

Riverside City College Academic Senate

May 5, 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 – Arrived at 3:07pm

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Emily Philippsen

Associate Faculty Senator

Lindsay Weiler – Arrived at 3:01pm

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen- Arrived at 3:40pm

GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen -Arrived at 3:40pm

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 (interim)

VP Student Services: Thomas Cruz-Soto (interim)

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

- Diego Martinez- Viewpoints Reporter
- Herbert English- Counseling
- Myisha Jackson- Senator
- Gabriel Graves ASRCC Senator
- Deborah Brown- Associate Professor History (HPHES)
- Shari Yates- CTE

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Sandoval/Borses) Approved unanimously

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes – for April 7th

- M/S/C:(Berry/Kim) Approved unanimously

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- The MOU for Distance Education negotiations have been finalized. Please field all questions to representatives Araceli Calderon for full time faculty and for part-time faculty Dave Martinez.
- The Independent Study has been reviewed by District Academic Senate and forwarded to Faculty Association to look into compensation.
- The Faculty Association will be starting contract negotiations. Thank you to those that completed the survey that was sent out for feedback about which contract articles to open.
- There will be a Zoom virtual Town Hall meeting on May 20th from 2:30pm-3:30pm. Please send any questions or comments to your representatives.
- Faculty Association elections will close this Friday, May 9th

- The Faculty Association meets every week on Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm and all faculty are invited to attend.

B. College President

- Thank you to Senate, CTA, and CSEA and all who are serving on hiring committees.
- Federal update on executive orders coming out of Washington DC regarding shutdowns and imminent threats. Many institutions including RCC received a termination letter on Friday morning for the NSF HSI Grant. Leadership is working on a contingency plan in collaboration with the vice presidents, district leadership, the grants office, and departmental and programs leads, including faculty, classified professionals, and administrators
- The President's office is also tracking reports related to the AmeriCorps termination and NIH. More details to follow as we continue to monitor all changes to federal decisions. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.
- The TRIO proposed budget is set to be eliminated 2026-2027. The President's budget will be going in front of Congress, so we need advocacy now more than ever. If anyone is interested email or write to your representatives here in 92506. The representatives are Mark Takano and Ken Calvert. There will be additional actions coming out of TRIO's Leadership Group Council, working closely with our league of California Community Colleges and State Attorney General for any legal action.
- The series of Our Time Lunch hour talks have been successful. Thank you to the faculty who came out last week. The management team had an informal chat Thursday during the week of spring break. We also want to appreciate classified professionals, faculty, and management for engaging in the informal dialogue.
- SAVE THE DATE of May 19-23 for Classified Professionals Week.
- RCC has been courted to host the pre-Olympic site for 2028 Olympics. Thank you to the vice presidents and deans of the athletic coaching team and faculty for their responsiveness.

C. ASRCC

- No report

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A.** VP of Business Services, Kristi DiMemmo will present the DSSC draft Security Improvement Plan, along with an update about safety and facilities planning/projects (information + discussion)
- The 500-page DSSC draft was distilled to a 4-page security improvement proposal executive summary.
 - The document is a road map for improvement and there are five categories of oversight and partnership.
 - A security master plan is being developed and we want to make sure that our technology is updated and refreshed to support our security infrastructure.
 - The recommended implementation plans from the report include security cameras, electronic access control systems, emergency phones, sirens, mass notifications, fire alarms, burglar alarms, and key management.
 - We have a company coming on board called Alertus to assist with the implementation of a speaker system that sits in 4 different areas across campus.

There will be a speaker at by Evans Field, Digital Library, Cosmo, and one on the Math and Science building or the Kane building. The team is in the process of making sure that we have a certified architect and California engineer working on this project.

- The team will be meeting with community neighbors to ensure that they know what is happening and how we plan to move forward with the speaker system.
- The other part of the report was focused on keys. The team is looking into the cost and infrastructure of building(s) like the (Quad) that do not have the electronic key card system. They are requesting to use some of our bond funds to finance this project.
- Our fire alarms and burglar alarms are really good. All of our systems have been updated and they are annual assessed.
- In regard to security cameras and emergency phones. The cost for blue emergency phones is \$20,000 apiece and they are very underutilized. We are looking at different solutions for the emergency phones and our in the process of deciding whether we should keep the phones or find another alternative. Keith Dobyms is updating our BP and AP; we will need to make sure we have any conversations that may be necessary with our bargaining units about security cameras.
- We are working with Susanne Ma and the District to provide us an overview with estimates for infrastructure, especially on the technology side. They are looking at some different options and are also talking about how the bond may possibly support some of the initiatives as well.

B. Faculty co-chair of EPOC, Wendy McKeen, will introduce the drafted College Vision and Mission (first read)

- The EPOC Committee wanted to keep the vision statement short and to the point so that anyone could recite it. The committee is asking for a first read and then a vote from Senate. The mission statement's language needed to incorporate language referencing our status as an HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution).
- President Oliveros and VP Wright put together a committee that will seek the Seal of Excelencia for RCC (to recognize a service commitment to our Latinx students).
 - The Vision and Mission will be voted on at the next Academic Senate meeting.

