

Riverside City College Academic Senate

March 3, 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: Vacant

Department Senators (Term ending 2025)

Applied Technology: Patrick Scullin (not present)

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- (not present)

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Will Kim

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann –(not present)

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck-(not present)

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 – (not present)

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: LaShonda Carter (not present)

ASC: Jacquie Lesch (not present)

EPOC: Wendy McKeen (not present)

GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen (not present)

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin (not present)

SAS LC: Vacant

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association
Emily Philippsen

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros (not present)
VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright
VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo (not present)
VP (interim) Planning and Development: Kristi Woods (not present)
VP Student Services: Tomas Cruz-Soto, Interim (not present)

ASRCC Representative

Temporary representative/designee Joshua Padilla

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

- Megan Bottoms- Student Life & Leadership
- Janet Lehr- DE Committee
- Heather Smith- DE Committee
- Jennifer Cardona- Viewpoints Reporter
- Christian Carrillo- Viewpoints Photographer
- Micherri Wiggs- Interim Dean, LHSS

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Elton/Borses)

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes –

- M/S/C: (Soto/Enright)
- 1 abstention Gregory Russell

3:0 IV. Public Comments

Professor Megan Bottoms introduced student Joshua Padilla and provided information about student opportunities in RCC government .

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCC Faculty Association

- The (DE) Distance Education cease and desist for the DE camp is still in negotiation, and there is no update at this time.
- The Faculty Association is hosting elections, and the spots that are opening up for the spring semester will be for both a FT and PT faculty representative.
- The FA is also ramping up for contract negotiations, FA Executive board had robust discussion during the winter to go over articles line by line in the contract. They started a running list of items to focus on and there will be a survey coming out in the next couple of weeks for faculty to provide their input on things they think should be discussed. Traditionally, the FA has wanted to protect salary and benefits; that has been their main focus. Within the process of negotiations between the FA and the district, conversations about course caps need to remain faculty led as much as possible.

B. President's Report (VP Wright on behalf of President Oliveros who is at EPOC)

- Welcome back to the Spring 2025 semester. Enrollment is looking good, and we are at 104.1% as of today, 3/3/25.
- There has been an increase of fraudulent enrollment with people stealing other peoples' identities to get financial aid. This problem is being monitored very carefully. The team has been doing a great job screening; however, this is a manual process with a volume that came late in the game. The district is purchasing a multi-pronged service to provide a better screening tool.
- Accreditation is being worked on, and in January we hosted a cross functional writing group that worked in teams comprised of a faculty member, classified professional, and a manager. Teams worked on standards 1,3, and 4 and will be working on standard 2.
- An email invitation for a second workshop on March 21 was sent out to all department chairs and others in relation to Standard 2. This workshop will also be cross functional, and we will be bringing in managers and classified professionals, but we will be leaning heavily on faculty because standard 2 is related to academics.
- Work will continue Friday, April 4th and Friday, May 2nd. Watch for emails.

C. ASRCC

- The ASCCC plans to process a budget for the Student Health and Science Center. ASRCC would like to create a club that works with student organizations on campus to get more participation from students, so students can be directed to the proper resources.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

A. DE faculty co-chair Heather Smith or designee will introduce language describing Hyflex for Senate input (information and discussion)

- The definition of hyflex was requested by the Academic Senate at the end of last semester, so this is a revisit of this topic.
- Key elements were shared about hyflex from DE discussions thus far:
 - A base definition of what hyflex is one in which the course format combines face-to face and online learning class sessions/learning activities that are offered in person synchronously and asynchronously to online students.
 - Participation is required and expected, but how students choose how to participate is up to them, allowing for access, automobility, autonomy, flexibility, and engagement.
 - There are two parts to the implementation of hyflex. There is the back-end side which is the technical side, and there is also an instructional side for design and prepping faculty. Attendance in the classroom can fluctuate. However, virtually, the high flexibility is for the students not the instructor. There needs to be consistent language that has to be fleshed out between the three colleges in the district.
 - Questions: What language is student facing vs. faculty facing? When does RCC DE engage in conversation with DE committees at MVC and Norco?
- The RCC DE committee will discuss the definition with counterparts across district and return to senate later this spring. The definition will definitely have agreement across the district rather than by college.

B. Curriculum co-chair Kelly Douglass will provide an update and preview of timely curriculum items (information)

- Phase I of the common course numbering (CCN) is complete. C1000/C1000H in COMM, ENGL, POLS, PSYC and STAT will be offered starting in summer of 2025. Students can begin enrolling next month.
- There is some concern about students not knowing about the changes to course names, and the recommendation is to do a widespread campaign to promote the changes. COMM C100 has been accepted for CALGETC for area 1C. This is a single course area that had previously never been approved. The ENG, POLS, PSYC, and Math (STAT) classes all have prior articulations.
- CCN future deadlines have been shared and updated. Phase II has parts A/B. The college will receive part A templates on March 25th. Faculty launch September 2025, and it will go student facing Fall of 2026. The college will receive templates for part B on May 25. Faculty will launch September 2026, and it will be student facing Fall of 27.

- Phase III of the common course numbering list is now 29 courses with the original number starting at about 50 courses. The reps at the chancellor's office have a list as well as a "crosswalk" from Cassandra Green that list the courses to our match ups. There are a few that are not offered, but we have most of the 29. New dates will be sent out when available.
- Phase II, part B, and Phase III have to be launched by September of 2026. The templates will be received in May of 2025 and February of 2026. The recommendation is to work on phase II part B courses through Fall of 2025, and launch at the start of 2026 before phase III arrives.
- Nicole Banerjee is the new Articulation Officer after the retirement of Ellen Drinkwater.
- The Curricunet interface has changed with most of the buttons in the same location, but the color has changed to white and blue similar to the districts design. The Tech Review Chair, Steven Schmidt, has made several videos to update to this version, and you will see them when you log-in. The approvals button is no longer right at the top. It is now under the heading "Curriculum," and "Approvals" it is the first drop-down menu.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a discussion of the RCCD Establishment and Modification of Course Caps principles and procedures (second read + possible action)
 - The work on the procedure for course caps originated before the pandemic. It was suspended during the pandemic and then reactivated.
 - The taskforce cover sheet indicates the cross-district representation of the faculty, faculty association, and administrators who collaborated on this draft, which was shared with local senates by the workgroup back in December.
 - The goal is a framework to assure that we follow the contract. The principles of the course caps include the integrity of teaching and learning, course efficiency, workload equity, academic discipline experts, and financial sustainability.
 - There is a list of steps that are important for proposed cap changes (originating from faculty vs. originating from administration), and if a mutual agreement is not reached, a cap change cannot move forward.
 - The input of faculty subject-matter experts within disciplines is emphasized in this draft. Any principles and procedures need to be consistent across the district and the colleges.
 - In moving forward, Faculty Association (FA) will review and negotiate any caps procedure as a MOU. We need to understand the approval flow.
 - The draft will be shared at DLC agenda in March.
 - We are not voting on this item, but we may see it again. Please share with your departments.

- B.** President Scott-Coe or designee will lead discussion of the RCCAS Bylaws pending ongoing updates from committees and/or councils and a timeline for input this semester (information + discussion)
- RCCAS opened our bylaws for an update in Fall 2024 and have held them open.
 - Some updates in progress will shape revisions: Strategic Planning, CMAC, the leadership councils, and DLC/Enrollment Management may have some adjustments. “Permanent Workgroups” is one section that should be deleted.
 - Goal is to collect any updates at RCCAS by April 21 so we can approve changes before end of the semester. We can re-open next year as needed. It’s good to give bylaws an annual review.

VIII. New Business

- A.** The Senate leadership team will facilitate a Senate discussion of RCCD Resolution No. 69-24/25 and ASCCC President’s Statement Upholding ASCCC Values (information + discussion)
- The Board of Trustees (BOT) of RCCD passed a resolution on February 18th affirming the right of all students to a public education regardless of their immigration status.
 - The ASCCC resolution came to us from ASCCC President Cheryl Aschenbach and Executive Director, Christine Micah. Key points affirm senate values: know your rights, educate, advocate, protect, leverage shared governance, create safe and inclusive spaces, and engage in allyship.
- B.** President Scott-Coe (or designee) will facilitate a discussion on the draft of AP2101 Independent Study procedure (information + discussion)
- Disciplines that are interested in offering independent study cannot do so without a procedural guideline (an AP).
 - Some elements will need to be negotiated by the Faculty Association once a procedure is moving forward.
 - There are some community colleges that have an independent study program in their courses, so there is precedent.
 - Questions include how to define the work and the compensation, for the faculty member as well as the student. This is to protect faculty in terms of their obligations to the college and so that the student understands expectations.
 - This conversation came to District Academic Senate at the end of Fall 24, but it had to be tabled. Senates are gathering input at each college this month about the idea of getting a working procedure into place.

- We need to gather thoughts and questions so that they can be taken back to the district academic senate for shared input.
 - If we accept a process, then any decision about offering independent study would be discipline-specific, and CORs have to be created through our curriculum process. This AP would not require disciplines to offer independent study.
 - Art, Psychology, and Biology are three disciplines that have inquired about independent study so far. The question is, how does it work? How does a student find and enroll in independent studies? This is why we may need a procedure.
- C. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
- a. GEMQ replacement for Nursing, to complete term of retiring faculty representative: Professor Adam Korick will be replacing Professor Stephanie Lowry
 - M/S/C (Nelson/Elton)
 - b. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS
 - To be determined (TBD)

IX. Officer Reports

A. President

President Scott-Coe welcomed everyone to the Spring semester and thanked new senators for filling vacant seats due to retirements.

The revised faculty handbook will be shared at DLC this spring, hopefully in March. Much appreciation to VPAA Wright for funding that work done by faculty off-contract during January, and for the faculty team who has been leading on the update.

Retiring faculty nominated for Emeriti status last December were approved by the Board of Trustees in January. Any faculty names that did not get submitted for consideration in fall can be submitted to President Scott-Coe for the spring list.

The Distinguished Faculty Lecture from Dr. Eddie Perez will be held on May 29 during college hour. Please save the date and share widely.

Dr. Mary Rankin will be visiting RCCAS on April 7 for a follow-up to her listening visit in December and to provide some updates for faculty about RCC Cares.

Faculty are encouraged to review the Rising Scholars flyer in the agenda packet for information about supporting justice-impacted students.

Senate presidents will meet with VC Aaron Brown tomorrow regarding bookstore pricing concerns, including questions about how automatic “first day” billing may be being marketed to individual faculty or students.

Workgroup tasked by DAS through college chairs committees at each college to review and update our equivalency process shared its draft at DAS last week. I will provide an overview as an information item at our next meeting.

Senates remain vigilant about programs, grants, etc. that are not connected with curriculum from the onset, leading to problems later. The senates are working with curriculum to involve district in communication and proposal flows with faculty experts to tackle challenges up front.

Election season starts this month—division as well as department seats will be open, depending upon your cycle. There are also vacancies due to our surge of retirements. More to come at next meeting but talk with your departments to get ready.

President Scott-Coe attended an IETTC presentation on Friday. VC Bishop will be bringing IETTC town halls to all three colleges to engage faculty.

Senate Presidents have been invited to attend an Amazon facility about a “future STEM Pathway.” President Scott-Coe will be reaching out to STEM faculty to find out what they know about any such pathway.

Congratulations and gratitude were extended to Micherri Wiggs on her new role as Interim Dean of LHSS.

B. Vice President

Senators are encouraged to support student groups by wearing club shirts and attending events.

RCCAS VP Taylor, VPAA Wright, Professor Marc Wolpoff, and Professor Bobbie Gray attended the ASCCC AI Academy in San Diego, February 20th – 22nd. The conference takeaway was that faculty should engage with AI education to prevent misuse in the classroom, define AI policies in syllabi, and explore training resources such as those from the University of Maryland.

VP Taylor advises departments revisit their job descriptions for replacements for retirees to reflect equity language that will attract a more diverse pool that is committed to the population we serve here at RCC; she referenced the CUE job description packet, and this will be discussed at DLC this month.

Several professional development and conference opportunities were highlighted, including APAHE, AAC&U, CCC LGBTQ+ Virtual Summit, and Black Student Success Week. These will be forwarded to faculty by email.

The upcoming election process for a replacement to complete Secretary-Treasurer Wiggs term will follow the same process we used in Fall for the VP seat.

Our process follows RCCAS Bylaws Article II Section 1 and the RCCAS Constitution, Article V Section 2 and Article VIII Section 9.

The VP in collaboration with the nominating committee will send out an email tomorrow.

Nominations will close March 16 at 11:59 PM with nominee names sunshined at RCCAS on March 17.

RCCAS will vote on April 7, and the new officer will be seated after spring break, to finish the term from April 2025-Spring 2026.

(M/S/C: Perez/Soto extend the meeting to 5:07pm)

X. Open Hearing

- A. President Oliveros has still not established her Advisory Council on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, anti-racism, and belonging for social justice from her announcement in May of 2024.
- B. Do we have to have distance education language in our syllabus because we have hyflex in the classroom? Clarification: distance education information never goes into the course outline of record. It always goes into the DE addendum which is applied separately from the course outline of record.
- C. A senator shared that there is a page on the .gov site that is reporting anybody who is doing any DEI teaching, and it could be something weaponized against our colleagues of color.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Senators what are some things we are going to be taking back to our departments?
 - Include some language of AI in our syllabi
 - Have conversations about independent study in dept. meetings
 - Encourage students to run for our ASRCC senate seats
 - Students do not know about common course numbering, so it needs to be publicized
 - We need to understand that course caps impact academic matters and the FA monitors anything that could result in an addendum to our contract
 - Decrease the cost of books for our students
 - Accreditation is approaching and we have our watch dates for workshops: March 21st, April 4th, and May 2nd.

XII. Adjourn at 5:03

M/S/C: (Nelson/Perez)