Riverside City College Academic Senate

Agenda
Monday 16 March 2026 • 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Meeting Location: The RCC Hall of Fame Room
YouTube link for viewing:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9tCDF4RDXCqzrUS0QfO09A/featured

3:00	I.	**Call to Order**
3:05	II.	**Approval of the Agenda**
3:05	III.	**Approval of the Minutes** March 2 [tabled]
3:08	IV.	**Public Comments**
3:18	V.	**Liaison Reports**

       A. RCCD Faculty Association
       B. College President or designee
       C. ASRCC Representative

3:30   VI.   **Committee or Council Updates and Reports**
       A. EPOC Faculty Co-Chair Wendy McKeen or designee will provide a strategic planning update (information)
       B. Curriculum Faculty Co-Chair Kelly Douglass or designee will provide a committee update (information)

3:35   VII.   **Ongoing Business**
       A. General Counsel Keith Dobyns will provide an updated review of the Brown Act for Academic Senate (information)
       B. RCCAS will consider and discuss any updated information regarding the proposed Canvas gradebook software pilot for Early Alert (information and discussion)
       C. President Scott-Coe will lead a discussion of a standing RCCAS agenda item related to IETTC (discussion)
       D. Vice-President Taylor or designee will provide reminders about collegewide spring election cycles and clarify the nominations and elections timeline/process for senate officers and the associate faculty senator (information)

4:25   VIII. **New Business**
       A. Dr. Mary Rankin will provide an update about RCC Cares Resources for faculty support of students (information)
       B. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a forum for expression of faculty concerns and priorities for the next College President (discussion)
       C. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)
           a. Updated College, District, and State Committee vacancies and re-appointments coming in April

4:30   IX.   **Officer Reports**
       A. Vice President
       B. Secretary-Treasurer
       C. President

4:45   X.   **Open Hearing**
4:55   XI.   **Learn, Share, Do**
5:00   XII. **Adjourn**

Next RCCAS Meeting: Monday 6 April 2026
Agenda items due by Tuesday 30 March at noon (to allow for the Cesar Chavez holiday)

Title 5 §53200 and RCCD Board Policy 2005
Academic Senate "10+1" Purview Areas

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines* 2. Degree and certificate requirements* 3. Grading policies* 4. Educational program development* 5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success* 6. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles** 7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports** 8. Policies for faculty professional development activities* 9. Processes for program review** 10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development** 11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the Academic Senate**
* The RCCD Board of Trustees relies primarily on the recommendations of the Academic Senate
**The RCCD Board of Trustees relies on recommendations that are the result of mutual agreement between the Trustees and the Academic Senate

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Brown Act Meeting Reminders and Updates[1]

Brown Act Basics:

- California's open meeting law that ensures transparency in local government and public bodies; ensures that decisions are made openly and promotes public trust and accountability.
- A Brown Act Meeting is any gathering of the members of the Brown Act committee to hear, discuss, and/or deliberate on any item of business that is in the subject matter of the body. Social and ceremonial gatherings, conferences, or individual contacts (1:1 conversations) do not count.
- Academic Senates (college and district) and their standing committees are Brown Act bodies.
- A majority of the body may not discuss or transact business (personally or through staff or technology) outside of a properly noticed meeting including email strings. The body may not take action on business not properly agendized.
- The Brown Act rules are intentionally formulaic and restrictive to promote trust and accountability and ensure open decision making.
- Agendas must post publicly a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Conducting a Brown Act Meeting:

- Parliamentary procedure / Robert's Rules of Order are a common but not legally required method for the orderly process of conducting meetings.
- The President / Chair manages the conduct of the meeting including recognizing speakers, putting time limits on discussion, ending debate, and calling a vote.

