

Riverside City College Academic Senate
October 6, 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

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- 4:00pm

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- 3:35pm

Life Sciences: Gregory Russell

Mathematics: Mary Legner

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Huda Aljord

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

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

Courtney Carter- Counseling
Kelly Bader- English
Shari Yates- CTE
Herb English-Counseling
Vivian Felix- Viewpoints Staff

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: (Taylor/Rose) approved by consent

3:0 III. Approval of the Minutes September 22 (tabled until October 20th)

3:0 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

3:0 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- Please read the Faculty Association minutes
- Glen Hunt is being remodeled which is where the Faculty Association usually holds their meetings in Digital Library 404. The new meeting space is in CAK 224 for the remainder of the semester or until further notice.
- A flyer will be coming out for the Faculty Mixer and Nov. 6th and there is limited space. The event will be at the districts roof top from 4pm-7pm.

- The Deputy Chancellor Search committee concluded and we will see how it moves along.
- Contract negotiations are open and if you are interested in being a researcher, please contact your faculty association representative.

B. College President or designee

- A concern came from a faculty member about students being approached about taping faculty members in the classroom. President Bishop felt the best place to address this concern is Faculty Leadership. Conversations have been had at the state wide CEO level and there have been a lot of attempts to record and report faculty to the national watch list.
- President Bishop wants to start laying out some of the things he sees as priorities. Increasing completion rates to get above the 20%, increase student belonging, increase part-time to full-time enrollment to move students through their pathways quicker.

C. ASRCC Representative

- Special elections were just completed for senators and there are now 18 senators for this semester.
- ASRCC is getting ready for Halloween Town – Friday October 24 - and there will be a meeting on Tuesday, 10/7/25.

VI. Committee or Council Updates

A. Faculty co-chair of EPOC, Wendy McKeen, or designee will provide an update from the committee, including input from Accreditation Faculty Co-Chair Jacquie Lesch (information)

- The evidence gathering phase for Accreditation started last fall and moved into three writing clinics, one held in the winter and two held in the spring. A good amount of information was gathered for each standard and it has been uploaded into Teams.
- The information has been split into separate standards so that each of the leadership councils can work on their particular part of the document.
- Leadership councils have been given the task to revise, review, and make additional recommendations all due by Nov. 6th of this semester. An update will be shared at RCCAS on Nov. 17.
- A more concerted effort will be in the winter semester with smaller groups that will come together with the recommendations from ACCJC--they want our college to tell a story of how we meet a standard and discuss the supporting evidence.
- For RSI, our fully online courses are going to be sampled.

- The peer review team will review our self-evaluation, and there will be a period where questions can be asked; they will come up with their report, The review site team visit, if needed, will be in the Spring of 2027.
- EPOC is in the process of faculty prioritization, and an email was sent out to full-time faculty; representatives for divisions are in that email.
- We have six positions being asked for and Human Resources (HR) is asking to have all new full time new hires to the April board.
- EPOC will be presenting the strategic plan to the Board of Trustees on Nov. 3rd and they have been working with the leadership councils to try and help align some of the key performance indicators (KPI's) to keep track of how we are doing based on the strategic plan.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A.** President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a first read of the RCCD 2025-30 Strategic Plan to gather final feedback in preparation for voting Oct. 20 (first read + discussion)
- This is an updated version of the 2025-2030 strategic plan from the district and it includes some of the changes that we suggested.
 - Some of the changes since our last meeting include a comment from Senator Perez about HSI language missing from the strategic plan which is now in the purpose section of the document and is undeveloped but can be built on. The suggestion was to connect it to belonging which connects it to the idea of serving ness instead of just service.
 - All of our comments about technology, hardware, internet access, and hotspots were added to the document
 - We had to replace emerging technologies with the phrase generative AI which came from Senator Berry.
 - President Scott-Coe made a request under Goal Five, Strategy Two, about safety and well-being of employees. Her suggestion was to add a line that set a goal to clarify policies and procedures, communications, reporting, and feedback loops for community concerns when reported. This has been added.
 - Some additional changes in the new draft relate to Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)
 - Please let President Scott-Coe know if you have notes you would like forwarded about the plan by the end of the week.

