

Riverside City College Academic Senate
October 20, 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 2026)

Art: Will Kim

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Sean Pries

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson

Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Kayla Henry-3:33pm

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler

Department Senators (Term ending 2027)

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: Mary Legner

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Huda Aljord- 3:05pm

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

ASC: Jacquie Lesch- 3:02pm

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association

Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives

College President: Eric Bishop (Interim)

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods (Interim)

VP Student Services: FeRita Carter

ASRCC Representative

Latiesha Williams

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Micherri Wiggs, LHSS, Interim Dean

Abigail Uribe, English

Jessica Sanchez, Viewpoints Reporter

Natalie Vazquez, Professional Development

Alex Cortez, Life Sciences

Maurice Bowers, Equity, Inclusion, & Engagement

JoAnn Lopez, English

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

M/S/C: (Soto/Bottoms) approved by consent

III. Approval of the Minutes Sept. 22 (Oct.6 minutes tabled until Nov. 3)

M/S/C: (Rose/Kim) approved with corrections that were sent via email

IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- AB1400: The Faculty Association was very happy that they were able to collaborate and advocate for this much-needed bill, but unfortunately, it was vetoed by the governor.
- The FA hopes that everyone got a chance to go to the Deputy Chancellor Forums for all three candidates. The FA had a one-on-one with each candidate and it was very interesting to see and hear their responses to various questions. We anticipate that the Chancellor's selection for Deputy Chancellor will be in the board book in November.
- There has been an issue with HNAS (Health Now Administrative Services) for our PPO, and the FA is looking to find a new administrator. If anyone has encountered any issues, please send that information to Rhonda Taube, Araceli Calderon, or Rhejean Adu-Gyamfi.
- The DE certification peer-to-peer review pay will be up to 15 hours per reviewer.

- An update for the progress on AP 2101 Independent Study: faculty will be paid at the lab rate of 0.5 which, is equal to 9 hours, or 1, which is equal to 18 hours.
- Regular meetings for the FA during construction will be in the Kane building unless otherwise specified.
- Please RSVP for the FA mixer.
- For SAAM, the FA wants to secure faculty 15 hours for special projects for extra work on curriculum as needed over the winter semester. If disciplines agree district-wide and identify an issue that will need to be negotiated, please bring it to the Faculty Association.

B. College President or designee

- Fall enrollments are up over 918 students from last year, and at 99.5% of what is considered our target, and our CCAP headcount is up.
- President Bishop had the pleasure of visiting our Model United Nations conference and welcoming the students.
- This is President Bishop's 2-month anniversary here at RCC, and he has been working through the strategic plan and student equity plan to begin prioritizing his focus so we can continue working toward meeting students' needs and ensuring important items are not shelved.
- The best way to serve students is to ensure that faculty and staff are well served.

C. ASRCC Representative

- The ASRCC team issued a statement about Canvas being down and said they are here to support faculty and staff if anything is needed.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

A. Accreditation chair, Jacquie Lesch, shared an update of current progress and timeline for the ISER (information)

- The accreditation team met with EPOC last week, and the accreditation report is on the Teams site as of now. The report has been divided among our leadership councils according to the standards, and the groups have been assigned sections to review the collected data. Comments or changes at this stage are due by November 6th.
- The Accreditation team would like to form writing teams beginning in Winter 2026 to look at drafting the final document; there will be a call-out regarding participation. The hope is to have a full draft pulled together by the 4th week of the winter term. There will also be a writing kick-off retreat on the first Friday of the winter semester. Be on the lookout for messaging about the special project for faculty on this writing team and the winter retreat

B. DE Committee faculty co-chair, James Rocillo, or designee will share the committee's recommendation for possible expansion of DE certification equivalency options (information + possible action)

- When the DE certification is approved, it will replace the DE camp.
- The equivalency options are consistent with what came out of the summer session with DE chairs and District DE. This option is about increasing faculty's ability to meet the June 2026 requirement for certification.

