

Riverside City College Academic Senate
September 22, 2025 • 3:00 - 5:00 PM • Hall of Fame

3:00 I. Call to Order at 3:13 pm, quorum met

Roll Call

Academic Senate Officers (Term ending 2026)

President: Jo Scott-Coe

Vice President: Star Taylor

Secretary-Treasurer: Megan Bottoms

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler

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

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

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

ASC: Jacquie Lesch 3:01pm

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) -3:01pm

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, Interim Dean, LHSS

Shari Yates, Dean CTE

Courtney Carter, Counseling

Kelley Bader, Assistant Professor, English

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

Wendy McEwen, OIE

Natalie Vazquez, Professional Development

Alex Cortez, Assistant Professor, Biology

Brianna Franco, Viewpoints Reporter

Jaylen White, Viewpoints Reporter

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Sandoval/Borses) unanimous

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes September 8

- M/S/C: (Weiler/Legner) unanimous

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- Melissa Harman spoke about Faculty Development and Fall FLEX

3:0 V. Liaison Reports**A. RCCD Faculty Association**

- There will be Rooftop Mixer hosted by the Faculty Association on Thursday, November 6th from 3pm-7pm at the District Office.
- The FA articles that were presented will be approved at the board meeting next week
- We have not heard back from the district about the articles they want to sunshine
- Please do not proceed on the mandatory cyber security training that was sent out by Christopher Blackmore. Those terms need to be negotiated.
- The Faculty Association is in full swing of IOI evaluations

B. College President or designee

- President Bishop is continuing to get around campus and trying to get to know RCC better through his coffee chats
- The President is focused on the standard of care
- The president's office is working through ramifications for Title III and Title V grants, and they are working with leadership teams and colleagues to see what the next steps are in moving forward
- Working on relationship with high schools to increase full time enrollees

C. ASRCC Representative

- Special election Wednesday, 9/24 and Thursday, 9/25
- 15 senator applications
- There is an academics related issue with common course numbering

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A.** Faculty co-chair of EPOC, Wendy McKeen, or designee will provide an update from the committee (information)
- Tabled for October 6th

VII. Ongoing Business

- A.** Student Equity Committee (SEC) faculty co-chair Monique Greene and administrative co-chair Lorena Newson will present the 2025-28 Student Equity Plan (second read + action)
- 2025-2028 timeline key dates for presentations:
 - DSPC October 17, 2025
 - Chancellors' Cabinet October 27, 2025
 - Board of Trustees November 3, 2025
 - Submission November 30, 2025
 - The Student Equity Committee was able to complete revisions and added language regarding the Student Equity Planning Institute in our Tiger Values alignment
 - New language was also added in the "key learning" section because there were some organizational and structural changes prior to Dr. Newson taking the position as the new dean.
 - Information was also added to create alignment between the Student Equity Plan and the Strategic Plan. Some of the Vision 2030 language was condensed, and they refined the strategy and metric data.

M/S/C: (Legner/Weiler) motion to approve the Student Equity Plan, carried with 1 abstention

- B.** Senate leadership will facilitate a discussion of the draft DE certification rubric and the draft recommended qualifications for reviewers (second read + action)
- Discussion ensued about the form and making sure that the certification does not intrude upon regular IOI or impede academic freedom.
 - Suggestion for a column on the rubric to enable more mutual communication between instructor and reviewer, enabling an instructor to provide their rationale for how requirements are being satisfied (i.e. "I am satisfying this through live meeting

dialogue” or “I am satisfying this through this portion of my syllabus.”) This would give instructors a voice in the process and engage with reviewers.

- Recertification will happen every 3 years

M/S/C: (Sappenfield/Berry) contingent on the workgroup’s finalizing of non-substantive suggestions- unanimous

C. President Scott-Coe or designee facilitate continued discussion of the RCCD Strategic Plan draft to gather new feedback in preparation for first and second reads in October (information + discussion)

- In objective 1.2, faculty in the workgroup advocated for more comprehensive support for CCAP rather than simply a growth target.
- In objective 2.1 there is some shorthand in the benchmarks and KPIs. At the end of the document there is clarification about how equity benchmarks are determined for specific demographics.
- The equitable access to technology objective 5.4 was not on the original list, so we made sure that it got added.
- Discussion ensued about ensuring student access to personal hardware at home as well as hotspots.
- Suggestion to use the phrase “emerging technologies,” since terms such as “gen AI” can become dated quickly in a 5-year plan.
- Combining vouchers from different programs on campus can assist students with getting a personal laptop.
- The plan is missing language that we are a HSI Serving institution and district.
- Notes gathered here will be shared with Dr. Zhai.

