

College Governance Council

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance: Gerson Fernandez, Lauren Ford, Alvin Malcaldo-Gubatina, Jose Milan, Irah Tancioco, Nadia Tariq, Jessica Truglio

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Cherie Colin, Luis Escobar, Kristy Lisle, Joe Morello, Newin Orante.

Recorder: Theresa Tentes

- I. Call to Order/Establishing a Quorum/Roll Call
- II. Public Comment * - 5 Minutes
- III. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2025
(M/S Lauren Ford/Nadia Tariq)
Approved

Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2025
(M/S Lauren Ford/Nadia Tariq)
Approved.

- IV. Informational, New Business and Action Items

Associated Students of Skyline College – 5 Minutes

- a. ASSC Report

Irah Tancioco/Gerson Fernandez

Irah Tancioco, President of the Associated Students, announced that they are preparing for the transition to a new student council. Voting for incoming officers is scheduled to begin next week, marking the end of the current council's term and the beginning of leadership opportunities for new Skyline student leaders.

Gerson Fernandez, Vice President of the Associated Students, provided an update on the final Student Organization Council (SOC) meeting. Although he was unable to attend due to illness, he shared that, based on feedback from the SOC liaison, student clubs

celebrated the end of the academic year and presented recap projects highlighting their accomplishments. These recap materials will serve as a historical reference and resource for incoming students in the fall, offering inspiration and continuity for future club programming. Both Irah and Gerson emphasized the sense of fulfillment and transition that comes with this time of year.

Classified Senate – 5 Minutes

b. Classified Senate Report

Jose Milan/Nadia Tariq

Nadia Tariq, Vice President of the Classified Senate, opened by celebrating Jose Milan's recognition as Skyline College's Classified Employee of the Year. She then provided important updates on the status of professional development funding for classified professionals. The district-level tuition reimbursement program has been officially terminated as of early May, following consultation with the Chancellor's Office and legal counsel. While existing approved applications will be honored, no new tuition reimbursement applications will be accepted.

In response to this change, Skyline has collaborated with the Business Office, particularly Joe Morello, to expand access to professional development funds. Classified staff may now apply for up to \$2,500 per year—an increase from the previous \$1,000 limit—bringing Skyline's policy in line with practices at Cañada College and College of San Mateo. This funding is strictly for professional development (not tuition) and will be overseen by a newly forming review committee. Nadia, Jose, and Joe are working together to implement this committee, streamline documentation for audit compliance, and transition from a paper-based application process to a digital platform using Formstack.

Additionally, Classified Senate is partnering with the CTTL and Library to offer targeted workshops for classified professionals. A recent example includes an AI-focused session on April 30, covering tools for presentations, marketing materials, and improved communication strategies—part of an ongoing effort to support classified staff in their day-to-day roles.

Jose Milan, President of the Classified Senate, acknowledged the termination of tuition reimbursement as a setback but emphasized the positive outcome of strengthened collaboration with colleagues at CSM and Cañada. This renewed inter-campus partnership is helping navigate best practices and historical context of the program and has laid the foundation for unified advocacy moving forward. Jose expressed hope that continued dialogue with the district and Chancellor Moreno may help reinstate or reimagine tuition support options in the future.

President Newin Orante added that the tuition reimbursement issue is still under district-level review and recent discussions may lead to further updates. He expressed hope that the outcome will not diminish the benefits available to classified professionals across the district.

Academic Senate - 5 Minutes

c. Academic Senate Report

Cassidy Ryan-White/Jessica Truglio

Jessica Truglio, President of the Academic Senate, reported that the Senate will resume meetings next Thursday following a month-long break. The upcoming agenda is full, including two key resolutions: a first read of a resolution in support of undocumented students, which originated within the Senate and is scheduled for a vote at the May 15th meeting, and a resolution on academic freedom, which is being advanced by the District Academic Senate. If approved locally, the academic freedom resolution will be forwarded to the district level for a vote, with the ultimate goal of incorporating its language into the AFT contract.

Additionally, a special election will take place at the May 15th meeting to fill unoccupied positions. Chris Collins has expressed interest in running for Secretary, and nominations for other roles will be accepted from the floor. The meeting will also cover updates on professional development, including new funding and application processes.

Jessica concluded by congratulating Associated Students leaders Irah Tancioco and Gerson Fernandez on a successful year and expressed appreciation for their ongoing engagement and contributions to the Academic Senate.