C. Faculty co-chair of GEMQ, Wendy McKeen, will introduce a committee proposal to coordinate a master calendar of college meetings for 2025-26 (discussion + possible action)

- The GEMQ committee thought that it would be a good idea to capture a master calendar and be the keepers of the calendar. They are slowly filling in a Google Doc, and hopefully others will find it helpful. An additional goal could be for links to each committee's webpage as well as whom to contact.
- Currently there is no designated place of where the calendar will live but the thought is that it should live near Academic Senate's page.
- The plan is for the calendar to be available in the middle or at the end of fall semester. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Wendy McKeen. The document is a work in progress.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A.** President Scott-Coe will facilitate review of RCCAS bylaws updates with a revised timeline for approving on June 9 (second read)
- We are awaiting on our new strategic plan to be formalized and we may have more substantive changes in Fall 2025.
 - On page 3 of the bylaws President Scott-Coe added the word “electronically” for vote storage since our ballots/voting process is now electronic.
 - On page 8 President Scott- Coe coordinated with the DLC Chair and committee to incorporate language about the re-awakened Enrollment Management Committee (EMC). The consensus seems to be that EMC should not be a sub-committee of DLC but an equal counterpart of DLC, so it stays on the same line.
- B.** VP Taylor and President Scott-Coe or designees will provide highlights of ASCCC Spring Plenary (information + discussion)
- At the ASCCC Spring Plenary there were new officers that were elected. Dr. LaTonya Parker from Moreno Valley College is the new president for ASCCC. The vice president comes from LA Southwest. The secretary comes Folsom Lake and the treasurer is from Moorpark. There is a new south representative from LA City College, Carlos Guerrero.
 - Area D Faculty have a new representative, Bethany Tasaka from San Bernardino Valley College.
 - VP Taylor highlighted 2 resolutions passed to recognize Dr. John Stankas and Professor Matt Clark. They were honored posthumously with the Senator Emeritus status, which is the highest-ranking ASCCC recognition. It was moving and emotional to hear colleagues pay respects at Plenary.
 - The State Chancellor’s Office is talking about software that can assist with combating bots and fraudulent enrollment.
 - A powerful breakout session was for FELA: Faculty Empowerment Leadership Academy.
 - Many breakout sessions VP Taylor and President Scott-Coe attended addressed faculty mentorship and the importance of onboarding new faculty to keep them informed on their college campuses and connected to the state level.
 - ASCCC discussed the affects of Eos to our college federal funds, so if anyone experiences any loss of grants or any operations, please contact the State Chancellor’s Office immediately. If anyone feels inclined, please email our Chancellor, and let them know what is going on and how it affects us at RCC.
 - Most of the resolutions this spring passed; we are sharing the unofficial results packet today (we will share ASCCC’s official final packet as information later).
 - President Scott- Coe called attention to 101.02, regarding ethnic studies. Thank you to those that provided feedback—many of the concerns expressed by our colleagues were reflected during debate, but the resolution did pass.
 - Resolution 106.01 suggests researching possible changes to the language of Title 5 that would possibly require more part-time faculty participation in governance committees. This was authored by Senator Lindsey Weiler.
- C.** President Scott-Coe or designee will share preparations for implementing the updated equivalency procedure (information)
- The preparations for updating the equivalency procedure require getting steps in order for implementation in Fall 2025.

- We are trying to stage the work so that when the procedure is officially approved, we will be ready. The procedure update has gone through District Academic Senate, District Strategic Planning, and the last stop will be the Chancellor.
- Each local senate president will appoint two committee members to the district committee; all disciplines need to identify their equivalency designees. Make sure you are asking who your equivalency reps will be.
- Please talk to your departments and disciplines this month and make sure your department chairs have the names officially identified; an input form will be going through the chairs at each college.
- The tentative start date for the new procedure will be the first day of Fall 2025.

VIII. New Business

- A. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
 - a. a. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS (still open)

IX. Officer Reports

- A. Secretary-Treasurer
 - Please continue to turn in student of distinction nominations. Secretary-Treasurer Bottoms will be compiling those entries this week.
 - Commencement updates: There will be 4 ceremonies. Faculty need to show up to their assigned ceremony only so that we can make sure there is adequate seating for graduates and their families and friends. The faculty reception will be in the Hall of Fame. There will also be a taco truck, mariachi band, and photo booths.
 - The free speech committee is meeting again next week. PLT is putting together a countervailing environment where free speech is permitted. Tables will be set out at different locations around campus where departments can share what they do and provide a welcome to campus guests. Dr Cruz Soto and Dr. DiMemmo are working on putting together steps when visitors come. The plan is for messages and a phone tree. There will also be pre-approved messages that go out on behalf of the President's office to let people know.
 - The committee is also working on a free speech warning memo that effectively provides visitors an idea of what free speech on our campus looks like and this will serve as their first warning.
 - Dr. DiMemmo and the web team are working on a website for resources regarding free speech.
 - Student Life and Leadership is going to be collaborating with student government on a training to guide students on how to deal with free speech and academic freedom.
 - The free speech committee's next meeting is May 14th
 - Dr. DiMemmo's team has created new signs in English and Spanish regarding free speech. One sign says "graphic images ahead" and the other says "free speech zone." It has a QR code linking to our board policy.
 - The Transfer Recognition Ceremony hosted by the Transfer Center will be Friday, May 9th from 11am-1pm. Please encourage your students who are transferring to attend.

