

Riverside City College Academic Senate
September 8, 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 (absent)

Secretary-Treasurer: Megan Bottoms

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

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

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler

Department Senators (Term ending 2027)

Art: Will Kim (3:03pm)

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

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter (absent)

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen- (3:01pm)

GEMQLC: Virginia White (3:01pm)

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass (3:05pm)

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association

Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives

College President: Eric Bishop (Interim) (3:02pm)

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)

ASRCC Representative

Lateisha Williams (not present)

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Briana Franco- Viewpoints

Brit Osgood-Treston- English Professor

Deborah A. Brown- Associate Professor History (HPHES)

Courtney Carter- Counseling

Maurice Bowers- Administrative Specialist- Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement

Gina Weeks- VN Department Chair- Nursing

Amy Vermillion- ADN (RN) Department Chair- Nursing

Tammy Vanthul- Dean of Nursing

Shari Yates- Dean of CTE

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Nelson/Sandoval) with some adjustments in terms of order- unanimous

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes – June 9

- M/S/C: (Legner/Borses) unanimous with corrections from Maurice Bowers via email

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- Please read the minutes that are sent out every week
- The Glenn Hunt Center, In Digital Library 404 where the Faculty Association holds their meetings, is going to be renovated and the Faculty Association is looking for an alternative location to hold their meetings until the renovation is complete.
- If your dues are missing on your pay stub, please email Araceli Calderon so that an application can be provided
- The Faculty Association will be submitting the articles that they are going to sunshine for their negotiations.

B. College President or designee

- Eric Bishop is the new Interim College President and states that it is a pleasure to be here at Riverside City College. President Bishop is excited to work with Jo Scott-Coe and Academic Senate. He will make sure that the college continues to move forward and is happy to be a conduit between Senate and Administration. Recognizes all that we do together for our students and each other.

C. ASRCC

- Letiesha Williams was not present in the meeting due to her birthday but she will be at next Academic Senate meeting. Megan Bottoms is very excited for her to join Academic Senate.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A. Curriculum Co-Chair Kelly Douglass will provide Common Course Numbering reminders/timeline and an update from the District Curriculum Committee (information)**
- Common Course Numbering (CCN) Phase 1 is complete and those 10 classes plus the honors counterparts are in the catalog now and students are enrolled.
 - In Phase 2A of the common course numbering, the next 14 classes plus the 7 honors counterparts must launch by September 19th. The curriculum launch date for everything else is October 3rd.
 - The departments impacted right now include History, Economics, and Art History.
 - If faculty have classes in Phase 2B, it is important that they start working on it as quickly as possible for the next cycle with a launch deadline of September of 2026. All of Phase 2B courses and all Phase 3 courses have a deadline of September 2026.
 - The State Chancellor's Office changed the Student Attendance Accounting Method formula and it is being abbreviated as the SAAM formula.
 - The SAAM formula helps us now to get funding for online and hybrid courses at the same rate as face-to-face courses. The problem locally is that some courses have what is called a lab "overhang," which had been previously funded by the state and for which the college was receiving full apportionment. A consequence of SAAM for these courses is that they will no longer be funded.
 - Dr. Wright, our VPAA, fought all last year to secure a carve out for the 19 districts, including LA City College, that have lab "overhang" courses. In May 2025, we were informed that despite these best efforts, the state denied any exceptions. However, colleges did were granted an additional year to figure out how best to revise courses so that we can move forward. (Originally, any of these courses would have needed to be launched now.)
 - 518 classes in 38 disciplines are impacted. At RCC alone, we have 257 classes and 27 disciplines that have a lab "overhang." If faculty have any of their classes in this group, the spreadsheet of which classes have been affected can be found on the Curriculum Committee website and your representatives also have it.
 - An attendance accounting method tool was created for faculty to use as they weigh different options. The accounting method tool will calculate to a whole or half unit amount. There is a mixture of factors to consider, including classroom instructional time, FTES, full-time faculty load, and part-time faculty pay.

