



April 23rd, 2026

Thursdays, 2:10pm-4:00pm

Join us in person: 4-301

Join us on zoom:

<https://smccd.zoom.us/j/83240130908>

Academic Senate: “the organization whose primary function, as the representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the administration of the college and to the Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters” (CA CCR Title 5).

Voting Members

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| <p>Executive Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President: Cassidy Ryan [votes in ties] ● Vice President: Jessica Truglio ● Secretary: Christopher Collins ● Treasurer: Tony Viertel ● Past President: Vacant (does not vote) <p>Senators</p> <p>ASLT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vincent Kang <p>BEPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vacant ● Jill Rizzo <p>Counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suzanne Poma ● Kenny Gonzalez ● Rocio Aguilar-Pedroza <p>CTE Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vacant | <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lucia Lachmayr ● Janice Sapigao <p>KAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amber Steele <p>SPWD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christine Herndon <p>SSCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Katie Manbachi ● Kathy Zarur (not present) ● Jennifer Merrill <p>STEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rick Hough (not present) ● Jing Folsom ● Simantini Karve <p>SESP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lucy Jovel <p>Part-Time Faculty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vacant ● Vacant ● Vacant |
|---|--|

Voting members: 20
Simple majority: 11
2/3: 12

Non-voting Members

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Governance Committee Chairs</p> <p>AFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Song <p>ASSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Oo <p>Curriculum Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rick Hough | <p>PD/CTTL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucia Lachmayr <p>Professional Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soledad McCarthy <p>OER Liasson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurie Buchholz |
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1.0 Opening Procedures and Welcome

1.1 Senate Networking

Presenter: N/A

Time: 10 minutes

Notes:

1.2 Call to Order/Establish Quorum

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: President Ryan called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: A motion was made by President Ryan and seconded by Senator Kang to adopt the agenda with the removal of item 2.1. The motion was approved by the Academic Senate.

1.4 Adoption of Minutes

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: The adoption of the March 19th minutes was moved by President Ryan and seconded by Senator Aguilar-Pedroza. The motion was approved by the Academic Senate.

1.5 Adoption of Consent Agenda

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 5 minutes

Notes: No consent agenda

1.6 Public Comment

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 10 minutes

Notes: Anyone from the public may make a comment on any non-agenda item. Speaking time is limited to 2 minutes per person.

- Senator Jovel noted ongoing challenges related to priority registration, particularly with the many recent course number changes and adjustments to programs of study. She expressed concern that if a course falls out of sequence, students may lose financial aid eligibility. These issues are tied to the “Big Beautiful Bill,” and she emphasized that the legislative language is not student-friendly, referencing concerns raised by Kerry Mitchell.
- Senator Merrill announced the upcoming USOAR event, now in its sixth year, which has grown significantly from four presenters in its first year to 35 presenters this year. The event will take place tomorrow from 12:00–1:30 p.m., with additional sessions upstairs from 2:30–4:30 p.m., followed by a celebration honoring students.
- Senator Herndon shared that the Child Development program is currently enrolling children ages 2–5 for the Summer and Fall terms, encouraging faculty to spread the word to students who may benefit.
- Senator Folsom spoke about USOAR, highlighting that dual enrollment students will be presenting. Jing raised concerns regarding the faculty evaluation process, noting that the current online evaluation form does not adequately reflect hybrid teaching modalities and may need review. Jing suggested forming a workgroup to address this issue.
- President Ryan reported that concerns about evaluation processes have been brought to the Evaluation Guidance Committee and shared with Professor Fabian, the union president, as well as the Vice President of Instruction, to identify and address similar issues.
- Treasurer Viertel expressed concerns about the college website, stating that it has become more difficult for students to navigate and requires too many steps to access

information. He urged that user feedback be incorporated into improvements.

