

Riverside City College Academic Senate
June 9, 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 (absent)

Kinesiology: Jim Elton (absent)

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

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Vacant

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association Emily Philippsen

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros- departed 4pm

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods (Interim)

VP Student Services: Thomas Cruz-Soto (Interim)-arrived at 4pm

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

- Virginia White-Program Review, Life Sciences
- Shari Yates- CTE
- Maurice Bowers- [Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement, Equity Committee Classified Chair](#)
- Gabriel Graves- ASRCC
- Denise Kruijenga-Muro- RAC
- Huda Aljord- World Languages
- Natalie Vazquez- Professional Development
- Lorena Newson- Dean of Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement
- Monique Greene- Counseling Faculty- Equity Co-Chair
- Courtney Carter- Counseling
- Herbert English- Counseling

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II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Berry/Calderon) with item 7E being tabled for September 8, 2025 meeting- approved unanimously

III. Approval of the Minutes – May 5th and May 12th

- M/S/C:(Sandoval/Borses) May 5th with the correction of an acronym FILA= FELA- approved unanimously
- M/S/C: (Sandoval/Soto) May 12th with a correction to a statement made in the open forum section of the minutes – approved unanimously

IV. Public Comments

Gabriel Graves, ASRCC representative—concerns about campus demonstrators targeting students

V. Liaison Reports**A. RCCD Faculty Association**

- Congratulations on finishing the semester strong

- The Faculty Association had a meeting and the morning of June 9th and there were some colleagues with terminal degrees that were not placed appropriately on the salary scale. Some conversations are moving forward about proper salary placement. A rationale will be needed from deans and chairs as to how specific terminal degrees advance the work of the discipline.
- President Taube met with the district on the MOU for independent study compensation and more information should be coming soon.
- For graduation the Faculty Association will be providing beer and wine at the different faculty receptions.

B. College President

- Happy finals week!
- President Oliveros stands in support and solidarity with our immigrant communities that are peacefully protesting and who have been impacted by the ICE raids. She is concerned about the militarization happening in downtown Los Angeles and stated that she is also concerned about the health and welfare of the college as connected to so many of our Los Angelinos. Please let's extend grace and flexibility during finals week. Also, remember to carry red cards, and revisit fliers that were sent out.
- Please help in sharing access to resources to our community members regarding their immigration concerns. There is also information available to students through student services and student support services.
- Friday, June 6th The Department of Education's FAFSA application will require additional documentation on the application. The Pell Grant and Medicaid are also under review for significant cuts and changes to requirements.
- Celebrating 1300 graduates on Friday June 13th in 4 separate graduation ceremonies.
- Thank you, Dr. Eddie Perez our Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for his remarkable lecture series.
- Thank you to all faculty for their work on our many hiring committees right now.

C. ASRCC

- Gabriel Graves was elected as the RCCD student trustee and will be sworn in on Tuesday, June 10th to represent students to the district.
- Gabriel also wanted to inform Academic Senate that ASRCC has agreed to support a resolution that he authored in showing institutional support for volunteerism programs as well as civic engagement programs like College Core. The point is to get these programs institutionalized so that they have a home and can be offered to students. Gabriel would really like to push for offices of student engagement and volunteerism throughout the district and at every college.
- The ASRCC team had a workshop on their bylaws but they unfortunately were not able to pass many bylaws for this past year.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A. Faculty Development Committee faculty co-chair Melissa Harman will share a preview of Fall FLEX (information)
 - Fall FLEX will be held in person on Wednesday and Thursday
 - Marla Franco will be the guest speaker; she is the Vice President of HSI Initiatives at Arizona State University.