- Everyone should familiarize themselves with the accounting method tool because this is a huge change with significant impacts.
 - Thorough discipline conversations are crucial this year because changes have to launch in September of 2026--along with all common course numbering. This is a massive lift, not simply the normal course of curriculum updating.
- B.** Summer DE Workgroup and TLLC member, Prof. Brit Osgood-Treston, or designee, will share an overview of the draft DE certification rubric, draft recommended qualifications for reviewers, and feedback survey (first read)
- The District Education summer workgroup was made up of faculty members from across all three colleges with various levels of certifications.
 - The charge of the workgroup from District Academic Senate was to develop thresholds for certification in alignment with ACCJC accreditation.
 - One of the concerns was that the feedback was not going to be coming from faculty, so it was not going to be peer-to peer. Another concern was that the thresholds were going to be too high and maybe it was too intensive for the kind of scope that is needed to ensure the broadest impact.
 - The idea was to draft a baseline of qualifications for peer reviewers and to also draft a peer review rubric for certification. The rubric was based on central ACCJC standards for accreditation, and also drew from key concepts in POOR certifications and some of the CBC OER rubric information. The team ended up with 4 broad categories. The first draft of the rubric includes dropdown menus in each category so that faculty peer reviewers can go in and look at the course.
 - There are reference documents and links available on the slide show with clickable links that will provide context and background within ACCJC standards, RSI (regular substantive interaction, etc.
 - There is a feedback QR code available. It has one question and once you review it you can populate it with the questions you may have that will go directly to the workgroup as a team to filter through.
 - The Canvas landing page is where faculty can go in and orient themselves with what needs to be done. There was some discussion on the question of the faculty member who is up for certification that they will confer with their observer about what will be viewed.
 - Please share this information with our departments Let all your DE representatives and TLC representatives know because the team is definitely open to feedback.
 - Discussion ensued about implementation/deadlines, etc., but finalizing the rubric is the first step we have to finish.
 - Comments gathered this month and reviewed by the workgroup. Second reads will be at local senates and at district academic senate, so that we can approve by the end of September. From that point, we will engage steps for implementation.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A.** The RCCAS leadership team will provide a review and orientation about roles and responsibilities of Academic Senate under Title 5, with a preview of senate business for the academic year (information)

- Title 5 is a part of the CA education code that defines Academic Senate and the 10+1. This is important because AB 1725 in 1988 marked our separation from K-12. Prior to that time, CC faculty were exclusively represented by bargaining units/unions and had no statutory role to play in curriculum or development of minimum qualifications, for example.
- Since 1988, faculty senates were empowered through the law to represent faculty on “academic and professional matters” as outlined in the 10+1. Our union represents faculty on compensation and working conditions, as documented in our contract.
- The Board of Trustees “relies primarily” or “reaches mutual agreement” with the Academic Senate on items in the 10+1 as laid out in Board Policy 2005.
- Academic Senate has two meetings a month, on the first and third Monday (except when we need to manage Monday holidays). The calendar for all three college senates is synced and is established across district at the end of the academic year in spring. Meeting dates are on the website and calendar invites are always sent out. There is one extra meeting spot “held” during finals week in case we have business to finish.
- Academic Senate must comply with Brown Act because we are a public governing/legislative body, not simply a group that happens to organize operational business at meetings within public institution. Our meetings are streamed live on YouTube.
- Our agenda request goes out 12 days prior to our meeting (two Wednesdays before the meeting) and the agenda is posted the Wednesday prior to the meeting so that senators have review time within the work week. Brown Act requires 72-hour minimum advance public posting of agendas.
- Public comments also comply with Brown Act.
- FT faculty senators get elected to 2-year terms based on their departments. The part-time senator is a one-year term. Officers get elected every three years. Ex-officio members do not vote but advise and report on the work of their councils/committees.
- Attendance is very important, and quorum is needed to conduct business.
- Senator roles and responsibilities are to represent the departments and disciplines which elected you, bringing concerns to the Academic Senate body and to taking information back to your department and divisions.
- Senators should also be available for committees and workgroups as needed. We have a responsibility collectively to make sure that the faculty voice is heard.
- Academic Senate works closely with Dr. Wright, because her purview is academic affairs, and we also have the support of the Administrative Technician for Academic Affairs. EPOC is a major liaison for Academic Senate and all our planning councils to keep the lines of communication open on strategic planning. We also have reports from standing committees (such as Curriculum) and the Faculty Association.
- We also work closely with our partner senates at Moreno Valley College, Norco College, the district academic senate, and ASCCC (state level).

