

Riverside City College Academic Senate
October 21, 2024 • 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: Ajené Wilcoxson

Secretary-Treasurer: Micherri Wiggs

Department Senators (Term ending 2025)

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: Lisa Thompson-Eagle

Mathematics: Evan Enright

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Araceli Calderón

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Will Kim

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto-present

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Kendralyn Webber

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson (arrived at 3:15pm)

Physical Science: James Cheney (not present)

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Emily Philippsen (not present)

Associate Faculty Senator

Lindsay Weiler

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: LaShonda Carter (not present)

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen- present

GEMQLC: Wendy McKeen

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Vacant

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass (not present)

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association Emily Philippsen

Administrative Representatives

College President: Claire Oliveros

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright (not present)

VP Business Services: Kristine DiMemmo (not present)

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods (not present)

VP Student Services: Vacant

ASRCC Representative

Vacant

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Shari Yates, Dean CTE

Kevin Mayse, Music

Scott Brown, DRC

Eric Bishop, Interim VC Educational Services

Virginia White, Life Sciences & Program Review

3:02 II. Approval of the Agenda

- M/S/C: Approved by consent

3:04 III. Approval of the Minutes September 30th and October 7th

- **M/S/C: (Perez/Thompson-Eagle)** To approve minutes for September 30th meeting. Passed with 1 abstention (Will Kim).
 - **Revision- New Business page 6-** Request to document Senator Rose's response to Elisabeth Thompson-Eagle's statement about misconduct in the classroom and the lack of follow up from administration after it being reported. Senator Rose had experienced some of those same types of aggressions from a student in their classroom demonstrating this concern extends beyond more than one faculty member and across departments.
- **MSC: (Borses/Weiler)** To approve minutes for October 7th meeting with corrections noted below. Passed unanimously.
 - **Clarification:** There was a question about why the moment of silence for Oct. 7 was not included in minutes. This moment was not included in the minutes because it was observed prior to official call to order and was not ajenized.
 - **Revision- page 12-** Request to document in the minutes a question that was asked about "Is RCC going to pay someone to moderate the email list serve?"
 - **Revision-** Suggestion to remove the personal notes that were accidentally included in the document related to Algorithms of Oppression which were sent for the agenda by Senator Ellis due to lack of relevance.

Information that was included in the minutes was verbatim and suggestion to remove first bullet point in the minutes regarding the 11 resources for algorithms which had a typo and the parenthetical phrase “(and one of GA’s).”

- **Revision- Page 17 Open Hearing-** Request to include the comment made about the limited lactation spaces currently available as part of the discussion to incorporate changing tables.

3:06 IV. Public Comments

- No public comments

3:10 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- Evening classes for finals week – start thinking about FINALS!!! 4:30 and later is considered evening, so take that into consideration when scheduling your finals
- Trying to discern how short-term substituting is defined. Conversations are being had to resolve this since there is no clear definition in the contract.
- Anthology designers cannot figure out how to make the conversions for 54 hours to equal 0.2 FTE. This has become a problem for the faculty workload because it doesn’t allow for faculty to accurately earn a 1.0 FTE for the term. Frustration expressed about the expectation from anthology designers to have the college accommodate the imperfect math rather than re-coding the software to do the necessary math. This issue is affecting special projects, lab, and overload.
- Benefits Bridge portal is going away and we are shopping for a new software.
- Please read Faculty Association minutes and join them for their meetings on Tuesdays at 1pm.
- **Clarifying question:** At what point do we realize that the anthology product is not the right solution for us? Is there a person in charge of all of this?

B. College President or designee

- New Senior Public Affairs officer, Jessica Villera, joins us from Norco College and brings with them a wealth of experience from CSUSB.
- Leslie Vargas is transitioning to Morena Valley College (MVC) and has contributed to the strategic planning newsletter, as well as assisting the Office of the President with branding, reporting, and the tracking of events. We will still see Leslie on Tuesdays!
- Strategic planning newsletter will continue bi monthly, usually on Fridays. The external newsletter will also go out monthly.
- VP of Academic Affairs is out at an Institute for Chief Instructional Officers.
- VP Business Services is out on leave. For immediate needs regarding Facilities and/or business services, please reach out to President Oliveros, Robert Beebe, or Elia Blount.
- Hoping everyone saw the latest issue of the SPN. Thank you to those that participated and were involved in hosting the Latino Youth festival on Saturday. There was a Latino Network Board members and Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) board members that participated in workshops, panels, and helped to moderate through volunteering. Honorable Supreme Court Justice

Lucy Armendarez was the keynote speaker and she talked about growing up in East Los Angeles as a foster youth, having to deal with the juvenile justice system and going on to attend UCLA. Her speech was very inspiring!

- Upward Bound also had a weekend event. Thank you to all faculty, classified professionals, and administrators for volunteering in supporting the recruitment, retention, and success of our Latine students at our college.
- ASRCC leadership hosted an open forum. Many thanks to them.
- Thank you to ASRCC and Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) for hosting Tiger Tuesdays and “Get out the Vote” events. Remind students to work their ballot from the bottom to the top.

C. ASRCC – No report

- Noticing the absence of an ASRCC representative, President Oliveros shared information on the GET OUT THE VOTE campaign. Thank you to Associated Students of Riverside City College (ASRCC) and Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) for their efforts with Tiger Tuesdays and open forum with our elected officials who are running.
- There are only a few more days to complete your ballots. Please make sure to complete your ballots from bottom to the top
- There was a 3-hour open forum to raise awareness for voting matters- Students have brought awareness to the importance of voting.

VI. Committee or Council Updates – No reports this meeting

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate the RCCAS hearing for faculty nominees submitted for the 63rd RCCD Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, followed by discussion and voting (action)
 - Welcome to Vice Chancellor Bishop. Thank you for joining us.
 - 4 nominations came forward.
 - Paul O’Connell asked to be withdrawn, expressing his sincere gratitude for the nomination.
 - As discussed at previous meeting: Each nominee will receive 2-5 minutes to openly discuss their topics, including Q&A time.
 - Three nominees were introduced in alphabetical order by last name:
 - Dr. Scott Brown- Counseling Department
 - Kevin Mayse- Music Department
 - Eddie Perez- Sociology Department
 - Dr. Scott Brown--nominee from the Counseling Department: shared topic of the intersection between disability rights, civil rights, and human rights
 - He wrote about this subject in his dissertation and presented on the topic at conferences.
 - Introduced historical figure Judy Human, known as the mother of the disability rights movement who is most famously known for leading the disability rights movement in the late 1970’s.

- The disability rights movement was supported by Black Panthers from Oakland, California who crossed the police line in support of this movement.
 - Supreme Court rulings through history show intersections between civil rights movements on multiple fronts.
 - Civil Rights can be in danger and can be taken away from anyone or any person.
 - Clarifying question- What took you down the path of Civils Rights in pursuing a Phd? Answer: Dr. Brown started working with people who had disabilities while completing his undergraduate degree and it was not his plan to go into this field, but it was something he enjoyed because he loves to work.
 - Clarifying question: How long has he been in the district doing this type of work? Answer: 24 years and before that he was in K-12 special education as a school psychologist.
- Kevin Mayse--nominee from the Music Department: presented on the topic of cultivating a sense of belonging through a music
 - Been with RCC 29 years as a music faculty member
 - Prof. Mayse stated that when he was applying for college, he was told that there was no future in music and he is still hearing and seeing that same discouraging story from students.
 - Mayse does visits 35 high school campuses a year to recruit for the music department. Students often do not want to come to a community college because they think it is beneath them (a notion coming from their high school counselors), despite evidence to the contrary in our own program.
 - Huge diversity of cultural and economic populations here at RCC, and he would love the opportunity to talk more about the benefits of music for our students.
 - Clarifying question: What made you go into music? Answer: Mr. Mayse was going to go into the Navy because his father was military, but then went to Cal State Fullerton and his father finally recognized his talent. Mayse always knew he was going to do something in music. He just wanted the opportunity to share his love for music with his students.
 - Clarifying question- How does RCC facilities, staffing, and resources compare to other junior colleges in music and is that a part of your recruiting? Answer: There are 380 music majors here at RCC. The music program here at RCC is bigger than the music program at UCLA of 290 students.
- Eddie Perez- candidate and senator from the Sociology Department: presented on the topic about troubles faced by boys and men in society, especially related to violence, gun laws, and mental health.
 - What is going in in society with masculinity? Why are men more likely to experience violence, homelessness, mental health issues, and experience or commit suicide?