- Senator Karve noted that waitlists are currently not available for courses and emphasized the need to bring this issue to the attention of the appropriate parties.
- Senator Sapigao raised concerns about inconsistencies in course drop deadlines, citing an example where the deadline listed in the syllabus did not align with the college website. She noted that this has caused confusion and resulted in some students being unable to drop courses in time.
- President Ryan, speaking in her role as coordinator, also announced the upcoming BCE Showcase on May 18 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. She encouraged attendance, noting that the event continues to grow in scale and quality, with approximately 120 graduates expected and activities planned across both upstairs and downstairs spaces.

2.0 New Senate Business.

2.1 Equivalency Procedure Edits Feedback

Procedure | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 15 minutes

Notes: Discussion focused on the faculty equivalency process and proposed revisions. HR currently coordinates equivalency reviews through the Academic Senate, including faculty representation from each campus, a dean, and an equivalency expert. While the process works more smoothly in traditional disciplines, it is more difficult in specialized and CTE areas, contributing to hiring delays and challenges when clear equivalencies are not available. Concerns were raised about inconsistency and potential subjectivity across committees.

A proposal was shared to create a centralized Faculty Equivalency Committee of six faculty members representing each college. The committee would meet regularly, consult content experts as needed, and review all equivalency requests at the district level, with a goal of completing reviews within two weeks. Approval authority would shift from administrators (Senate President, VPI, and College President) to the faculty committee alone.

Questions were raised regarding degree types, general education review, adjunct participation, faculty eligibility, and compensation for external experts. It was also suggested that equivalency review be required for CTE disciplines, with strong support noted for this recommendation.

2.2 Screening Committee Draft- Feedback

Procedure | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 15 Mins

Notes: Key points were discussed regarding improvements to the screening committee process. There was consensus on the need for better facilitation of screening committees, particularly around the use and structure of Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA) criteria. Concerns were raised that there are currently too many KSAs and that they are all weighted equally, which may not effectively differentiate candidates. Questions were also raised about the use of the 0, 1, 2 rating scale and its alignment with evaluating minimum qualifications.

It was noted that Human Resources does not currently conduct screening for minimum qualifications, as applicants self-certify whether they meet these requirements. Concerns were raised about this approach and its impact on the screening process. Additionally, a recommendation was made that screening committee members receive additional compensation when reviewing large applicant pools, specifically suggesting one hour of compensation for every ten applications beyond the initial thirty.

Vice President Truglio raised questions about HR's role in the process, noting that applicants often do not progress to the interview stage. Senator Folsom suggested improvements to the application system, including requiring applicants to upload transcripts at the time of application and ensuring equivalency documentation is readily accessible within the system rather than requiring separate downloads.

Professor Hayley Leventhal shared her perspective as a recent hire, offering insight into the applicant experience. Treasurer Viertel raised the importance of Unconscious Bias training as part of the screening process. Senator Jovel asked whether the district plans to continue using the current hiring platform, Hirezon, noting that the system is currently out for bid. There was general agreement that a more efficient and user-friendly system would improve the overall hiring process.

2.3 AI Syllabus Recommendation

Procedure | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 15 mins

Notes: Discussion was held on the District Teaching and Learning Committee (DTLC) Intelligence Stoplight Framework. Faculty supported incorporating AI usage guidelines into course syllabi to provide clear expectations for students while maintaining flexibility across disciplines.

2.4 Commencement Name Readers

Procedure | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 5 mins

Notes: A motion was made by Senator Jovel and seconded by Senator Karve to approve Carina Attila Suarez, Olga Camacho, and Anrey Bartoszynski as commencement name readers. The motion was approved by the Academic Senate.

2.5 SPWD Dean Screening Committee

Procedure | [Information](#) | **Discussion** | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 5 mins

Notes: A motion was made by Senator Steele and seconded by Senator Gonzalez to appoint Lynsey Hemstreet and Salvador Victoria as faculty representatives on the SPWD Dean screening committee. The motion was approved by the Academic Senate.

