean CTE
- Shawna Bushnell- Dean DE
- Sharon Walker- Academic Support

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Borses/Sandoval) approved unanimously, with adjustment to item 7C which is to be re-scheduled by request from VP DiMemmo.

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes – April 21 (May 5 tabled)

- M/S/C:(Elton/Berry)-April 21st minutes approved unanimously

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- The Faculty Association is having their Zoom Town Hall meeting from 2:30-3:30 on Tuesday, May 13th at Moreno Valley College. The regular Faculty Association meeting follows directly after the Town Hall.
- There are some conversations going on within the district about the possibility of a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) being on the table for contract negotiations.

- The union is looking at the compensation component for the Distance Education MOU for faculty training that is happening within the district. The deadline to complete the distance education will be June 2026.

B. College Vice President

- Thanks to faculty for hanging in there and doing the best you can for our students. Let's encourage our students to hang in there, too, and not to give up on the hard work that they have put in this semester.
- We had our Annual Transfer Recognition Ceremony on Friday, May 9th. We also had the CALA Awards. On Thursday we have the College CORE Celebration and our nursing scholarships Friday. We hope that faculty spend time with their students and celebrate their accomplishments with them.
- We are preparing for commencement Friday, June 13th. The four ceremonies will be held at 12pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, and 6:30pm. An email explained the breakdown by divisions or disciplines. Next Monday, May 19th is the last day for students to indicate that they want to participate in commencement.
- Watch for emails coming through as we are doing a lot of interviewing for new faculty.
- For summer enrollment we are already at 28% of our target, slightly above where we were last year. There is a lot more fraud protection in place, and at the board meeting it was said that they think they are catching up to 95% of them.
- The fall semester is already at 18% and registration just opened Monday, May 12th.
- The planning for Promise Program Summer Experience is underway and there are wonderful opportunities for faculty to demonstrate and interact with students. Faculty compensation will be through a SPR stipend or some other form of compensation.

C. ASRCC

- Vacant. No report at this time.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- #### A. RCC Assessment Committee
- faculty co-chair Denise Kruizenga-Muro will report back about the GE SLO #1 revision document, with possible additional time requested to consider minor suggested revision for clarity (second read + possible action)
- Kruizenga-Muro and Frazier took Academic Senate's general concerns about clarity back to the Riverside Assessment Committee and counterparts at Norco College and Moreno Valley College. The committees did not see any issue with the language.
 - As something may have been lost in translation, Senator Sandoval is requesting more time to explain her concern and share possible revised language for the GE SLO to avert potential confusion.
 - Senator Sandoval will connect with Profs. Kruizenga-Muro and Frazier offline to see if a possible clarification would be considered and accepted.
 - It was emphasized that this was a collegial request for clarification, not a disagreement about substance.

- B. Curriculum faculty co-chair Kelly Douglass end of semester update including information about the RCCD Lifelong Learning and Self-Development Descriptor (information)
- Curriculum agenda and action items have been minimal this spring.
 - Students are now enrolling in Common Course Numbering (CCN) Phase I: COMM C1000/C1000H, ENGL C1000/C1000H, STAT C1000/C1000H, POLS C1000/C1000H, PSYC C1000/C1000H.
 - Faculty should be announcing these course number changes because some students are not finding them and, in some cases, might be looking for the wrong discipline or course.
 - Phase IIA courses have been available all semester and must be launched by September 19th of this fall: ARTH, ECON, ENGL, HIST.
 - Another raft of course for Phase IIB are coming in hopefully by the end of May. They must launch by next Fall.
 - CCN Phase III also must launch by Fall 2026. There will be 45 more classes plus any honors versions of those courses.
 - The Lifelong Learning and Self-Development descriptor offers a guide for classes that people want to modify for our local GE courses. It is not for transfer students; it is for RCCD GE 2-year terminal degrees. Title 5 provides a description of all other GE categories, so when someone wants to do a modification, the descriptor is already there on the proposal form.
 - The two categories are meant to be inclusive but also to preserve the historical contours from long ago, primarily around nutrition and physical education as well as academic success. The second criteria was about using the language that ASCCC laid out in their 2023 resolution to preserve the category as a local requirement for CalGETC.
- C. DEMC faculty representative, Kirsten Gerdes, will provide an update on district enrollment management (information)
- Spring semester enrollments dipped due to fraudulent enrollments; however, enrollment is still on target to be at 102.3% for FTES for the year.
 - This coming academic year we will see new growth targets for the next 3 years. "Efficient growth" is the key phrase, which means that we want to set targets to allow for growth because enrollment is how we get funding. The projected number for growth is 3%. There will be a big push for dual enrollment for CCAP because district gets more funding for CCAP students.
 - We should expect to see updated enrollment numbers that will exclude the fraudulent enrollments
 - There is a new accounting method for how we calculate FTES in the district but now it is going to be standardized to give everyone a bump in FTES.
 - More conversation to follow about possible implications for funding of classes with a curricular lab component. As this is a faculty purview, Prof. Gerdes remains vigilant in meetings to ensure that unfolding discussions and potential decisions are not made without substantive input from faculty subject matter experts.

D. EPOC faculty co-chair Wendy McKeen, classified co-chair Natalie Halsell, and/or VP of Planning and Development Kristi Woods or designee(s) will present the draft of the strategic plan (first read)

- 2025-2030 RCC Strategic Plan Draft
- On May 7-8 there was a Vision 2030, Region 9 Strategic Planning Workshop in Ontario, CA. The workshop was an opportunity to hear from Chancellor Sonya Christian and our own Chancellor Isaac as well.
- We have already aligned much of our document with Vision 2030.
- The Concept of the Strategic Plan draft is based on momentum points that transfer into our goals of BEST--Build, Engage, Serve, and Treasure—starting with engaging our students in their 1st year experience.
- A couple of frameworks have been set as a foundation for the plan that will serve as a base for the work that the ESCALA team has done.
- The (HSI) Hispanic Serving Institutions team will be pursuing the Seal of Excelencia that ties in with Gina Garcia's work.
- In terms of philosophical frameworks, we are looking at liberatory consciousness, based on Barbara Love's work. We hope to achieve the concepts of the four A's: Awareness, Analysis, Action, and Allyship. The team will be building workshops and liberatory roundtables into the plan.
- The Strategic planning team is also in the process of pursuing the Black-Serving Institution (BSI) designation, a nice accompaniment to our HSI designation.
- The logic modeling done with Coach Al Solano gives an example of conventional practices for providing information on websites. Self-directed search offering programs that do not capture every incoming student.
- This Strategic Plan will be more streamlined than our current plan. There are 4 goals (B-E-S-T) and within those 4 goals are 9 strategies
- The second part of the strategic plan is about capacity building and what we want to see for operations; we want to have budget and financial accountability for facilities and technology. We will have to put attention into the 5 areas of the pillars of support.
- We are aligning our KPI's with the RCCD plan and the State Chancellor's 2030 Vision. We have drafted a section aligning with the leadership councils and program review; in theory it will align with the student equity plan as well so that we can move forward in a uniformed direction.
- With the Strategic Plan in place, we will have an implementation meeting retreat workshop at the beginning of the next academic year.
- Looking back: our team started with Legos, getting creative and doing "big picture" dreaming and envisioning about the operational plan, to help identify foundational resources that we need to make the Strategic Plan actually work.
- The team will be tying in some of this work with President's Advisory Council, Professional Development, and Faculty Development.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. Vice President Taylor will sunshine faculty nominees for RCCD Committees, with senate vote to be June 9 (information)
- Please take the time to read over faculty nominees for RCCD committees. No action today.
 - Share with your departments about who is running. We will vote on these nominees on June 9th.
- B. Secretary Treasurer Bottoms will sunshine the revised faculty handbook to go “live” by end of spring (information)
- The handbook update is now complete.
 - President Scott-Coe reminded about the background. A small work group was created in winter 2025. Senator Phillipsen represented both the chair and Faculty Association perspective. Also contributing were Professors Jan Andres, Brit Osgood-Treston, and Mark Haines.
 - This is not an action item. DLC also has the Faculty Handbook on their agenda so the chairs can get their eyes on it. We are trying to look at this updated resource as an improved guide and reference for new hires.
 - If you have any notes or question, please send them to President Scott-Coe.
 - The Mission and Vision statements will need to be updated (as the new one will have second read on June 9). We will wait until DLC’s meeting to just to make sure everything else is in order before the handbook is goes online again.
 - Watch for the announcement that the handbook is “live” (before end of semester). Thanks to everyone who participated.
- C. VP of Business Services, Kristi DiMemmo will present an update about the Budget Allocation Model (BAM), with information about a series of upcoming 2025-26 workshops (information + discussion)
- This item was tabled for a future meeting

VIII. New Business

- A. School of Nursing Dean, Tammy VantHul, will introduce the Nursing discipline’s plan to submit an application for a Bachelor’s Degree for the Anesthesia Technology program (information + possible action)
- Dean Tammy Vanthul came before Academic Senate last year regarding the concept of an Anesthesia Tech Program here at RCC. Tammy is here today to talk about the plan to submit an application to begin a BA program in this discipline, either in August 2025 or January 2026.
 - That program is not offered in the CSU system; this degree is much-needed in our community.
 - Dr. Amy Vermillion is going to be bringing the application plan for a BA in anesthesia to the Curriculum Committee.
 - Dean VanThul and her team are still working in the background and will share more information as it becomes available.
 - The Nursing Program will be graduating their first class on June 12th at 1:30pm.