VIII. New Business

- A.** President Scott-Coe or designee will sunshine the need for an ASCCC OER Liaison (information + discussion)
- We do not have an OERI state liaison for ASCCC and there appears to be an annual call. This role was falling to the chair of CMAC and we should avoid that if possible.
 - Compensation from ASCCC will be provided. Each college's OER Liaison will be eligible for a \$1200 stipend.

- We need someone in this position who has experience and knowledge about OER and online education.
- The first kick-off will be October 10th and we will likely not have anyone in place. Jo Scott Coe will be following up with ASCCC and sending an email and/or general all college call for recruitment.

B. Vice President Taylor or designee will facilitate a vote on nominees for faculty representatives for District Committees (information + action)

- Secretary Treasurer Bottoms conducted the vote as Vice President Taylor was a candidate
- RCCD committee nominees submitted to Academic Senate on September 22
 - RCCD Institutional Partnerships Subcommittee, there was one nominee, Professor Jennifer Amaya: unanimously approved
 - RCCD Civic Engagement Sub-Committee, the nominee was Professor Star Taylor: unanimously approved

C. Vice President Taylor will facilitate the review of an academic senate resolution on AI passed by faculty colleagues at MiraCosta College, for local discussion and possible adaptation by RCCAS (information + discussion)

- Vice President Taylor wants to highlight a “whereas” of the resolution that says college faculty believe students can learn to use AI to “enhance rather than replace or undercut their learning.” Students tend to seek AI to replace their work because they do not have confidence in their work.
- The gist of this kind of resolution is to encourage faculty across disciplines and across the college to have conversations with one another, but also to have conversations with your students to educate them about AI and the implications of AI.
- The resolution also highlights collaborative faculty within and across disciplines to cultivate higher ed’s rich diversity of thinking and learning by designing and repurposing AI systems to expand rather than undermine human agency.
- Please take this information back to your departments to discuss policies and how you treat AI in your classrooms. Are you using it? Are you penalizing students for using it? Are you having conversations with your students that you suspect are using it or are you just giving them an F?
- There seems to be a curricular concern that if we are going to talk about AI in each discipline, then wouldn’t we have to work it into each of our courses of outline? Particularly introductory courses, because it seems to be an actual call for transformation on how we teach our subjects.
- A strategy Dr. Lappin uses when there is suspected AI usage is that they will call the student into their office and have a conversation about it. In response, questioning students can be problematic because the faculty member is making an assumption so addressing the whole class might be a better option.
- Academic freedom is also a topic that needs to be addressed.

- A reminder that a resolution is not meant to be a policy or design syllabus language, etc. but rather to establish a premise or framework of values that can guide conversations about policy or daily operations.
- Please take this resolution back to departments to discuss

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

- We did have a couple of 2025-27 vacancies in STEM-K representation: one for RDAS and the other for TLLC. These elections have now been completed and we need to ratify.
- The RDAS representative is William Phelps and TLLC representative is Valerie Merrill
M/S/C: (Legner/Truttman)- unanimously approved
- Professor Mary Legner was also appointed to serve for the ASCCC Awards and Recognition Committee
M/S/C: (Henry/Weiler) unanimous

IX. Officer Reports

A. Secretary- Treasurer

- Thank you to those that participated or came out to homecoming. Our own Lateisha Williams was crowned so congratulations to her.
- We have 13 new student senators starting their roles starting tomorrow, October 7th. We are now up to about 20 student senators. Keep shoulder tapping your students because we are still looking for shared governance positions.
- An email was sent out a few weeks ago over the faculty list serv for new faculty interested in serving as club advisors. So far there have been 15 responses. Faculty do have to be full-time RCC faculty. Librarians, counselors count and then part-time faculty can serve as co-advisors per the board policy. Classified professionals can also serve as co- advisors as long as it is in line with their contract and they secure management approval.
- Fall Plenary for Academic Senate is November 6-8th in San Diego. Our Academic Senate leadership will be attending.
- Halloween Town is scheduled for Friday, October 24th from 5pm-8pm. Halloween Town is geared towards kids 12 and under but we never turn away the big kids who want to trick or treat. There will be a costume contest and the theatre is also doing a spooky maze from 5pm-8pm.

B. President

- District Academic Senate approved the DE certification rubric and the next phase is working out implementation. The summer work group's charge will

likely be expanded to help with the to-dos. The Faculty Association is working on compensation for peer reviewers.

- The District Equivalency Committee was officially seated last week, and they will be having their first meeting in mid-October.
- Thank you to all of the faculty subject matter experts who volunteered to serve on the ad-hoc IETTC Planning work group.
- The Board of Trustees occasionally rotates its meetings at each college. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, they will be meeting here at RCC in CIS 114A at 6pm. We are proud to have our Senate Spotlight at this same meeting, and Dr. Parissa Clark and Dr. Mike Chavez will be updating us on their work with CALA, the Community Action Leadership Academy.
- ASCCC Plenary is coming up in November. This Friday, October 10th is the area D meeting. We have preliminary resolutions and will provide an update at the next meeting.

C. Vice President

- Happy Birthday to Secretary Treasurer Megan Bottoms
- Please SAVE THE DATE Thursday, October 16th from 4pm-6pm for the Latinx banquet. RSVP by Friday, October 10th featuring keynote speaker, our own Professor Mark Sanchez.
- It is transfer season, and the UCCSU Transfer Support Workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 15th from 1-2:30 and on Wednesday, November 12th from 1-2:30pm in the LHSS Engagement Center.
- For students applying to UCs, the LHSS Engagement Center in collaboration with the English Department is offering PIQ workshop support with our colleague, Dr. Nancy Carranza on October 21st from 10am-11am and also on November 4th and November 18th. VP Star Taylor will be there from 12pm-1pm this coming Wednesday, October 8th, Wednesday, October 29th, and Wednesday, November 12th. Please help push your students to these workshops.
- Thank you to the Student Equity Committee for hosting a shared equity leadership retreat this pass Friday. Meaningful conversations were had between managers, classified professionals, faculty, and students. VP Taylor wanted to highlight that equity work is everybody's work!

X. Open Hearing

- This Thursday and Friday October 9-10 the Chancellor's office is having their Collective Equity Impact Institute, at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine. All can attend: students, classified professional, and managers.

- Senator Rose is requesting to know the status of the security audit last year and updates about implementation of the recommendations on the safety measures from the report that was received.
- DRC support for evening classes is not always clear, including accommodations for supporting faculty for testing and room organization.
- Student Sustainability Collective is hosting the Wild and Scenic Film Festival this Friday, October 10th. It will be held at the Box at the Fox Theatre in Downtown Riverside right above the Food Lab from 5:30-7pm. Another reminder email will be sent out later in the week.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Halloween Town October 24th and it is Megan's Birthday
- Mira Costa College's resolution on AI should be shared with our departments
- Online classes will be sampled in for accreditation
- DE rubric has been approved but implementation is forthcoming
- We still need someone to serve OER liaison that comes with a stipend
- The notes that we made about the strategic plan were taken on board
- RSVP for the FA rooftop mixer by October 10th
- Latin X luncheon
- Attend the board meeting on our campus tomorrow in CIS 114A at 6pm
- Remind your students to attend transfer events
- Follow up with Dr. Bishop to see what the legal guidance may be for a faculty message about any surreptitious recordings in classes

XII. Adjourn at 4:23pm

M/S/C: (Soto/Nelson) unanimous