- This month is Pride month as well as National Foster Care month. Our Guardian Scholars are asking for donated self-care items like lotion, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant. Items can be dropped off all month.
- Meetings alert: next week Monday, May 12th is our next Academic Senate meeting and then June 9th will be our final meeting this semester.
- Student Educational Assistant applications were sent out last week by District Academic Senate President Kimberly Bell. They are due by May 23rd.

B. President

- Everyone should have received an email from VPAA Wright's office about the College Corps Program coming online. For faculty there is an SPR opportunity. Faculty who are interested should respond to Dr. Adrienne Grayson by May 13th. The term for work will be May 19 - June 30th.
- The district strategic planning work group: Professors Scullin, Carter, McKeen, Taylor, and Scott-Coe along with VPPD Woods are representing, both on the larger workgroup and the smaller breakouts.
- IETTC had faculty forum meeting on May 1st. Although it was not the ideal format, we did have strong representation and voices across divisions, reps from the academic and CTE sides of the house, and leadership from curriculum, DLC, Academic Senate, and strategic planning.
- Elections reminder: some senators will be rotating out and new people coming in. Please give us a head's up. Division elections also need to be finished soon so that we can ratify representatives for the coming year.
- We are going to be investigating the process for ASCCC part-time liaison, to come up with something workable that will also provide transparency.
- President Scott-Coe has been in contact with Araceli Calderon, Emily Phillipson, and Rhonda Taube about a training session on academic freedom and freedom of speech for Fall FLEX.
- The classified and manager kickball game is Friday, May 23rd from 12pm-2pm.

C. Vice President

- Vice president Taylor wants to congratulate RCCD's own LaTonya Parker for being elected new ASCCC President.
- Please remind your departments to check book orders for summer and fall because some of them are missing or are completely wrong.
- The Senate leadership team would like to come and visit your departments so please email Senate. We can share 10+1, IETTC concerns, and other items.
- Dual Enrollment 101 starts Thursday May 22nd from 1pm-2pm and will be hosted by Dr. Adrienne Grayson.
- The Promise Summer Experience program is launching this summer. Melissa Harman is asking for any willing faculty, both full-time and part-time, to participate by providing a demonstration of your class. This is a 4-week program and faculty who participate will receive \$250 a week. The dates are July 9, 16, 23, and 30. There will be 2 forty-minute sessions a day.

- President Scott Coe and VP Taylor met with VP of Planning and Development Dr. Woods last Wednesday. The first read for our strategic plan will be coming next week and the second read will come June 9, which is our last Senate meeting of the semester.
- Regarding the Tech Plan: We talked with VP Woods about where the tech plan “lives” so that faculty concerns can be effectively addressed. RDAS Faculty co-chair Scullin clarified that RDAS “owns” the plan.

X. Open Hearing

- Shared governance committees should have a YouTube or Zoom option on campus. Senator Rose would like to vote on this at a future Senate meeting because it is an accessible and equitable way of conducting meetings.
- May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) appreciation month. Please be on the lookout for some events and announcements coming up in your emails.
- FELA applications with ASCCC are now open to be a mentor open to anyone. The Application closes on the 14th of June to be a mentor. The mentee application opens June 16th and closes August 24th.
- The Epic fellowship is hosting a symposium Saturday, May 17th the symposium is called Integrating Global Topics into Community College Curriculum. Please apply. They meet once a month on Fridays to talk about your project and developing curriculum. There is also a student focused event that happens in April through Epic.
- Accreditation had a 4th workshop last Friday and made more progress. The current step is to review all materials generated thus far. Thanks to everyone who participated and provided positive feedback.
- Clarification: the updated equivalency procedure (with new SME designees for panels) will have an anticipated start date of the first day of Fall 2025 semester.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- We are only using half our security cameras
- Voting next meeting on RCC Vision and Mission
- The master calendar for RCC is in process of being developed
- Taco truck, photo booth and mariachi band will be part of commencement
- Faculty should attend only the graduation ceremony to which we are assigned
- Check book orders for summer and fall for accuracy
- Submit Student of Distinction names by Tuesday, May 13th
- Division election results needed by 13th of May
- Apply for FELA

XII. Adjourn at 4:46pm
M/S/C: (Rose/Bottoms)