- Working with Men of Color here at RCC, Perez sees that the students are falling behind due to societal changes and shifts, and because of this our men are responding in unhealthy ways.
 - Men have a hard time asking for help. The question is, what can we do to educate and elevate our young men?
 - Education matters for our boys and men to adapt. Perez will dive into research on education, mental health, and violence because our rigid gender roles have contributed to the problem.
 - Clarifying question: In reference to the statement that “Nobody is taking about the construction of masculinity?” From where is this information being sourced? Who are we pulling from? Women’s Studies scholars have been working on this a long while. Answer: When we hear about situations going on in the news (i.e., school shooting or roadside violence) the conversation gets directed towards mental health and access to guns. But what about what is going on with our boys?
 - Clarifying question: As far as the scholarship, will women’s studies and gender studies be included? Answer: Yes, gender studies, sociology, criminology, and deviant behavior are all field of studies that Perez will utilize as resources. Also, pulling information from Durkheim’s enemy strain, Robert Burton’s strain theory, and Gerhard Bensusan.
 - As society evolves and cultural values and ideas change, Perez notices that men are utilizing online platforms to connect and create a brotherhood that is anonymous. Time online and on the phone can breed depression, which can also be very problematic.
 - Clarifying Question: Would it be a written vote? Votes of RCCAS are public, not secret ballot. Only senators are voting, and it is a simple majority vote.
 - Vote for Candidates (1 abstention Lindsay Weiler)
 - Dr. Scott Brown- 8 votes
 - Professor Kevin Mayse- 5 votes
 - Dr. Eddie Perez- 9 votes
 - Congratulations and thanks were shared to the candidates. The district will be notified of our selection of Eddie Perez. Stay tuned for schedule dates of talks in Spring 2025.
- B. The RCCAS leadership team will facilitate a review of the ASCCC guidance document, “Participating Effectively in District and College Governance” (information + discussion)
- Faculty have a key role in strategic planning. We would like updated ASCCC guidelines on participatory governance to be shared through our leadership councils and EPOC.
 - Calling attention to the first page of each RCCAS agenda to note some information in the small box at the bottom of the page in relation to 10+1. The single asterisk (*) means the board *relies primarily* on recommendations from Academic Senate. The double asterisk (**) means that the board relies on recommendations as a result of a *mutual agreement* between the trustees and Academic Senate.

- *Rely primarily vs. mutual agreement* are important for us to distinguish.
 - Faculty need to consider with district initiatives during growth/change:
When/where exactly is the senate on-ramp to conversations? When does Academic Senate get involved when a proposal moves from the conceptual stage? All faculty need to understand in regards to their role within the district.
 - Language in the document: It appears that education code is lagging in the language of “staff” rather than “classified professionals.” We need to be aware/understand.
 - Question: Given the ASCCC resolution from last year about part-time faculty, it is notable that reference to PT faculty is missing. Suggestion that there be more inclusion and discussion on that in the new update of this guidance, with ASCCC now offering a resolution.
 - One highlight in the paper: faculty senate can request items to go on the Board of Trustees (BOT) agenda if necessary. In terms of process, we will continue to think about when/how senates elevate items to the district. A faculty member stated that 15-20 years ago there was a more clear process wherein the board had committee meetings and there were more open discussions among faculty and board members.
 - It is important in strategic planning conversations to understand how rules/developments/guidelines are separate from individual personalities.
- C. President Scott-Coe or designee will lead a second discussion to record feedback about the draft faculty guide on AI (second read + discussion)
- As a reminder: This guide was put together by faculty at Norco College. Moreno valley College provided some feedback. What would faculty like President Scott-Coe to report to to Academic Senate District?
 - Comments:
 - Concern about making this document any official policy because AI is constantly changing.
 - Suggestion to have the document presented as official *guidance* rather than an official guide.
 - Language currently used in the document is evolving. Suggestion to lose specific branding like ChatGBT and instead use “generative AI,” since there are so many other programs out there.
 - ASCCC is hosting faculty workshops in February for AI. Might be a good idea for attendance across the district.
 - Questions about which websites have credible information.
 - Perhaps AI work could be put in the hands of a specific distinct committee that already exists, but also don’t let things reside entirely in district so we don’t lose control.
 - We need to get our students input on AI and where they stand because this generation is technologically savvy.
 - Include Associate faculty in the conversation regarding AI because there is misconduct going on in the classroom in regards to plagiarism with AI, and they would like support from the institution.

- When there are questions, it is not clear who faculty should go to; faculty do seek guidance/help.
- Questions about the suggestion that faculty should have a statement about AI in their syllabus. Would that be district wide language or college specific language? Will that confuse students if getting different statements?
- Questions:
 - Who would create any guide for RCC? Answer: Unclear. At RCC, TLLC did have some discussion and suggestions about AI. Do we need to agree as a district on any guidelines for AI in our classrooms/syllabus?
 - Norco professional development is working on an examination process and detection piece.
 - Could there be special projects funding for ongoing work on AI?
 - In some classes AI use may be required and in other classes AI use may be forbidden. How do we explain that to students?
- President Scott-Coe will represent these questions and comments at District Academic Senate.

VIII. New Business

- A. Senator Lucretia Rose will present a report on her experience at the NANDI Conference Oct. 3-4 (information)
 - Took 6 students to a conference for Black women; there were 250 participants in attendance. An amazing fulfilling experience for students.
 - Senator Rose presented a workshop on advocacy and mentorship.
 - The theme was to focus on our softness because there is a stigma placed on Black women that we are very hard. The Sapphire Caricature portrays black women as being rude, loud, malicious, and/or stubborn; it weighs on Black women heavily, and it is tiresome.
 - A variety of workshops were offered such as yoga & art therapy. The group networked, and shared in personal knowledge.
 - This meeting was the 2nd annual conference.
 - Professor Rose plans to take students again next year in October.
- B. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates (action)
 - 1. CCN Phase II Convenings: Additional Faculty Nominees
 - i. Clarification. We previously ratified faculty for 6 or 7 courses.
 - ii. 2 nominee names for the Math Department came in after our agenda due-date but still in time for forwarding to ASCCC: Professors Mary Legner and Veasna Chiek. Those nominations were submitted to the state for the October 9th deadline. MSC (Thompson Eagle/Perez) to approve Mary Legner and Veasna Chiek. Passed unanimously.
 - 2. Faculty Co-Chair for SAS – Discussion about why no one has been interested.

- i. How is information being disseminated to fill those position?
- ii. There is a mechanism in place to elect someone who is interested but not currently a member of SAS.
- iii. Workload is a heavy lift! (SAS, EPOC, and other meetings). The compensation for the amount of work that is involved for this position is not in line with the duties and could contribute to the vacancy.
- iv. Clearly defining the reassign time and committee responsibilities in the recruitment process could be beneficial in filling the position.

IX. Officer Reports

A. President

- Regional Manager Stacey Weidner from Barnes & Noble will be joining us on November 4th to address concerns over the prices of books that are popping up across all three colleges.
- There will be some discussion at the November 4th ASRCC meeting in regards to academic honesty and student conduct processes. Thank you, to Senator Thompson-Eagle, for initiating this conversation.
- DLC Chair Kathleen Sell received a receipt of acknowledgment from Dr. Isaac regarding HRER concerns. Moreno Valley College (MVC) Senate is putting together their chairs' HRER reports, too. The HR Task force has been convened by the Chancellor to include DAS President, FA president, College VPAA, HR, CSEA, and legal counsel. They are scheduled to meet October 31st. The group is heavily weighted by administrators. We are requesting at least one department chair from each college to be included and/or invited to the task force meeting to be able to provide some context or clarification. There are systemic repairs and sustainable changes that need to be addressed that are repeatedly laid out by our chairs since last May, and the delays are frustrating.
- The ASCCC Area D virtual meeting was held on October 18th. President Scott-Coe, Vice President Wilcoxson, and Senator Weiler were in attendance. A full packet will be provided at our November 4th ASRCC meeting so that we can get feedback before Plenary. Two highlights so far from Area D: one resolution asked ASCCC to provide support for the right to peaceful protest at community colleges; Senator Wilcoxson introduced a resolution that he will highlight.
- The district 25-year plan will be coming to local senates for feedback and discussion following the Chancellor's review. Date TBD, likely sometime in November.
- President Scott Coe will be meeting with the Interim Chief of Police. All senate presidents have been invited. The meeting will take place on Monday, October 28th. Let President Scott-Coe know if there are items you'd like to be included in her discussion with the Chief.
- Strategic planning has entered a new cycle, our work in updating our bylaws will carry over into the spring. Jo Scott-Coe will be pulling together an ad-hoc workgroup for senate bylaws to address strategic planning considerations as well as clarifications in relation to the Brown Act. We

need 4-5 individuals, so please let her know if you can assist in this process.