- Academic Senate sees many important plans and documents because we pay close attention to processes. We approve major reports and plans among other items that are part of our business.
 - The shared work of Academic Senate is ongoing.
- B.** VP Taylor and Secretary Treasurer Bottoms or designee will provide an update about pending SP25 division election results, and sunshine a new process question related to future STEM-K elections (information)
- We want to discuss two issues, the main one which is on the agenda (reviewing some openings that remain from our Spring 2025 division elections) and then a second one.
 - As you know, there is a new dean of Kinesiology and new dean of STEM. In our current bylaws, both in strategic planning and in Senate, STEM and Kinesiology (STEM-K) elections for division representation has been conducted together. In moving forward, we will be addressing this issue on how to adjust the representation so that it makes sense to those divisions as now re-organized. STEM-K elections will be up again in spring of 2026.
 - For now, according to bylaws in place (and because SP25 elections were needed prior to this separation) it makes sense to accept the results as they have been submitted prior to the split.
 - This semester, in preparation for the next cycle of elections, the question is how do we want to do the split? Further discussion will be needed prior to those next elections—and faculty in Kinesiology and STEM will need to discuss this in consultation with EPOC.
 - You can see that we do have some vacancies hanging from last year across a couple of areas. To help us streamline, EPOC will take the lead on recruiting for vacancies. Senate will still be responsible for queuing up the regular cycle elections each spring, as usual.
 - From a process point of view, it would make sense for any discussions –particularly in Kinesiology-- that you may have about possible solutions/ideas/questions, can start to be recorded in the minutes. That way they can be taken to EPOC and then be brought to Senate to keep the conversation robust and transparent.
 - EPOC is reviewing the strategic planning bylaws, and Senate will also be doing a bylaws update this year as well. Together, all parties can work to figure out a thoughtful way forward.

VIII. New Business

- A.** Professors and chairs of Nursing programs, Amy Vermillion and Gina Weeks, or designees, will share information on the status of AB 1400 (for Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and request RCCAS support for ongoing advocacy (Information, discussion, and possible action)
- If you recall, there was a legislation that went through last year to advocate for bachelor's degree programs in nursing. There was a lot of advocacies from subject matter experts about this and it went all the way through and then got vetoed by the governor.

- A new bill has gone through and there is a letter from our State Academic Senate President, LaTonya Parker, who has come out to support this because it is basically identical to the previous bill. The goal is to get our local senate to support the bill, so that we can register our support at the state level.
- We may be asking for a motion to authorize, or not to authorize President Scott-Coe in writing a letter on behalf of Academic Senate to support AB 1400.
- ASCCC has supported community colleges being able to offer baccalaureate degree programs in allied health/nursing through resolutions dated 2019 and 2024.
- RCC does offer concurrent enrollment programs with Cal State Fullerton and Cal State San Bernardino
- In 2011, the Future of Nursing said that they wanted 80% of nursing to be baccalaureate prepared by 2020. Currently, we are only at about 67%. The majority of BSNs being awarded are from private universities (incredibly expensive) and CSU's and UCs are only producing a third of BSN's
- To give some perspective from the nursing side, there are only 4 classes that separate the associate degree nurse from the bachelor degree nurse.
- Other large states are successfully conferring baccalaureate degrees at the community college level. We have 84 community colleges with BSN programs nationally but only 13 states currently are authorized.
- The cost to confer a baccalaureate degree for a student is \$10,560 here at RCC. Compared to CSU which is \$34,350 at the UC level it would cost \$72,000, and at private institutions students are paying \$127,000 and that is where most of the degrees are conferred.
- In the entire state of California, we only have 15 public institutions that are offering baccalaureate degrees, and 32 private institutions that are open up and capitalizing on students every day.

M:S:C: (Nelson/Perez) unanimous- to direct President Scott-Coe to write a letter on behalf of the Academic Senate in support of AB 1400.

- B.** President Scott-Coe or designee will sunshine the RCCD Strategic Plan draft and vetting timeline in preparation for first and second reads in October (information + discussion)
- The work groups were working on the 5-year plan over the summer.
 - It is now our time to look at it and provide any notes based on how our own strategic plan is shaping up to be and any insight we have on that.
 - For councils this would be a good time to put this on your agendas and distribute and discuss within your department for feedback
 - September 26 is the feedback due date if you have some notes and/or questions that you want incorporated, please send them to Jo Scott- Coe.
 - Please share with departments. First and second reads will be at local senates in October.
- C.** Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)
- a. Faculty co-chairs of Faculty Development (2025-26)
 - Audrey Holod for community of practice with new faculty
 - Monique Greene as the new Faculty Development coordinator
 (M:S:C Sandoval/Nelson) unanimous

- b. Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) Engagement Center Coordinator (2025-26)
 - Jennifer Amaya
(M:S:C Berry/Rose)-unanimous
- c. STEM-K Division election results
 - There was a flaw in the first election process, so they had to run it again. The second election was completed by June 13, 2025.
 - For the term 2025-2027:
 - DE --Mona Jazayeri
 - Faculty Development --Ginger White and Melissa Harman
 - CMAC -- Heather Smith (on sabbatical)
 (M:S:C Nelson/Perez) unanimous
 - STEM engagement Coordinator for term 2025-26:
 - Paul Richardson (M:S:C: Borses/Truttman)- unanimous

IX. Officer Reports

A. President

- Welcome and thank you to Dr. Bishop as our interim President.
- Thank you to those who stepped in or came back into Academic Senate
- We still have not been able to find someone for Program Review faculty co-chair and no one on the committee is willing to serve at this time. President Scott-Coe will be sending a recruitment message from the Academic Senate email to all faculty. The position does come with a .2 of release time as well as a stipend. The time commitment includes EPOC meetings, planning and coordination with the admin co-chair of PR, and connecting with GEMQ and Academic Senate. Hopefully we can get a strong leader in the position as soon as possible, since Program Review begins this fall.
- Last week at District Academic Senate the three Academic Senate Presidents discussed the status of list serves since last spring.
- Our Senate, if you recall, spent quite a bit of time weighing and discussing the subject and ultimately voted for “no moderation” on the faculty list serves we were presented with (lists (PT, FT, and All faculty lists).
- Here is where we are right now:
 - All the faculty list serves/channels that we voted on to not be moderated are indeed not moderated. That vote has not been nullified. Opt-discuss, the districtwide channel for everybody, remains unmoderated.
 - The college all's, like RCCD ALL, are now moderated. Both MVC and Norco's college lists were changed, like RCC's, from unmoderated to moderated.
 - Communication that occurred created questions and confusion about process, background, and purview.
 - In terms of process: Norco Senate President Bell was able to reflect that they had college wide conversation about the college list serves through their strategic planning process, dating back to 2019, and

apparently, they were anticipating the change. MVC and RCC could not speak to a similar history, and both RCC President Scott-Coe and President Navas (MVC) reflected confusion and surprise on the part of their constituencies about the change with college-all list-servs, particularly since these had not been incorporated into the year's long discussion at Senates about moderation/not moderation for other lists.