- On Thursday August 21st the inaugural Oliver Thompson award will be unveiled for equity minded teaching and learning. This is a collaboration between the faculty Development Committee and the Student Equity Committee. Dr. Ajene Wilcoxson was chosen as they recipient of this award for his work with EMLI and other programs.
 - Welcome Day will be Friday morning of FLEX week and faculty can earn up to 2 hours of FLEX credit for participating in Welcome Day. Also, on Friday we will have district wide Distance Education (DE) sessions on Zoom that will be recorded in case people cannot make it.
 - The launch of our new faculty learning community will be led by Audrey Holod from the English department. This community will include some culturally minded teaching and learning seminars coordinated by Dean Newson and Monique Greene from Student Equity.
 - Faculty learning travel awards have increased to \$1000 for attendees \$1500 for presenters but total funds are limited, so please apply early to be considered for funds.
 - Melissa sent an email out regarding (DE) Distance Education Design Camp. A lot of emails have been coming in from faculty about getting FLEX credit, so if they have completed 16 hours of the DE Camp then they should've already received credit. If you have not received credit, please reach out to Facultydevelopment@rcc.edu and Sydney Minter can assist with that. For faculty who have not completed the Design Camp then they can enter that activity into FLEX Track as an individual activity to receive credit. Faculty were given up to 16 hours with 13 hours being general and the remaining 3 hours will be entered as equity FLEX per the MOU negotiated by the FA.
- B. Student Equity Committee faculty co-chair Monique Greene and Dean of Equity Lorena Newson will introduce the Student Equity Plan (first read):
- The components of the plan are going to consist of a reflection on the 2022-2025 student equity plan (SEP). The group was tasked with providing an executive summary to look at our disproportionately impacted student populations and then to be intentional about strategies to close equity gaps for the most marginalized groups of students.
 - The new component of the Student Equity Plan is to look at the student education plans within the 1st year. The team will be working with the counseling department to look at how we are being intentional about making sure that our first-year students are receiving a comprehensive educational plan as they move through their educational journey. They will be working alongside Dr. Adrienne Grayson with dual enrollment and doing some high school outreach as well.
 - The SEP will return in fall for second read either on September 8th or September 15th. The group plans to take the SEP to District Strategic Planning (DSPC) on September 19 and to the Chancellor's cabinet on October 13th. This should give them enough time for revisions before the SEP is presented with Norco and Moreno Valley College at the Board of Trustees on November 3rd. The plan will be due for submission on November 30th.
 - The metrics to be considered are enrollment, completion of transfer, math and English level persistence, completion of associates degree or certificate, and overall transfer and intensive focus. For the intensive focus they will be focusing on African American or black students and first-generation students because they showed up as disproportionate groups in the area of persistence.
 - The State Chancellor's office uses Hispanic and we use Latine here on campus, so to clarify in the plan the committee will be adding a glossary of terms.

- The inclusive excellence framework will be utilized to signify the role of equity for not just one individual, a college president, a chief diversity officer but rather as a collective shared responsibility to examine our mission, vision, and values.
- In the inclusive excellence framework, there are key focus areas; academic processes, practices, and institutional structures as well as student engagement. The framework will be cross-walked with Gina Garcia's work that overlaps curriculum and pedagogy items, including equity minded leadership practices and community engagement co-curricular structures in relation to engagement centers.
- The HOTEPC consultants' equity audit was done in 2021 and is being utilized to highlight good work. Through the audit, they were able to introduce culturally relevant teaching practices and build a culture of equity mindedness here at RCC. EMLI (now going into its 4th cohort) is something bred out of this audit. Building shared equity leadership is all of our collective responsibility, so that we can provide services to our students to increase successful outcomes.
- The SEP has 5 metrics areas: successful enrollment, completion of transfer level Math and English, persistence (looking at foster youth specifically), completion (looking at LGBTQ+).

M/S/C: (Soto/Borses) to extend the discussion 2 more minutes

- Thank you to Dean Herbert English, Dr. Kristi Woods, Dr. Claire Oliveros, and Thomas Cruz-Soto for their support. We did submit our application for becoming a (BSI) Black Serving Institution, and with that application, there are strategies and a plan to couple with the SEP to make sure that we are held accountable in terms of increasing student access for our Black and African American students.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will present the 2025 updates to RCCAS bylaws for approval (fourth read + action)
 - M/S/C: (Perez/Weiler) to approve bylaws-approved unanimously
- B. Secretary-Treasurer Bottoms or designee will lead voting on nominees for RCCD Committees (action)
 - Only senators can vote; senators can only cast 1 vote per committee
 - Nominee statements have been shared for discussion in departments/disciplines since May. Today is for voting only; simple majority carries.
 - RCC Professional Growth and Sabbatical Leave Committee-term length 2 years
 - Jay Boshara- 1
 - Antonio Curtis- 13
 - 1 abstention-
 - RCCD Global Learning & Study Abroad Committee- term length 3 years
 - Huda Aljord- 4
 - Deborah Brown- 9
 - 2 abstentions
 - RCCD Advancement and Partnership Committee- term length 2 years
 - Aaron Agramon 14
 - RCC Representative for Alternative resources-term length 2 years
 - One position available and we still need nominees

C. RCC Assessment Committee faculty co-chairs Denise Krizenga-Muro and Rosa Frazier will request a vote of approval on GE SLO #1 (third read + action)

- Following up after discussion at the last senate meeting, Senator Sandoval emailed RCC AC chairs an explanation of potential confusion in the language, with suggestions for a possible friendly (i.e. not substantive) amendment for clarity.
- The RCC AC chairs then shared this information with Norco and Moreno Valley Assessment Committees.
- The AC committees preferred to go forward at this time with the GE SLO #1 language as originally submitted. That is the recommended vote from the AC chairs.

M/S/C: (Borses/Enright) to approve—motion carried
1 abstention, 2 opposed

- RCCAS will preserve the suggested revisions ideas in the event that alternatives may be desired at a future time.

D. Professor of Nursing, Amy Vermillion, will request formal vote on the May 12 introduction of the Concept Approval proposal for a baccalaureate degree in Anesthesia Technology (action)

- Professor Vermillion is seeking concept approval to continue moving forward with completing the application process (curriculum work will follow).
- The first anesthesia tech cohort for summer of 2024 has concluded and there will be a completion ceremony. There were 40 applications in the first cohort and 12 individuals were accepted—all 12 did complete the program.
- The application submissions went from 40 last year to 130 applicants and 85 of the 130 were fully qualified.
- The Nursing Department will be starting cohort 2 to align with the California Community College's Chancellor's Vision for 2030.
- The goal is to continue exploring, applying, and developing the curriculum for the bachelorette degree because there are NO baccalaureate programs in the state or nation for anesthesia.

M/S/C: (Berry/Rose) to approve the concept- approved unanimously

E. VP of Business Services, Kristi DiMemmo will present an update about the Budget Allocation Model (BAM) (information + discussion)

- Tabled for meeting September 8th

F. Faculty co-chair of EPOC, Wendy McKeen, will share the second read of the College Vision and Mission (action)

- The Mission and Vision is what is going to be in the strategic plan; the document will still be a working draft that can be revisited anytime.
 - M/S/C: (Weiler/Borses) – approved unanimously
- A group of faculty along with Dean Newson are working to get the document converted to Spanish.

G. EPOC faculty co-chair Wendy McKeen, classified co-chair Natalie Halsell, and/or Interim VP of Planning and Development Kristi Woods or designee(s) will present the second read of the Strategic Plan (action)

- The full narrative report is what the draft needs now, and the team will be adding tables, photos, and graphs to make it more accessible. The plan will at some point have a letter from the President which is standard.
- The 4 goals (B-E-S-T) are the basic elements of the plan and the second part is the implementation aspect. The foundational parts of the operation are budget, technology, communication, and professional learning.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are significant markers for the college; student success will always be measured in terms of completion.
- We will be focused on what is happening in our engagement centers.
- The Strategic Plan will be presented to the Chancellor's Cabinet in late July and to the Board Committee meeting in August, with the hopes of implementing the plan at the start of the school year.
- Dr. Kristi Woods, Natalie Halsell, and Wendy McKeen are also a part of the SWOT analysis group for RCCD planning, and they did a crosswalk and have come up with a proposal to present to the district for the colleges. In terms of the strategic planning, they are recommending repositories of information across the district, professional learning, and district strategic planning committees-- something that serves the strategic planning needs of the colleges.
- On July 1st the 3 colleges and the VPPD will be meeting about their joint presentation to the board.
 - M/S/C: (Sandoval/Calderon) to approve the 2nd read- approved unanimously

H. VP Taylor or designee will share the official ASCCC Resolutions packet from Spring 2025 (information)

- This is the official document produced by ASCCC about all resolutions at Spring Plenary Resolutions (passed and not passed).
- All information is available on ASCCC website.

VIII. New Business

A. Interim VP of Student Services Thomas Cruz-Soto will provide updates about commencement and the RCC-UCR housing launch (information)

- For over 3 years, RCCD's Chancellor and the Chancellor of UCR have been looking for opportunities for housing our students, culminating in a 124-million-dollar grant to build 1,568 bed residents at UCR.
- 320 beds will be for RCC students. Eligibility: Students who take 12 units in the fall, 12 credits in the spring, and 6 units in the summer and qualify for a max Pell grant will have zero cost to enter into this housing opportunity.
- The building is state of the art which includes a study space, marketplace, recreational facility, 24-hour gym, outdoor industrial grills, and hammocks.
- This is the first time in the state of California that a community college has partnered with a 4-year university in this way.
- All work has been conducted in tandem with the President's leadership team, admissions, financial aid, and many others. There were 634 applications submitted. Of that 634, 284 were conditionally accepted from Riverside City College, 39 from Moreno Valley, and 19 from Norco College.

- There is a waitlist of 133 people that were not Pell Grant eligible but are eager to pay. The fee would be \$750. The team will be extending this opportunity to students if there is eligibility for those who are partial or non-eligible if space becomes available.
- Over 30% of students that submitted applications came from our Umoja Program or our African American community
- Orientation will be June 24, 2025 from 10:30am- 1:30pm at the Coil Auditorium in Downtown Riverside where they will welcome 320 students.
- The roommate selection process will begin June 4th and end June 15th. Students will complete an interest survey, and then between June 17th and June 29th they will pick a roommate. The goal is for students to be paired accordingly.
- Saturday, August 23rd, will be move-in date. The time is TBA. Students will be provided with food in the cupboards and refrigerators, linens and toiletries so that they will have everything they need; they will be backfilled on a monthly basis.
- Twenty-four-hour parking will be available in the parking structure and the bus route through RTA runs every 15-20 minutes 7 days a week. It will be a 15 min direct route from UCR to RCC. This travel will be free with their RCC student ID.
- A premium meal plan has not been able to be negotiated but through our categorically funded programs and basic needs students will have meal options.
- Students will have swipe access into their rooms and facility with their IDs.
- Regarding 2025 graduation: The Commencement ceremony is over 1200 students, the largest in RCC's history.
- There will be 4 ceremonies: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, and 6:30 PM. In the future the college is looking at opportunities to reserve a bigger venue.

B. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)

- a. RCC Spring 2025 Division Election Results for Council Representation
 - There are vacancies and pending results to be resolved in September 2025 (see document)
 - M/S/C: (Enright/Sandoval) to approve new and ongoing appointments as submitted by divisions and indicated in the packet--approved unanimously
- b. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS
 - This chair has been vacant for nearly 3 years.
 - Melissa Harman has stepped forward to be the faculty co-chair and is supported by SAS constituency leaders. There are no more SAS meetings this semester.

M/S/C: (Rose/Truttmann) to approve Melissa Harman as the faculty co-chair for SAS-- approved unanimously (contingent upon anticipated official recorded vote by SAS in Fall)
- c. District Equivalency Committee
 - The 3 Academic Senate Presidents each appoint 2 faculty from each college to serve on this new committee to implement the new procedure (to start in Fall 2025). The term is 3 years (F2025-SP2028).
 - The two nominees for ratification are:
 - Sunny (Kwokwai) Siu--Applied Digital Media and CTE
 - Christine Sandoval--English

M/S/C (Scullin/Bottoms) to approve these appointments- approved unanimously

- d. ASCCC Library Services Platform (LSP) Committee
M/S/C: (Ellis/Calderon) to approve Lua Gregory-- approved unanimously

IX. Officer Reports

A. Vice President

- Happy Finals week, please check your emails about commencement on Friday, June 13th.
- There will be a DE work group to address the MOU and to draft a rubric for faculty DE certification (replacing the camp).
- Thank you to all that attended the Academic Freedom Discussion and the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Presentation. A big shout out to Dr. Eddie Perez. Both events were well attended and everyone had great questions.
- The Ethnic Studies open house was a success. Great turnout, a powerful speaker, and great food. Thanks to Dr. LaShonda Carter and Dr. Citlalli Anahuac for their work coordinating this event.
- Thank you to Thomas Cruz-Soto for his update on the housing initiative and gratitude to everyone who has worked on this initiative.

B. Secretary-Treasurer

- May 23rd classified/manager kickball game went well. It was awesome to have a collegial event.
- Some vacancies remain for subcommittees (including chairs and voting members) as well as engagement centers. We will need to recruit in the fall.
- Commencement: Please attend only your designated ceremony as seating is especially impacted this year.

C. President

- Let's recognize the senators who are rotating off senate this spring. Thank you for serving; we appreciate those faculty who will be stepping into this new representative role.
- The equivalency procedure still pending final approval from the Chancellor, which will be presented as information at the regular June BoT meeting.
- President Scott- Coe is working with Chris Blackmore on the input tool for chairs to use, to identify subject matter experts designated by each discipline to serve on equivalency panels in the coming year.
- Thank you again to the team who updated the Faculty Handbook—the document is up and live on the website, ready for all new hires.
- The educational assistant applications have been reviewed at DAS. There were many quality applications, and we continue to receive more applications than in past years. Results should be announced from DAS President in the coming days.
- President Scott-Coe was able to attend part of the first meeting of the President's Equity Advisory meeting PAC for Equity and Justice. Dr.

Lashonda Carter and Dr. Kristi Woods laid out the historical context in a compelling presentation.

- President Scott-Coe reached out to Chancellor Isaac about the attacks our community is experiencing locally and also seeing in Los Angeles. As we head into next week, please monitor official messages and updates about supports available.
- Let's acknowledge and encourage everyone to stay together in the work that we do, to do right by our students.
- Thank you to Star and Megan for stepping up this semester and for all their contributions to senate leadership.

X. Open Hearing

- Library vital statistics: The Door count is 332,687 walk-ins to the library for the school year. There were 2,687 student walk-ins entering the library building, with most staff taking the back elevator. The library staff are serving the students well and that includes physically, emotionally, and resource wise.
- On Thursday, June 19th the Animation Showcase will take place in the library auditorium at 6pm.
- We must have empathy for Latinos who are struggling right now. We are in a position of power so whatever we can do to help our students is essential.
- Please share with your students that La Casa is doing a check-in from 1-2 on June 10th
- On May 20th there will be Board of Governors meeting to discuss resolutions that address the high percentage of registration fraud. In addition to seeking robust identity and identifying verification processes, they are considering imposing nominal fees for students who apply. This raises an issue for students with housing and food insecurities. Public comments were made from a group of students that rallied together against that proposal.
M/S/C: (Perez/Kim) to extend the meeting for 5 minutes
- Laptops in the library for student use are dying and recommendations have been made to purchase ChromeBooks but the request keeps getting denied. Students rely on technology to access Canvas, My Portal, and other resources.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Make sure to attend your own commencement ceremony
- Wonderful job on the equity and strategic plan
- UCR/RCC housing
- 1300 graduates
- Over 300,000 visits to library
- Plans are underway for Fall FLEX and the summer workgroup to be formed for update of the DE certification
- New SAS faculty co-chair Melissa Harman
- Vacancies still open for committees and subcommittees as well as engagement centers

XII. Adjourn at 5:05 >> M/S/C: (Calderon/Weiler)- approved unanimously