- Instead of the mix-and-match version of A and B options, there will now be one option, which previously totaled 160 hours. The @One courses recommended by the summer group allow some less time-intensive options.
- There was one additional class on the list, Introduction to Teaching in Canvas, and we discussed providing the levels of the @One Course options. If you're a new faculty member it might be wise to take equitable grading strategies or some advanced @One Course.
- The DE Committee thought it would be a good idea to include a self-assessment to determine the individual's level and why they chose a particular course, to gauge where they are relative to equivalency.
- Questions from Senators:
 - Will the assessment be available electronically? Yes.
 - Are the courses free? Yes, If faculty log in to @One with faculty credentials.
 - DE implementation is on the agenda for District Academic Senate next week and FLEX credit continues to be discussed.

M/S/C: (Legner/Russell) to accept the recommendation from the DE Committee for expanded equivalency options- unanimous

- C. EPOC faculty co-chair Wendy McKeen or designee will present the committee's recommendation that "ILO" be used to abbreviate Institutional Learning Outcomes (information + action)
- Change GE SLO to ILO (Institutional Learning Outcomes) -approved unanimously to accept EPOC's recommendation
- D. Senator and CMAC faculty rep Sally Ellis will share information about committee needs, the statewide OER survey, and new state guidance on burden-free access to instructional materials (information + discussion)
- The history of CMAC at RCC has not been linear, and it has had a variety of leaders. We now have an administrative co-chair, John Adkins.
 - There is currently no faculty co-chair, and we only have two elected members of the committee. The rest of us have been serving based on interest or passion. The bylaws were finalized last semester.
 - There is legislation, regulation, and funding, all from the State Chancellor's office and ASCCC, to promote OER and create ZTC OER pathways so students can complete their entire time without buying a textbook.
 - There is an OER liaison position for someone to attend state meetings and a stipend is available. The recommendation is that the OER liaison not also serve as CMAC chair since both roles are big jobs.
 - Sally Ellis completed the state survey on behalf of our college, drawing information from data self-reported at the college last year.
 - We do have a ZTC (Zero Textbook Cost) pathway to fulfill CalGETC. So that means students can choose course sections with zero textbook costs and fulfill their entire CalGETC with a ZTC.
 - An update to the California Code of Regulations was passed on July 30th and is to be implemented by January. The regulation uses the term "first day" (a phrase we have seen in marketing contexts—by Barnes and Noble, for example, used in place of "automatic billing"), but the regulation language is intended to benefit our

students. The point of the regulation is to increase OER access so that students have what they need as soon as they start classes.

- When choosing a textbook, consider procurement as well as content. Procurement is an issue. Pearson and Cengage have developed new procurement models that cut libraries out entirely.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A.** Secretary Treasurer Bottoms will share the glossary of terms/concepts from the Student Equity Plan as provided by the Student Equity Committee (information)
- B.** President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a second read of the RCCD 2025-30 Strategic Plan (discussion + action)
 - This is the second formal read of the 2025-2030 RCCD Strategic Plan, but we have had it on our agenda for feedback since September. This version includes changes that have been incorporated as requested to date.
 - This edit dated October 14th includes more changes based on feedback from the colleges. The KPI's were renumbered, and benchmarks were added for goals 4 and 5.

M/S/C: (Sandoval/Sappenfield) approved unanimously

VIII. New Business

- A.** The RCCAS Leadership team will provide an overview of changes to Title 5 language on FLEX (information + discussion)
 - The FLEX language relates to part of "Title 5", the section of California Education Code that relates specifically to community colleges.
 - FLEX, or professional development, at a college or in a district applies to everyone at the college, not exclusively faculty. It is the broad umbrella for all professional development.
 - At our next meeting, we will have an update from the Faculty Development Committee and will also have a guidance memo from the state about FLEX that accompanies these changes to language. Please share this information in your departments.
 - Faculty Development remains 10+1 and Senate/Faculty Purview. FLEX refers to professional development overall. Faculty Development is faculty-specific and a fundamental part of FLEX at the college.
- B.** President Scott-Coe or designee will provide a brief update from the ASCCC Area D meeting, with reminders about preparations for Fall Plenary (information)
 - We have just received the state-wide resolutions packet that we will be sharing at the next Academic Senate meeting on November 3rd. Please prepare your departments to look for Academic Senate's Nov. 3rd agenda should they want to send in feedback to discuss at the next meeting.
- C.** Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)
 - a. GEMQ Faculty Co-Chair (Ginger White)
M/S/C: (Perez/Truttmann) unanimously approved