Management Council – 5 Minutes

d. Management Council Report

Lauren Ford/Alvin Macaldo-Gubatina

Lauren Ford, Co-Chair of the Management Council, shared that preparations are underway for the end-of-year activities, with special attention on Commencement scheduled for May 23rd. Staffing for the event is in progress and will be finalized soon. The Management Council also discussed the importance of supporting and celebrating the diverse campus community through end-of-year events. Emphasis was placed on the distinction between showing administrative support through visible presence versus approaching events from a public safety perspective, which can unintentionally cause concern among students and attendees. The goal is to foster a welcoming and safe environment during these celebrations, especially in light of heightened national discourse.

In addition, the Council received updates on the Student Equity Plan. Writing groups are being formed to develop core components of the plan throughout the remainder of the semester and into the summer. The finalized plan is expected to move through the shared governance process in the fall before going to the Board of Trustees and the State for approval. Staff may be called upon to contribute to the development of the plan.

Lauren also provided a fiscal reminder to ensure that end-of-year budget closures are handled efficiently, with a collective effort to minimize outstanding purchase orders and ease the workload of the Business Office.

Alvin Macaldo-Gubatina, Co-Chair of Management Council, shared information regarding the Employee Spotlight Series, he encouraged ongoing recognition of staff and administrators through this HR-led initiative. The Spotlight Series serves as a recruitment and retention tool by highlighting employees via social media and other platforms to showcase SMCCCD as a great place to work. Employees are invited to nominate themselves or colleagues to be featured.

Administration

e. President's Update – 15 minutes

Dr. Newin Orante

Dr. Newin Paul Orante announced that Dr. Nathan Carter has been selected by Chancellor Moreno as the next President of Skyline College, pending Board approval. Dr. Carter brings 20 years of out-of-state experience and will officially begin his term on July 1. Dr. Orante affirmed his commitment to supporting a smooth transition in leadership.

Dr. Orante also shared progress on the Vice President of Instruction search, which is expected to conclude by late May or early June, aiming for a July 1 start date to coincide with the new presidency. He thanked Joe Morello for leading this process. Additionally, the search for the Dean of Student Equity and Programs is ongoing, with hopes of appointing a permanent dean for the 2025–26 academic year.

Several faculty hiring processes are underway, including positions in Instruction, Counseling, Biology, Chemistry, History, Philosophy, and Strong Workforce programs. Dr. Orante acknowledged the substantial effort by committees engaged in reading applications, interviewing candidates, and conducting reference checks, emphasizing the importance of hiring individuals who will contribute meaningfully to the institution and student success.

He reminded the group to share information on end-of-year events with Cherie Colin to ensure support and inclusivity, and noted that legal guidance on how to communicate these events in an inclusive manner would be forthcoming.

Dr. Orante invited everyone to the Black Student Success Week celebration at CSM on Friday, culminating in a “sneaker ball” event. He also promoted ongoing Collegas webinars running through the summer and expressed gratitude to those who participated in the APAHE (Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education) Conference, highlighting student involvement, community partnerships, and cultural learning experiences, including a Black Panther history tour and indigenous food education.

He closed with reflections on change, resilience, and gratitude, recognizing the challenges of leadership transitions, political uncertainty, and scrutiny around DEI efforts. Dr. Orante urged patience and care, encouraging the community to continue leaning on one another and to find strength in shared values of compassion, justice, and

dignity. He expressed appreciation for everyone's dedication throughout the year and looks forward to ending the academic year in celebration and solidarity.

District Strategic Plan Update

Aaron McVean

Aaron McVean, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Planning, provided an overview of the year-long process to develop the new *SMCCCD District Strategic Plan*, which will guide the district over the next five years. The process was conducted in alignment with Board policies and included a strategic plan advisory committee co-chaired by McVean and District Academic Senate President David Eck. The planning effort incorporated a comprehensive environmental scan supported by Hanover Research and input from an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) team facilitated by the State Chancellor's Office. This team offered strategic guidance and funding that supported research and stakeholder engagement.

The planning process emphasized alignment among the District Board goals and the educational master plans of Skyline, Cañada, and CSM. Despite some subtle differences, the goals across the colleges were found to be largely cohesive. Advisory committee membership included college presidents, academic senate presidents, administrators, and a CSEA representative. Although not all constituent groups were formally represented on the committee, broad engagement was ensured through earlier IEPI-led discussions and presentations to stakeholder bodies.

The *draft plan* includes:

- **Ten district values:** Academic excellence, student success and equity, community, social justice, diversity, inclusion and belonging, empowerment, transparency, authenticity and accountability, innovation, continuous improvement, and sustainability.
- **Seven strategic goals,** including: equitable access, strengthened student completion, thriving employee environments, sustainable infrastructure, civic engagement, continuous improvement, and long-term fiscal health.
- **Six strategic initiatives:**
 1. **Transfer-focused success,** including pathways, Promise Scholars, and sustaining the Free College program.
 2. **Technology and life sciences alignment,** with a focus on adult learners and workforce relevance.
 3. **Basic needs expansion,** such as food security, housing, transportation, and mental health support.
 4. **Community engagement,** enhancing partnerships and outreach with local organizations and agencies.
 5. **Long-term capital improvement funding,** including potential bond measures and efforts to build self-funding capabilities.
 6. **Foundation development,** with a focus on increasing unrestricted scholarship funds.

Metrics will accompany the final plan and include key performance indicators such as enrollment growth, two- and three-year completion rates, career education program expansion, and capital improvement fund growth. These benchmarks will be designed to meet the expectations of the Board while supporting continuous institutional improvement.

Feedback on the draft values, goals, and initiatives is currently being solicited through the district strategic plan website. The first full draft of the plan is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Trustees on **May 21**, with final adoption targeted for **June**. Feedback is requested by **May 9** to be incorporated into the draft. Faculty, classified staff, and student groups are encouraged to share the link and submit input, and Aaron McVean offered to present directly to any group needing further clarification.

- f. Administrative Services Update – 5 minutes Joe Morello

There was no report provided.

- g. Instructional Update – 5 minutes Dr. Kristy Lisle

There was no report provided.

- h. Student Services Update – 5 minutes Dr. Luis Escobar

Dean Luis Escobar expressed appreciation to Dr. Ford for covering key updates related to the Student Equity Plan, as well as to Dr. Orante for highlighting ongoing hiring processes and campus events. He emphasized one major upcoming event: the Skyline College Awards Ceremony, taking place next week. Over 350 scholarships will be awarded to students, continuing the strong tradition of student support. While it is not yet confirmed whether this year surpasses last year's record amount awarded, the event remains a significant celebration of student achievement. Dean Escobar closed by thanking colleagues for their ongoing efforts and shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming weeks of student recognition and celebration.

- i. Planning Research and Institutional – 5 minutes Ingrid Vargas
Effectiveness Update

There was no report provided.

- j. Marketing, Communications, - 5 minutes Cherie Colin
Public Relations Update

Cherie Colin shared highlights from a successful President's Breakfast, held in March. The event raised \$115,000, the highest amount in its 20-plus year history, with the potential to reach the stretch goal of \$120,000 as additional donations are still being pursued. She credited the dedication of the President's Council and the MCPR team for the event's success and thanked all who participated.

The MCPR office is now focused on supporting upcoming student award ceremonies, commencement, and various graduation celebrations. Cherie asked for patience due to the high volume of communications and acknowledged a recent email error, which was promptly corrected.

To promote graduation celebrations more effectively and inclusively, the team is developing centralized communications. This approach ensures that all campus community members are aware that events—such as Latinx and Black/African American graduation ceremonies—are open to everyone, regardless of background. This change also aligns with legal guidance emphasizing the need for clear, inclusive language to prevent misinterpretation and ensure compliance.

Cherie also addressed social media considerations, encouraging staff to be mindful of image and video usage during events. Due to heightened concerns for specific communities—including undocumented students, international students, and green card holders—she emphasized the importance of obtaining consent, honoring requests to remove content, and promoting sensitivity when sharing images online.

She concluded by expressing excitement for the upcoming celebrations and congratulating the graduating students.

V. Adjournment – May 21, 2025

**Public Comment. Members of the Skyline College community and the public may address the College Governance Council on items appearing on the agenda by submitting a request in the chat box (Zoom) or a comment slip (in person) at the start of the meeting. Speakers must limit their remarks to a maximum of three minutes. If there are a large number of speakers, the President may use discretion to reduce the comment time in order to keep all public comment time to 20 minutes or less, in order to be able to have enough time for the Council to conduct its business. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Council will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with qualified disabilities. If you require accommodation, please contact Theresa Tentes at tentes@smccd.edu at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.*