- B. RCCD Dean of DE, Shawna Bushell, will share DE supports currently offered by the district (information)
- Shawna Bushell is the Dean of Distance Education and Educational Services for RCCD. She was invited to Academic Senate to talk about Distance Education (DE) accessibility to faculty.
 - She holds office hours from 4pm-7pm.
 - DE assisted summer experience students with how to use services on Canvas. They also created workshops for students as part of their programs; upon completion, students will receive a certificate.
 - Professors shared the benefits of working with Dean Bushell and her team to improve Canvas design as well as campus programs. For example, DE assisted with Tiger CON, and was able to bring in artists and make the event available and accessible for students online through a live stream.
 - DE was able to assist Dr. Kristopher Acevedo with revamping his course design to make it more user friendly for students.
 - Faculty are encouraged to ask for assistance.
- C. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
- a. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS (still vacant)
 - Note: Quite a few ratifications will be coming June 9th. There will be several chairs opening up as well; faculty will need to do targeted recruitment.

IX. Officer Reports

A. President

- Division and department election results have been coming in. We would like to have all division results by Friday. If anyone needs more time, please let President Scott -Coe know. We want to ensure people are seated for the fall term to the extent possible.
- Some departments are due for elections of their chairs, curriculum representatives, or other committees. Academic Senate does not approve those departmental appointments but we request minutes to indicate that results are officially approved by departments on the regular cycle.
- Senate leadership is tracking pending updates to the Brown Act that may need to be considered next year. There are at least 2 legislative proposals, one in Assembly and one in the Senate. We will update any new issues or learning in our orientation of new and returning Senators.
- Remember to complete the required Title IX training and take advantage of Cyber Security training modules that are ongoing.
- Don't forget to approve discipline designees for equivalency panels coming online next year. More details to follow. Please make sure that your chairs have the information/results ready to input this summer.

B. Vice- President

- United for Justice event hosted by the Undocumented Allies Club is happening on Thursday, May 20th during college hour in Quad 144. Contact Professor Tina Stravapolous for more information.
- LIFT Leadership Institute for Tomorrow hosted by the 3 C's is providing webinars for professional development on May 16th 12-1.
- Please join the One Book One College guest talk by Dr. Jessica Luck on Thursday May 15th during college hour in DL 231. FLEX credit is available.
- UCR in conjunction RCC ACL community plus the Student Parent Club event is happening on May 20th in the cafeteria during college hour.
- The Lavender graduation ceremony for our LGBTQ community will be held on May 23rd at 4pm in DNDL 12. The Puente graduation will be May 30th a 5:30-7:30 in CIS 114. La Casa's graduation will also be on May 30, with the time TBD. The Umoja Program will be holding their graduation on Saturday, June 7th from 3-5 in the Quad.
- Commencement ceremonies this year will start with Social and Behavioral Science at 12pm; then Languages, Humanities, Visual Performing and Visual Arts at 2pm; followed by Business Law and Computer Information systems graduation at 4:30; and finally our STEM and Health-related Sciences graduation at 6:30pm.
- A friendly reminder to instruct your faculty to attend their designated ceremony so that there is room for student families and friends.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

- Next Thursday, May 22 Senate is hosting our ASCCC 2020 position paper discussion on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech.
- Remember that Thursday, May 29th during college hour, Professor Eddie Perez will be delivering his Distinguished Faculty Lecture in the Hall of Fame.
- Monday, June 9th will be the final RCCAS meeting this semester.

X. Open Hearing

- Senator Ellis shared concerns about faculty purview being overridden in the context of instructional equipment needed for instructional purposes. This subject has come up because of music faculty being prevented from using sound equipment purchased with ASRCC and Cares funds for classroom use. The request is to agendize discussion for the next Academic Senate meeting to examine our 10+1 purview as it relates to this situation. The request is also to include ASCCC representation at the meeting and to discuss an educational marketing campaign to inform faculty of their rights and responsibilities.
- Senator Rose implores RCC Administrators, faculty, and classified professionals to embody a growth mindset when it comes to changing policies and procedures for the better at RCC. No person or institution is above critique. Criticism should be a call to action and is necessary for progress and success.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- DE Staff is available and ready to assist faculty with their need on Canvas
- Several graduations coming up in the next few weeks.
- More fraud protection in place
- Graduation season, support our students
- Strategic plan draft is well put together
- People need to create new programs maps
- Faculty attend own graduation
- Review candidate for committee assignments
- Academic freedom discussion paper on May 22nd.
- Eddie Perez's Distinguished faculty lecturer in the Hall of Fame during college hour on May 29.
- Please attend the Undocumented event

XII. Adjourn at 4:48

M/S/C: (Taylor/Bottoms) approved unanimously