IX. Officer Reports

A. Secretary- Treasurer

- The ASCCC resolution packet for fall plenary has been released. Please be on the lookout and inform your disciplines--they may receive an email in the coming days with potential resolutions that could impact their subjects/programs. We will have a general discussion at our November 3rd meeting.
- The results of faculty prioritization have been shared with EPOC and have been submitted to President Bishop, and an email was sent out with that information.
- It is that time of year when our students hit the wall. There are employee assistance programs and mental health support services available to assist us with our frustrations.
- Please encourage new faculty to join us at Academic Senate meetings. Secretary-Treasurer Bottoms is working on recruitment.
- RCCD Foundation scholarships are now available, so please encourage your students to apply. It is one application that qualifies the student for a variety of areas. The link is as follows www.rcc.edu

B. President

- We have been representing the Faculty Senate at the open candidate forums and constituency one-on-ones for the Deputy Chancellor since last Wednesday. If there are any concerns within your departments that you would like taken back, please share them with us.
- The Independent Study AP will be back at the District Academic Senate on Monday, October 27th. The Faculty Association has been working on compensation and load construction, and we will discuss next steps to keep this moving.
- This is the month for working on implementation for the new DE certification, and District Academic Senate will discuss the expanded equivalency options and how the workgroup is preparing next steps.
- President Scott-Coe has been meeting with faculty co-chairs, committees, and subcommittees to talk about any challenges and/or areas where support may be needed. Thanks to all our faculty for their concentration and care for all the work that is being done.
- President Scott-Coe has been asked to assist with the presentation of the District Strategic Plan. She will be focus on faculty participation in the process and how questions and concerns that were brought forward were incorporated into the plan.
- We are in search of an OER liaison to ASCCC for spring, and a stipend is available. But because we didn't have someone in place this fall, we've made an inquiry with ASCCC about how to recruit.
- If you have concerns about students this time of the semester, especially if it's non-academic, remember that you can reach out to the RCC Cares Team.

C. Vice President

- Welcome to Week 9. We all woke up to Canvas being down, which was a worldwide issue. Derrick Moore just sent out an RCCD announcement urging us to email our students.
- Please remind your students who are looking to transfer this year that support is available from the Transfer Center and LHSS.
- Please consider coming to the faculty focus FLEX credit-approved Emergency Management Training, Thursday, Oct. 23rd, from 1pm-2pm. The training will cover mass notifications and procedures for responding to emergency situations. Be on the lookout for an email and register in the Vision Resource Center.
- Let students know that the Hoffman Agency is providing a scholarship. The scholarship covers tuition and fees for 2 years. The application deadline is March 31, 2026. For further details, please visit the Hoffman HBCU Scholarship website.
- The IETTC ad-hoc workgroup met last week for preliminary conversations about IETTC.
- We are celebrating Associate Faculty in the Hall of Fame from 12:00pm-1:30pm on Wednesday, October 29th, so please come out and support.

X. Open Hearing

- Canvas is back up as of this afternoon after a serious outage.
- Request for an update on car chargers.
- Request for a safety update about students possibly recording faculty in classrooms
- Databases that were with Amazon Web Services were affected by the outage today. If you have assignments that require scholarly articles, there might be a delay, so be flexible with students.
- There was some discussion about a campus-wide email being sent out to students related to recording faculty, and there was a discussion about legal advice; however, there has been no update.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- New opportunities for DE certifications with the expanded equivalency options
- Scholarships available on RCCD website www.rcc.edu
- ASCCC Fall Plenary resolutions are now available
- The glossary for the Student Equity Plan is now available
- We are 918 up on enrollment from last year
- Cengage uses a “rent to buy” option, please be aware for your students; adopt OER for courses if you can
- FA Faculty Mixer is November 6th
- GE-SLO is now ILO
- FLEX is for everyone. Faculty Development is a specific layer of FLEX.
- The FA wants to know if your discipline is affected by SAAM.
- There will be a 15-hour special project in the winter term for work on the accreditation ISER.

- Faculty can emphasize scholarship opportunities in the classroom and encourage students to pay attention to details of the scholarships they are applying for

XII. Adjourn at 4:33pm

M/S/C: (Perez/Taylor) unanimous

APPROVED