VIII. New Business

A. Vice President Taylor or designee will sunshine the nominees for faculty representatives on District Committees (information)

- Senate emailed a call for faculty representatives on district committees. We received two nominations. One for RCCD Institutional Partnership Subcommittee (Prof. Jennifer Amaya). The other nominee was for the RCCD Civic Engagement Subcommittee (Prof. Star Taylor). We will vote on these candidates at our next meeting on October 6th.

B. Vice President Taylor will introduce the candidate(s) for faculty co-chair of the Program Review Committee and lead RCCAS in a time-sensitive vote (information + action)

- We had one nominee for faculty co-chair for the Program Review Committee, Dr. Virginia White.

M/S/C: (Kessler/Sappenfield) unanimous

C. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a Senate discussion with Interim President Bishop about convening a Fall 2025 ad hoc advisory team of RCC faculty subject matter experts and leaders to address potential program development and/or curriculum design for IETTC (discussion and action)

- The Chancellor has decided based on bond funding that IETTC is going to belong to RCC

- Conversations have moved on from the conceptual phase to implementation, and we would like to call an ad hoc group that assembles faculty subject matter experts and college leaders to help shape decisions.
- The IETTC is estimated to open in 2030 and the process for planning and program development needs to begin so that any discrete physical needs of likely programs can inform designs/planning.
- It is important that we engage from the outset with this group of faculties to make sure that we are thinking about what programs would be the best for the center. We don't want programs duplicated or competing. We may also want to expand to areas we do not yet deliver. The goal is to have program designations by the beginning of February 2026.
- We need CTE representatives in these discussions.
- Discussion ensued about emerging technologies in the CT industries where virtual reality is becoming standard. If we are moving in that direction, we could have a building or space that would allow for multiple programs.
- The Visual Arts Department would like to be involved in the conversation of resources at IETTC.
- LA Trade Tech College is one model in the state/country that can help us imagine IETTC.
- Comments were made about the need for part-time faculty involvement and an awareness of noncredit courses and requirements, as well as the potential for general education courses (math or English, for example). Credit for prior learning (CPL) is also something we should consider.
- There were questions about whether IETTC may ultimately become its own college in the long-term.
- Timeline to be worked out-- more details to follow

M/S/C: (Legner/Scullin) motion to carry with 1 abstention to authorize President Scott-Coe to recruit faculty members for an ad hoc workgroup for IETTC

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

- a. Appointment of Prof. Mary Legner to ASCCC Transfer, Articulation, & Student Support Committee
M/S/C: (Nelson/Taylor) unanimous
- b. FPA representative on Faculty Development 25-27 (correction to reported results)
 - Bryan Keene is the Fine and Performing Arts Representative for Faculty Development
M/S/C: (Kim/Borses) unanimous
- c. Time sensitive- LHSS substitute RDAS replacement of LHSS 24-26 faculty representative

- Replace Dan Hogan with Tucker Amidon to finish out the 24-26 term
M/S/C:(Taylor/Scullin)- unanimous

IX. Officer Reports

A. Vice President

- The support open house is Tuesday, 9/23 and Wednesday, 9/24 right in front of the MLK Building from 11am-1pm.
- The Parent Club is hosting their 2nd annual bring your kids to college day on Wednesday, 9/24 from 3pm-5pm in the Quad.
- Our colleague from LHSS Doris Namala sent out the First Five announcement on Friday. It highlighted the different counseling hours, a flyer for a movie viewing for Indigenous Peoples Day as well as a wellness workshop
- VP Taylor would like to remind everyone that we are still an HSI and MSI serving institution despite our grants being canceled. VP Taylor quotes our interim President Dr. Bishop's words on staying committed in ensuring that students know that they belong here at Riverside City College.

B. Secretary-Treasurer

- National Hispanic Heritage Month runs September 15th through October 15th.
- On October 9th we have the Justice 8 presentation in BLCIS 114. The LatinX Banquet is still in the planning process, more details to follow.
- Transitioning Minds is offering a Fresh Start Clinic Saturday, October 11th. There will be more information from Mark Sanchez and Rosana Gomez.
- The 18th Annual Student Research Conference, presented by RCC Honors and STEM will be on November 21st. Please encourage your students to submit their information by October 10th to Daniel Hogan.
- It is Homecoming Week and this year's theme rolls us back to "the decades." The Makerspace is helping in the Quad. There will be Karaoke on Wednesday, 9/24 from 12pm-2pm.
- On Thursday we have "dress the decades," and then we have a pep rally starting at 4:00pm. There will be band, cheer, theatre, and dance. We will also have homecoming candidates, a field goal kicking contest, and Raising Cane's afterwards.
- Saturday is the big day with a tailgate starting at 10am with a Denny's Sunshine Breakfast. The game will kick off at noon against Palomar.
- There are 10 candidates for homecoming, please utilize the QR code at the bottom of the Saved by the Bell themed posters to vote.
- Please encourage your students to attend the research conference.

C. President

- District Strategic Planning Committee met last Friday, and President Scott-Coe would like to give a shout out to Dr. Kristi Woods who presented the RCC Strategic Plan.
- The new District Equivalency Committee will be convened by District Academic Senate on Tuesday, September 30th. The full implementation of the updated equivalency procedure will start once the committee meets in October.
- As directed by RCCAS at the last meeting, President Scott-Coe drafted a letter supporting AB1400 directly to the governor; the letter was sent through the RCCD legislative office. Dr. Isaac has said that the governor will make his decision anytime between now and October 14th.
- President Scott-Coe has been reaching out to faculty co-chairs of committees and sub committees just to check-in to see if Academic Senate can assist with anything. The idea is to pull together any common themes or questions so that we can address them and be supportive of committee leaders and members.
- We are seeing some growing faculty concerns about AI appearing in learning management systems and in other instructional spaces not only here but across the state. In a recent message, ASCCC President, LaTonya Parker spoke to how these questions are bubbling up across the state. Next month we will take a look at a resolution on AI drafted and passed by faculty colleagues from at MiraCosta College Academic Senate. It may offer us some useful guiding principles to consider.
- Faculty are reasonably alarmed about attacks on immigrants in our local, regional communities, and across the country. We are also concerned about the overt and insidious attacks on academic freedom in higher education overall.
- President Scott-Coe wants to echo what VP Star Taylor said when she referred to President Bishop's message about remaining steadfast in lifting the voices, cultures, and experiences of our community even as resources shift. Our strength is found in the resilience of our students and the heritage that shapes us.
- Let us give more gratitude to the Student Equity Committee and the leadership of Dr. Monique Greene and Dr. Lorena Newson. The student equity plan can help us focus equity-minded approaches for faculty professional development.

X. Open Hearing

- October 10th is ongoing Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations; we have Fools in Medicine presented by Mesa. Yadira Perez is helping to sponsor this. These are two graduate students, who are also medical students and social influencers, who document their ventures and their experiences being racially profiled. There will be another meeting on Monday, September 29th from 10-12. The location is TBD.

- We need an update about when the electric car chargers will be in working use here on campus.
- October 10th is also the Wild and Scenic Field Festival, presented by the Sustainability Committee and the Student Sustainability Collective. The event will take place in Downtown Riverside at the Box Theatre right above the Food Lab. This year they will have 10 short films, and it is about a 2-hour program. A poster and ticketing link will be sent out, so please look out for that.
- The Life Sciences department is in opposition to any restructuring of the administrative support services building (Copy Center).

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- IETTTC will be a part of RCC
- Please be aware of cyber security trainings because it doesn't feel important until your data is stolen. October is cyber security awareness month.
- There are a lot of acronyms and terms in the Student Equity Plan and the existing glossary will be shared.
- We learned what a trifecta year is.
- October 10th features events for Hispanic Heritage Month and also The Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Box.
- The Faculty Association is having a rooftop mixer in November.
- Distance Education certification is moving through governance and will next go to District Academic Senate
- We need faculty volunteers/subject matter experts for the ad hoc IETTTC group.
- Continue to share First Five in your classes
- Come to Homecoming and support students
- Tell your students about the Honors research conference
- Tell students to vote in Homecoming
- Continue to do what you have been doing to serve and support our students

XII. Adjourn at 4:37pm

M/S/C: (Berry/Bottoms) unanimous