- Both RCC and MVC had a changeover of President around the time of the communication/announcement, which added a complicating factor during the summer.
- Our leadership team will be consulting with Dr. Bishop to see what he understands about the history of the decision as pertains to RCC and what his thoughts are at this time.
- Summer notes from the Strategic Planning workgroup:
 - Senator Ellis raised the issue last year about computer/hardware access for students; we made sure to raise this issue during review of the plan—please check and see if there are additional places to incorporate that need.
 - We also kept 10+1 vigilance in mind around mentions of learning management systems (tech support vs. instructional content/curriculum)
 - CCAP infrastructure and support was also something we worked on to call out, as necessary support for growth.
- Senate leadership has a meeting with college leadership about IETTC and how we can best build a team to move forward with input from RCC subject matter experts to make coherent decisions about programs, etc.
- The plaques for the Emeritus wall in the Quad have not been updated in a while. President Scott- Coe will working with leadership to see where we are, get updates taken care of, and build this into the regular process.

B. Vice- President (written notes)

- Keep an eye open for fundraising opportunities for study abroad
- Senators pay close attention to department and discipline impacts of SAAM: it is many disciplines and courses, including non-credit mirrored courses as well.
- The Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting will be October 7 here at RCC. Our Senate Spotlight will be that evening. We are still seeking faculty who can showcase their innovations at the college. Please reach out to Academic Senate if you are interested.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

- Thank you to those that came out to our first Freedom of Speech Academic Freedom session during Fall FLEX. We spent 80-85% of the time discussing free speech. At spring FLEX, we would like to flip it and start with academic freedom. Particularly because there were questions about AI and syllabi and we want to make sure that we are providing training and opportunities for discussion.

- Secretary-treasurer Bottoms will be working with our admin on the senate budget
- ASRCC is opening fall elections for students and we have some very important conversations that are going to be happening. The elections are September 24 and 25th and the applications are open.
- Club Rush will be happening over the next 3 days; students can pick-up an application at the ASRCC table
- Homecoming is September 22-27, so please make sure you are attending and encourage others to attend. We are doing a “decade’s” theme.
- Student life and leadership is working on sending out a survey to the faculty list serve for anybody that might be interested in advising a club or organization. That information will be coming out in the next week or two.

X. Open Hearing

- On Thursday, September 11th there will be an HSI community brunch in the Hall of Fame at 10am, please reach out to Virginia White if you are interested. More details to follow.
- The STEM Division is having a welcome back week in their engagement center so please encourage your students to come. And there will be food at every event.
- The STEM connection event, our Career and Transfer Expo is in October. More details to follow
- A senator represented concern from a colleague that FLEX activities are not driven enough by faculty, so faculty have to be more involved.
- Some faculty in Art History felt that Fall FLEX did not have enough input from faculty and should be more faculty driven.
- The Art History Department wanted to express how they are extremely distressed about the list serv situation and how the RCC-ALL is moderated. They are feeling silenced and censored about this and see it as an issue of academic freedom.
- On Saturday, September 13th RCC is having their 2nd Annual Digital Art Animation convention from 11am-3pm at the Library Auditorium.
- September 15 through October 15 is Hispanic Heritage month. There will be many activities, with a low rider car show next Thursday, Sept. 18th and next Tuesday, Sept. 16th there will Aztec Dancers during college hour in the Quad.
- On October 9th during college hour in Business CIS 114A there is going to be an event with activist and Hip Hop artist Jag Arreola doing a discussion.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- DE certification and rubric plus QR code—share for feedback from faculty
- All eyes on curriculum-- SAAM
- Strategic Planning Draft—make sure to review
- Program Review: be alert for the message that will be coming out for faculty co-chair
- Thanks to Academic Senate for authorizing a letter of support for the Bachelor of Nursing/AB1400. Rhonda Taube sent out a link plus her letter of support as well.
- List serv conversation and update will be forthcoming

XII. Adjourn at 5:00pm (M/S/C: Bottoms/Perez)