- There is a cease and desist on the Perris Skills Center and it will be on DAS agenda next week unless a demand to bargain is issued.
- Senator Scott-Coe wants to remind everyone that this time of year is very busy for us all as we enter into Comprehensive Program review, strategic planning, and gathering accreditation evidence. The National, County, City, and State election is coming up in two weeks. We also have a very high number of faculty retiring this year, so please practice care and patience with your students and please encourage other colleagues in practicing these qualities amongst each other.

B. Vice President

- Attended the Area D meeting—such a great idea for senators to attend future Area meetings if available. Was able to be part of discussion on challenging topics. A resolution to advance “servingness” was submitted in support of California Community Colleges Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). The resolution was overwhelmingly supported, though some suggestions to adjust language were offered. Revised resolution will go in front of the state body in two weeks.
- Senator Wilcoxson is resigning as Vice President of Academic Senate because he is retiring at the end of this semester. Working with Secretary Wiggs and President Scott-Coe has been a pleasure. Each one of us took the time to get to know one another and established a relationship so we could work as a unit. Senator Wilcoxson has been at RCC for 27 years and feels like he has done his best to make a difference in students’ and his colleagues’ lives and is appreciative of everyone’s support.
- The person coming into this position next needs to be able to blend well with other leadership team members so that they can continue to work as one unit.

C. Secretary

- RCCAS Constitution does provide a contingency situation when a senate officer does not finish their term.
 - Any nominee selected will complete the current term as Vice President (VP). The new term will start in January and end in spring of 2026 and the VP comes with a 0.1FTE of reassigned time.
 - In Article II, Section One of our bylaws, we are redirected back to the constitution for Article VIII which lays out the process for regular elections. In Article V, Section 2 and Article VIII, Section 9 of our constitution contain references to filing vacancies in elected positions. Only the Senate body itself votes to appoint a replacement for a vacant officer seat, whereas in regular elections on the regular 3-year cycle, all of the faculty vote.
 - Our existing VP will pull 4 senators together for a nomination committee to honor the process laid out for the regular election process, even though this is not a standard election.
 - Email will be sent to faculty tomorrow, 10/22/2024, to announce the opening of the nominations.

- Nominations window will close Sunday November 3rd at midnight, with voting at a subsequent meeting.
- Any full-time faculty is eligible to run as Vice President of the senate.
- December 9th will be a retirement celebration from 5-6:30pm. Please save the date and spread the word.
- Encourage students to vote on November 4th.
- Friendly nudge/reminder: Have you been to a District Academic Senate (DAS) meeting and an athletic event yet for this semester?
- Round of applause for Eddie Perez, chosen as the 63rd Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

X. Open Hearing

- Senator Soto – Let's acknowledge VP Ajené Wilcoxson for his service to the college and celebrate him prioritizing his health. Everyone in attendance stood and applauded. Thank you to him for giving so many years to students and all of us.
- McKeen – Grateful to the mentorship Ajené Wilcoxson has provided. Also, we need to think about academic calendar for spring because if the different graduation ceremonies continue, some of those students may have a final scheduled at the same time as their ceremony.
- Senator Rose – Students are concerned about reporting misconduct of faculty members. Recent examples include homophobic statements and derogatory comments about Indigenous Peoples' Day. A safe place for students to report this misconduct should be considered. Students don't feel comfortable coming forward about misconduct from a faculty member when a chair has retorted back negatively. Perhaps an anonymous drop box or creative space where they feel comfortable expressing their concerns.
- Senator Elton – Thank you to Ajené Wilcoxson. I feel healthier for knowing him.

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- After the meeting, we need 4 senators to volunteer to be on the nomination committee.
- Remind faculty to read association minutes every Tuesday.
- Please distribute the shared governance document with Leadership Councils, EPOC and other governance committees to get faculty involved.
- Let President Scott-Coe know any discussion topics for her meeting with the Chief of Police on October 28th
- Please extend patience and care for one another during this time of year!
- Please notify all faculty within your departments about the VP election happening in a few weeks.
- Please consider attending a District Academic Senate meeting. There is one next Monday, October 28th and there is a Zoom link available.
- Please consider attending an athletic event.
- Please save December 9th from 5-6:30 for a retirement celebration.

XII. Adjourn at 4:40pm

M/S/C: (Perez/Berry)