Teleconference Rules Overview:

- **Overview**:
  - Regardless of teleconference type, if any members are teleconferencing, the general public must also have a remote participation option (call-in or internet/zoom); ALL VOTES must be by roll call.
  - Brown Act bodies that meet in person without teleconferencing may stream for remote viewing and are not required to provide remote public access. No roll call voting.
- **Traditional Teleconference Rules**:
  - Must be arranged in advance with all locations on regular agenda. Hybrid model; requires a quorum (50% + 1) to be participating from within the body's jurisdiction; the remote location of all members will be listed on the agenda and must be open for public access.
- **"Just Cause" Rules**:
  - Notice/request should be as early as possible, no later than start of meeting. No action required by body. Allowed to accommodate a caregiving need (for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner); a contagious illness; a physical or family medical emergency that prevents meeting in person; a defined physical or mental disability that is otherwise not accommodated for; or traveling while on official business of the body or another state or local agency.
  - Five "Just Cause" remote appearances allowed per person, per year; camera use required unless excused due to disability; remote attendance must be in minutes.
- **Possible Board-approved Teleconference for Academic Senates and Standing Committees:**
  - Newer option still being clarified by district counsel and discussed by District Academic Senate
  - May allow meeting to be conducted remotely if granted by Board of Trustees permission; permission would have to be re-examined and renewed every six months (still to be determined).
  - One physical location must be open to public with at least one person from the body present.
  - Members must appear on camera and disclose the presence of anyone under 18.
  - Raises questions for President/Chair and senators/members seeking to assure consistent modality expectations within term of service. Not generally a best practice for larger deliberative bodies. Again, roll call voting for all votes.

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[1] Excerpted, copied, summarized, and paraphrased from District Council Keith Dobyns's 23 February 2026 District Academic Senate presentation (slides 2, 5-15)

Election Cycles per RCCAS Bylaws and Strategic Planning Bylaws
(current as of March 2024)

Odd year elections take place in odd Spring, to begin term in odd Fall
Even year elections take place in even Spring, to begin term in even Fall

Division Elections for Subcommittees: Affirmed by RCCAS in May

Distance Ed (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE; FPA; Math, Science and Kinesiology (1 each)
Even years: Counseling, Library, and Learning Resources and Academic Support; LHSS; Nursing (1 each)

Faculty Development (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE (2); FPA (1); Math, Science and Kinesiology (2)
Even years: Counseling, Library, and Learning Resources and Academic Support (1); LHSS (3); Nursing (1)

CMAC (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE; FPA; Math, Science and Kinesiology (1 each)
Even years: Counseling, Library, and Learning Resources and Academic Support; LHSS; Nursing (1 each)

Division Elections for Leadership Councils: Affirmed by RCCAS in May

SAS (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE (2), FPA (1), Nursing (1)
Even Years: Counseling, Library and Learning Resources and Academic Support (1); LHSS (3); Mathematics, Science, and Kinesiology (2)

TLLC (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE (2), FPA (1), Nursing (1)
Even Years: Counseling, Library and Learning Resources and Academic Support (1); LHSS (3); Mathematics, Science, and Kinesiology (2)

GEMQ (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE (2), FPA (1), Nursing (1)
Even Years: Counseling, Library and Learning Resources and Academic Support (1); LHSS (3); Mathematics, Science, and Kinesiology (2)

RDAS (2-year term)
Odd years: CTE (2), FPA (1), Nursing (1)
Even Years: Counseling, Library and Learning Resources and Academic Support (1); LHSS (3); Mathematics, Science, and Kinesiology (2)

Department Representative Elections

Senators (2-year term)

Odd years: Applied Tech; Behavioral Sciences/Psychology; Business, Law, and Computer Information Systems; Comm Studies; English & Media Studies; History, Philosophy, Humanities, and Ethnic Studies; Library & Learning Resources; Life Sciences; Mathematics; Music; World Languages

Even years: Art; Chemistry; Cosmetology; Counseling/Student Activities; School of Education & Teacher Preparation; Economics, Geography, Political Science; Nursing; Dance and Theater; Physical Science; Kinesiology

Curriculum (2-year term)

Odd years: Applied Tech; Behavioral Sciences/Psychology; Business, Law, and Computer Information Systems; Comm Studies; English & Media Studies; History, Philosophy, Humanities, and Ethnic Studies; Library & Learning Resources; Life Sciences; Mathematics; Music; World Languages

Even years: Art; Chemistry; Cosmetology; Counseling/Student Activities; School of Education & Teacher Preparation; Economics, Geography, Political Science; Nursing; Dance and Theater; Physical Science; Kinesiology

Academic Program Review (2-year term)

Odd years: Applied Tech; Behavioral Sciences/Psychology; Business, Law, and Computer Information Systems; Comm Studies; English & Media Studies; History, Philosophy, Humanities, and Ethnic Studies; Library & Learning Resources; Life Sciences; Mathematics; Music; World Languages

Even years: Art; Chemistry; Cosmetology; Counseling/Student Activities; School of Education & Teacher Preparation; Economics, Geography, Political Science; Nursing; Dance and Theater; Physical Science; Kinesiology

Assessment (2-year term)

Odd years: Applied Tech; Behavioral Sciences/Psychology; Business, Law, and Computer Information Systems; Comm Studies; English & Media Studies; History, Philosophy, Humanities, and Ethnic Studies; Library & Learning Resources; Life Sciences; Mathematics; Music; World Languages

Even years: Art; Chemistry; Cosmetology; Counseling/Student Activities; School of Education & Teacher Preparation; Economics, Geography, Political Science; Nursing; Dance and Theater; Physical Science; Kinesiology

Collegewide—Nominated/sunshined, then elected by RCCAS in May

==**PG&SL** (2-year term; 2 members—one elected each year to allow for rotation)==

==**GLSAC** (3-year term) 1 member—one elected annually to allow for rotation==

Leadership Roles Affirmed by RCCAS

Curriculum faculty co-chair (2-years)
DLC chair (2-years)
SAS, TLLC, GEMQ, and RDAS faculty co-chairs (2-years)
EPOC faculty co-chair (2-years)

Department Chair Elections
3-year term--elections even/odd as determined by departments within the terms of faculty contract

==**Associate Faculty Senator**== (elected annually, per RCCAS bylaws)

Senate Leadership Elections (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer)
3-year term; spring elections, officers begin term in fall
==New term: 2026-2029==

Recognize, Respond, Refer to RCC C.A.R.E.S.

Creating a Culture of Care, Connection, and Safety on Campus

What is RCC C.A.R.E.S.?

A **proactive, multi-disciplinary team** that meets regularly to identify, assess, and respond to concerning student behaviors **before** they escalate into crises.

> ⚠️ **Important:** RCC C.A.R.E.S. is **not** an emergency response team. For immediate threats, contact Campus Safety or call **911**.

Mental Health

Clinical expertise to assess psychological factors

Faculty

Academic perspective and classroom observations

Student Services

Knowledge of available resources and support options

Campus Safety

Security expertise and risk assessment

Recognizing Signs of Distress

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Responding to Signs of Distress

1 **Approach with Care**

Choose a private setting. Start with observations: *"I've noticed you seem stressed — how are you doing?"*

2 **Listen Actively**

Give full attention. Use empathy: *"That sounds overwhelming. Thank you for sharing."* Don't rush to fix.