2.6 Academic Senate Elections

Procedure | [Information](#) | **Discussion** | [Action](#)

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 10 mins

Notes: The Academic Senate announced the opening of nominations for the Spring 2026 Academic Senate Election, an opportunity for faculty to participate in shared governance and help shape institutional direction. Elected representatives will serve from Fall 2026 through Spring 2028. Open positions include: President (2-year term, 0.8 reassigned time), Treasurer (2-year term, 0.2 reassigned time), Curriculum Chair (2-year term, 0.6 reassigned time), CTE Committee Chair (2-year term, 0.2 reassigned time), three Adjunct Senator positions, and multiple Division Senator positions. Each role carries specific responsibilities related to leadership, curriculum oversight, representation of faculty interests, and participation in college and district governance committees.

The election timeline is as follows: nominations open April 24, close May 6, voting occurs May 7–15, and results are announced May 21. Faculty are encouraged to consider serving or nominating colleagues to support academic policy development, strengthen faculty voice, and advance student success.

A motion to approve was made by Senator Folsom and seconded by Treasurer Viertel. The motion was carried and was approved by the Academic Senate.

3.0 Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Committee Reports

Procedure | [Information](#) | **Discussion** | [Action](#)

Presenter: Curriculum, IEC tri-chair, FTEFAC, SPARC, Professional Personnel, CTE

Time: 10 minutes

Notes: IEC, FTEFAC, and SPARC reported nothing new. The Professional Personnel Committee shared plans for the end-of-year celebration, noting efforts to avoid using Pac Dining as the venue and confirming the event will be funded by the committee. The “Endless Summer”

themed event will include raffle ticket sales available through division offices, with cashless payment supported via QR codes; the flyer has been approved.

Upcoming recognitions were also highlighted, including retirement celebrations and the Myers Award, which is due tomorrow and recognizes faculty within the first five years. Faculty were encouraged to submit nominations for the Outstanding Faculty Awards. The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 14 from 12:00–2:00 p.m.

3.2 Campus Reports

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenter: CTTL, AFT Reps, OER

Time: 10 minutes

Notes: OER Liaison Laurie Buchholz provided an update on OER and LTC/ZTC tags, noting that they are being double-checked and that Skyline ZTC should be contacted via email. She also shared a heads-up that the current \$30 designation for low-cost materials may need to be revisited to align with state guidelines, or potentially adjusted to \$40 to match current local practice, indicating this will likely become a future discussion item.

President Ryan noted that student representation in meetings may be limited due to pay and participation structures. Clarification was provided that students involved in governance can participate through venues such as the President's Roundtable and CGC, as well as through public comment and agenda item requests, and are not required to serve on the Academic Senate. Student trustees were also referenced in this context. Concerns were raised regarding student participation and representation in classroom-related governance discussions, with acknowledgment of prior ASSC involvement and an apology offered for any miscommunication. The discussion highlighted ASSC expectations and the importance of ensuring student voice in governance processes.

4.0 Announcement and Closing Procedures

4.1. Final Announcements

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 5 minutes

Notes: President Ryan provided final announcements, noting that the recent Plenary included several resolutions, including updates related to minimum qualifications for mathematics, as well as new discipline listings such as personal counseling and unmanned aircraft systems (drones). Full resolution packets were referenced as available for review. It was also announced that the next meeting will be held on May 7th and will include a potluck. A motion was made by Senator Karve and seconded by Senator Steele to hold a celebratory gathering, noting it coincides with Amber's birthday and encouraging attendees to wear a tiara. The motion was approved.

4.2. Motion to Adjourn

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: Next meeting is May 7th. If you would like to request an item be put on the agenda (Consent, discussion, action or information) please submit your request for the next meeting by Tuesday April 28th by 12:00pm. You can request an agenda item [here](#)

Academic and Professional Matters, AB 1725 “10 + 1”

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 are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate