

Riverside City College Academic Senate
April 21, 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 (absent)

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 (absent)

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 (absent)

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Kendralyn Webber (absent)

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson

Physical Science: James Cheney

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Emily Philippsen (absent)

Associate Faculty Senator

Lindsay Weiler (absent)

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

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 (not present)

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo (not present)

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods (interim)

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

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

- Corey Timberlake- Umoja Coordinator/Counselor
- Shari Yates- CTE Dean

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Sandoval/Borses) approved by consent

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes

- M/S/C: (Tabled until the May 5th meeting)

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments
-

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- The Faculty Association will have a closed session meeting related to faculty feedback on articles to open for contract negotiation.
- Please remember to read the Faculty Association minutes every week.

B. College President

- Welcome back from spring break
- The State Chancellor's office has the Chancellor's Climate Fellows program application and there is still time to apply. Deadline to apply is April 30th.
- Class schedules for summer and fall of 2025 are available online in My Portal and EduNav. Registration dates will be available on Monday, April 28th. Registration begins May 5th.
- The campus Free speech procedure group is re- convening on Wednesday afternoon to go through campus procedures and protocols for when there are unplanned or unregistered groups on campus.
- The President's Office is hosting The Black Student Success Hour Monday through Friday from 12pm-1pm in Kane building. Light refreshments will be provided.
- The President's Office also supported the Watch Party and they registered for the LGBTQ+2 Summit last week and supported the Rainbow Engagement Center effort for

the watch party. The focus is on closing equity gaps for Black and Brown students in particular. The hope is to work with leadership to advance and complement each other's work to avoid duplication or overstepping.

C. ASRCC—No report

VI. Committee or Council Updates -- None

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will distribute the Security Audit Report for Senate review in advance of VP Business Services Kristi DiMemmo's safety and facilities update to RCCAS on May 5 (information)
- Dr. DiMemmo will provide some insight about the executive summary on May 5 and she will be taking some questions back. The focus of her presentation will be an update on safety and facilities.
 - Faculty who requested a hard copy of the document, please bring questions back for Dr. DiMemmo.
- B. President Scott-Coe will review ongoing suggested clarification edits to the RCCAS bylaws with proposed timeline for approving these updates and any other adjustments this academic year (first read)
- Any changes from committees that would affect our bylaws need to be in by mid-May so that we can approve of them before we close our business at the end of the year.
 - For Article I. Number 3 President Scott-Coe recommends clarification of why RCCAS has space for public comments (reference to the Brown Act).
 - Article I, fourth bullet: Recommendation from General Counsel Dobyns: the reference to Robert's Rules of order was un-needed in this item.
 - On page 3 of the document, now Article II number 10, Senator Weiler brought it to our attention last year that the term for the part time/associate faculty representative was unclear. The language appearing here now is drawn directly from our constitution. We will consult with Senator Weiler.
 - In Article II number 11, regarding ballots and election results on file in senate office. Needs to be updated as we vote for officers electronically now.
 - On page 8 Article III Section: 3 Standing Committees: underneath Department Leadership Committee, there is space to add information to the newly revived and defined Enrollment Management Committee. We will clarify.
 - On page 14 Article III Section: 5 permanent workgroups are not consistent with the Brown Act because "permanent workgroups" basically become standing committees. We need to remove this section.
 - In Article III Section: 6 Under Temporary workgroups: Academic Senate –in addition to strategic planning councils or committees--might have an initiative where they need to call workgroups. So RCCAS is added there.
 - We will be voting on changes to close bylaws for this year at June meeting, so please get any additional updates in before the May 12 meeting.
- C. President Scott-Coe, VP Taylor, and Secretary-Treasurer Bottoms will facilitate continued Senate discussion of the ASCCC Position Paper, "Protecting the Future of

Academic Freedom During a Time of Significant Change,” with a focus on the distinction between freedom of speech and academic freedom, and brainstorming practical, proactive faculty steps to address misinformation (discussion)

- There are some concerns about safety when guests or speakers come to campus that intersect with what can faculty actively do to support their students.
- Collaboration with the Faculty Association and collaboration across disciplines is desired to address concerns that may arise.
- We need to have conversations about how to protect our students because lack of clarity about academic freedom policies and practices leaves knowledge, teaching, learning, and our students at risk from outside forces.
- Together, faculty identified many key topics and questions for further discussion:
- What are we lacking in our language and in our policies to help us prevent people from profiteering on misinformation? Is there something that can be done at the district level to aid us in defending academic freedom?
- How do faculty make the distinction between freedom of speech versus academic freedom in relation to faculty work in the classroom?
- Currently there are no trainings being offered. What trainings or workshops on the difference(s) between freedom of speech and academic freedom might be most constructive?
- According to the ASCCC paper (2020), 93% of CC faculty in the state of California reported never having training on academic freedom.
- The constraint with academic freedom is largely the course outline of record and within reason faculty have the freedom to teach their courses outline of record.
- Regarding free speech: Guest and visitors on our campus are protected by time, place, and manner. The district has laid out time, place, and manner clarifications: 8am-5pm Monday through Friday, along Terracina Avenue from the parking structure to the bookstore promenade. Time place, and manner specifies that visitors/guests cannot interrupt the educational process. Visitors cannot go into offices and they cannot stand out in the quad with megaphones.
- The legal definition for visitors and guests on campus is that they cannot harass students; no physical touching, pushing or name calling is allowed. According to the penal code, whoever is feeling a certain level of harassment is the individual who needs to file the complaint.
- Verbal harassment is an individual determination.
- What is police/law enforcement role? How are vulnerable populations treated when their concerns about micro-aggressions or harassment are ignored or minimized?
- What are future plans at the college when we have outside groups on campus?
- The recommendation is to have trainings for students and faculty on how to address visitors to campus.
- Can a mass email be sent out to inform the college about visitors on campus?
- Do we want to have a work group or training session before the fiscal year ends? Online format recommended. Invite classified professional cause they are the ones students are going to with their concerns as well.
- This conversation needs to continue informally as well as in organized sessions.

VIII. New Business

- A. VP Taylor will preview resolutions for ASCCC Spring Plenary and remind departments about our process for gathering feedback on items as needed from division, department, and/or discipline experts (information + discussion)
- Reminder VP Taylor and President Scott-Coe will be at Spring Plenary Thursday through Saturday in Irvine. The resolutions were not released in time to be put in our agenda packet but they are available online.
 - Watch your emails for outreach on any resolutions so that your input can be heard and considered.
- B. VP Taylor or designee(s) will provide information about hosted webinars April 21-24 for Black Student Success Week as well as an update about new Umoja evening counseling hours (information)
- Dr. Corey Timberlake serves as a counselor for the Umoja Program that provides additional support and services to our students of color.
 - April 21st marks the first day of black student success week and the program will be hosting a “Black Hour” everyday in the Umoja Engagement Center from 12pm-1pm. They will also have village talk discussions from 1pm-2pm debriefing on items that were discussed in the “Black Hour”.
 - April 22nd topic of discussion will be on Black Serving Ness to maintain our voice in action, so please stop by and engage with our students.
 - To provide additional support the Umoja Engagement Center will have evening hours available. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-8pm until the end of the term.
- C. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
- a. Final faculty nominees for ASCCC CCN Convenings in June
 - We have 2 representatives as faculty nominees in time to be submitted to ASCCC:
 - Amber Lappin- Early Childhood Education
 - Valerie Merrill- Mathematics

(M/S/C: Elton/Calderon) to approve the 2 faculty nominations- approved unanimously
 - b. Senate representative for spring commencement committee (Secretary-Treasurer Megan Bottoms)
(M/S/C: Sandoval/Berry) to approve Megan Bottoms as the Academic Senate representative for spring commencement- approved unanimously
 - c. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS (pending)

IX. Officer Reports

- A. Vice President
- The national Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) is hosting their annual student success in higher education conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference is June 27-30th and registrations are now open. The fee for NASPA members is \$595, non-members is \$795, and students are \$245. More information is available on the NASPA website.

- Vice President Taylor encourages faculty to support our affinity spaces; Umoja, La Casa and other locations on campus to stand in solidarity with our students in light of what is going on nationally.
- May 2nd is the accreditation workshop at 10:30am. We need all hands on deck across faculty disciplines and departments to be in support of this important work.

B. Secretary

- Our new Secretary- Treasurer, Megan thanks the committee for allowing her to participate on the Academic Senate committee.
- The Bunny Hop was a huge success. There were about 300 kids that came out and enjoyed the festivities. Trustee Alcalá brought the Bunny Hop up at the Board of Trustees meeting and it was a great way to integrate our community to the campus.
- The Student of Distinction for your department or discipline is due to your department chair by Tuesday, 4/22/25. The final deadline is May 13th so please get those names into your departments. An awards ceremony will take place in the Quad Courtyard on Thursday June 5th at 12:30pm.
- Commencement planning and graduation logistics are beginning to take shape. There will be 4 ceremonies to help accommodate families that want to join us. Food truck vendors will be available after the graduation ceremony.
- ASRCC elections are next week. Senator Bottoms will be getting more involved with students to get more representation from our various engagement centers, affinity groups, and academic programs across campus.

C. President

- Shouting out tenure achievements of our faculty: this is a huge milestone: Daniel Eini- Automotive Technology, Amber Lappin- Early Childhood Education, Lisa Martin- Counseling, Doris Namala- History, Christy Scott- Biology, and Dr. Corey Timberlake-Counseling and Umoja.
- In addition, Patrick Scullin just gained title of Full Professor and Dr. Ajené Wilcoxson was just granted the title of Distinguished Professor for the Distinction.
- May 1st will be a first faculty forum on IETTC in the Bradshaw Heritage room from 12:50-1:50pm. Dr. Eric Bishop will be there to hear our concerns. We would like CTE and strategic planning leads, as well as curriculum experts and operational leadership, to advocate for faculty's place at the table in these discussions.
- Some disciplines participate in Educational Assistants, where students apply to the program to do work. This information and the forms will come from District Academic Senate. The form is being updated and we are working on a rubric for evaluating, too, and these should be in place by early May. Ideally, we should get this process started in March—hopefully with the forms revised, we will be in a better place to do that next year.
- Department and division elections are happening; let's get those finished soon, this month if possible.
- The RCC Senate Spotlight presentation will be at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on May 20th. It is going to be a mentorship community project that is

meant to connect part-time and full-time faculty together in a community rather than on-on-one.

- Remember that in May we have back-to-back meetings. May 5th and May 12th. It should already be on your calendars. There are three meeting left for the spring term. The two in May and one last meeting in June to finish out the semester.

X. Open Hearing

- How can faculty continue to strengthen our relationship with classified professionals? This needs to be talked about in our departments.
- Tiger Con is happening this Thursday, 4/24/25 on campus in the library from 9am-2pm. It is a collaboration by many departments. One of our own Alumni will be included in the panel. Professor John Jennings from UCR is leading the panel on the black comic artist as part of the black student success week. Daren, fc, the creator of Star Versus the Forces of Evil on Disney TV will also be on the panel. All three panelist will be in the library on Thursday from 9am-2pm. Many students will be showcasing their art, comics, and prints. We encourage you all to stop by and invite your students to attend Tiger Con.
- The library faculty are concerned and frustrated with the technology plan because they are not able to adequately support their students with their academic endeavors. The technology plan states that the library can make purchases out of their departmental budget, however their request for a new Chromebook was kicked out. The library is requesting to see what mechanism they have in weighing in on the technology plan and making it suit the needs of our students.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Tiger Con is happening on Thursday, 4/24/25.
- Summer and Fall 2025 registration begins on Monday, April 28th.
- May 1st is the IETTC meeting during college hour in the Bradshaw Heritage room.
- May 2nd is the accreditation workshop
- Umoja has evening hours Tuesdays and Thursday from 6pm-8pm.
- What can we do to make sure that we have a rapid response to protect our and our students' free speech? Look into counter narrative responses, for faculty as well as students.
- Plenary session coming up for ASCCC
- Student of Distinction: due dates soon
- The last mile scholarship sponsored by Microsoft for Cyber Security students. They are giving away over \$40,000 to our students, no strings attached.
- Attend webinars and watch parties for Black Student Success Week
- Respond to Plenary resolutions as needed
- Show up as faculty to support students in spaces that they occupy.

XII. Adjourn at 4:42pm (M/S/C: Calderon/Rose) approved unanimously