3 **Assess for Urgency**

Ask directly: *"Are you thinking about hurting yourself?"* Asking does **not** increase risk. If danger is immediate, call campus PD and stay with them.
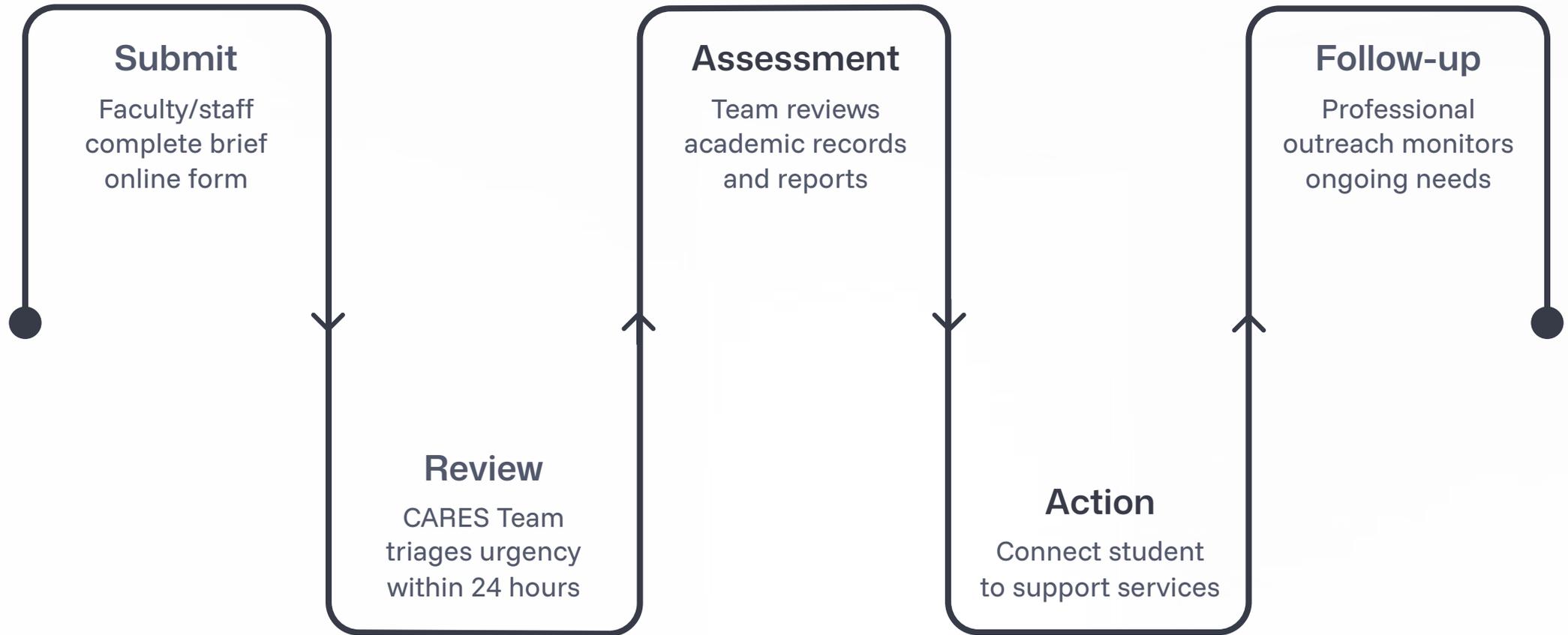
4 **Refer, Don't Rescue**

Connect to resources: Student Health & Psychological Services **951-222-8151** · 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

C.A.R.E.S. Intervention Workflow

From report to resolution — a clear, coordinated process every time.

Submit
Faculty/staff complete brief online form

Review
CARES Team triages urgency within 24 hours

Assessment
Team reviews academic records and reports

Action
Connect student to support services

Follow-up
Professional outreach monitors ongoing needs

Each step is designed to be timely, compassionate, and coordinated.

The RCC C.A.R.E.S. Reporting Process

How to Access the Form

Visit **www.rcc.edu** → Student Support → CARES Team (bottom of first column), or find it on the CARES page under *"How We Can Help."*

Completing the Report

Provide **detailed, objective, matter-of-fact** information. Include dates, times, specific observations, and patterns. Avoid speculation — focus on facts.

After Submission

An automatic response is sent to your email. A team member leads outreach **that same day** and develops an appropriate action plan.

> Due to privacy concerns, follow-up information will be limited.

ⓘ Special Reporting Considerations

Title IX

Direct concerns to **Dr. Lorraine Jones**, Title IX Coordinator

Mandated Reporting

All faculty, classified professionals & administrators must report suspected abuse of minors

FERPA

Allows sharing information for health and safety concerns

HIPAA

Protects health information but permits disclosure in emergencies

Key Takeaways & Next Steps

When in Doubt, Report

It's better to report a minor concern than miss an opportunity to help a student in crisis. Trust your instincts.

Focus on Observable Behavior

Document facts, statements, and patterns — not interpretations or diagnoses.

Reporting is an Act of CARE

Connecting students with resources early helps them succeed academically and personally.

✉ **CARES@RCC.EDU** · Visit the RCC C.A.R.E.S. webpage via **www.rcc.edu** →
Student Support → CARES Team