

Riverside City College Academic Senate
March 16, 2026 • 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

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Bryan Keene

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Sean Pries

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson

Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Kayla Henry- absent

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler -not present

Department Senators (Term ending 2027)

Applied Technology: Patrick Scullin

Behavioral Science: Eddie Perez - arrived at 3:13pm

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: Gregory Russell – absent

Mathematics: Mary Legner

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Huda Aljord- absent

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter- not present

ASC: Jacquie Lesch- not present

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman
Curriculum: Kelly Douglass – left at 3:45pm
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association
Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives
College President: Eric Bishop (Interim)
VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright
VP Business Services: Elia Blount
VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods
VP Student Services: FeRita Carter

ASRCC Representative
Latiesha Williams- not present

Recorder of Minutes
Sydney Minter

Guests
Chelsea Sugimura, RCC Viewpoints
Keith Dobyns, General Counsel
Daniel Martinez, RCC Viewpoints
Herbert English, Counseling
Laneshia Judon,
Shari Yates, CTE
Andres Soria, Student
Mary Rankin, SPHS, Cares
Cathlene Castellanos, Dean SSS Office/Cares

3:05 II. Approval of the Agenda

M/S/C: (Sandoval/Taylor) with a typographical correction that is not a part of the agenda, but an informational piece where it says items due by, it's the 30th of March- approved by consent

3:05 III. Approval of the Minutes (Mar. 2 tabled)

3:08 IV. Public Comments

- a. No public comments

3:18 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- a. The Faculty Association needs your help signing a petition for Prop 55, which extends the 2012 voter-approved tax rate for high-income Californians, currently set to expire in

2031. Araceli Calderon has the signature pages available if anyone is interested in signing.

- b. Contract negotiations are going well, and the FA is hoping to be done before spring break. After that, the contract will need to be ratified, approved, and then put to a vote. Then it will go to the board for approval. The existing contract is set to expire in June. After the contract is finalized, the FA will hold Town Hall sessions about the changes and updates.
- c. Michelle Ramin is conducting ongoing elections for the Faculty Association. The positions include vice president, president, and secretary-treasurer. If anyone is interested, candidates can self-nominate, or you can nominate someone. If you nominate someone, please ask them if they are interested in running.

B. College President or designee

- a. This year's RCC graduation commencement will be a single ceremony at 6pm on the football field.
- b. There is an opportunity to send 7 people to the ACCJC regional convening to showcase how return-on-investment (ROI) data can be embedded into planning to ensure that students graduate into living-wage jobs. Dr. Wright will assist in coordinating a team. If you are interested, please reach out to Dr. Bishop.
- c. In following up on the conversation from last week on Element 451. Dr. Bishop followed up with Susanne Ma and the cybersecurity team, and they reviewed and were satisfied with the information security documents from Element 451 and Canvas. The recommendation is to include a cybersecurity team member in the project's integration and expansion.
- d. Dr. Wright is leading the conversation about enrollment targets. The District Enrollment Committee met last week, and enrollment is running below target. We are having conversations about strategy to recapture those students.

C. ASRCC Representative – No report

3:30 VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A. EPOC Faculty Co-Chair Wendy McKeen or designee will provide a strategic planning update (information)
 - a. EPOC is launching its new strategic plan on April 6th with a mini gallery walk. The Leadership Councils will oversee the plan's implementation to ensure it is actionable and goals are achieved.
 - b. EPOC and Leadership Council meetings will now be held on Wednesdays: EPOC on the first Wednesday, Leadership Council on the third, and work groups meeting during the two weeks in between. An RCC announcement was sent so faculty can adjust their schedules accordingly.

- B. Curriculum Faculty Co-Chair Kelly Douglass or designee will provide a committee update (information)
- a. The curriculum launch deadline has been moved from the fall to June 5th, as communicated to curriculum representatives in December. This earlier deadline allows for a more manageable schedule for the curriculum analyst and college committees. Chairs and discipline leads must approve items before leaving campus on June 12th.
 - b. The Common Course Number (CCN) phase 2B launch is ongoing, with courses required to be launched by June 5th to be included in the Fall 2027 catalog. Courses still pending launch are Anthropology 1, 1 Honors, and 1 Lab; Biology 1, 1 Honors, and Biology 10; Early Childhood 20; Communication 9, 9 Honors; and SOCH 1, 1 Honors.
 - c. Phase 3 of CCN is currently on hold by the State Chancellor's Office and ASCCC. Progress will resume once an agreement is reached on automatic articulation among UCs, Cal States, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
 - d. RCCD and other community colleges are moving from the California TOPS code to the federal CIP code system for classifying courses. On April 17th, Curriculum Analyst Brian Medina and Dr. Casandra Green will email district discipline leads and relevant department chairs for their input, with responses due by May 15th.

3:35 VII. Ongoing Business

- A. General Counsel Keith Dobyms will provide an updated review of the Brown Act for Academic Senate (information)
- a. Provided a helpful refresher and reminder of Brown Act as it relates to Academic Senate.
 - i. We now have a "one sheet" that can be reviewed annually (see agenda packet), developed in consultation with General Counsel following his presentation at District Academic Senate on Feb. 23.
 - ii. The Brown Act mandates that local legislative bodies, such as the Board of Trustees, Academic Senate and its standing committees (e.g. curriculum and academic standards), conduct their business transparently in public.
 - iii. Not all meetings are Brown Act meetings (for example: department meetings).
 - iv. Meetings must be open, with agendas posted and topics adhered to, and must allow for public attendance with 72-hour notice. The Act applies when a quorum of the body is present. This applies to email as well.
 - v. Meetings generally require in-person attendance, but remote participation is permitted in certain circumstances, provided all remote locations are publicly accessible and listed. Emergency situations allow for remote attendance with just cause.
 - vi. If *any* members are teleconferencing, the general public must also have a remote participation access (i.e. internet/zoom), and all votes must be by roll call.
 - vii. 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 required.
 - viii. Under the updated law, if Board grants approval (and such approvals must be renewed every six months), permission for Academic Senate and standing

committee meetings to meet remotely may be granted. These bodies will not be required to meet remotely if permission is granted. At least one employee would have to be present at an identified physical location.

1. 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.
 2. Roll call voting would be required for all votes.
- ix. Meetings usually follow parliamentary procedure, but meeting rules are at the president's discretion to facilitate effective meetings. Parliamentary procedure/Robert's Rules are not legally binding like the Brown Act.
 - x. Closed sessions are rare for Academic Senates; consultation with legal counsel is always required.
- B. RCCAS will consider and discuss any updated information regarding the proposed Canvas gradebook software pilot for Early Alert (information and discussion)
- a. There is a recommendation to continuously evaluate best practices, especially for the Early Alert test pilot for Element 451 to identify students in need of support.
 - b. The team is clarifying which parts of the program are optional and how to collect relevant data and feedback. Faculty who may participate in the SPR opportunity to test the tool should have reporting back to the Academic Senate as a deliverable.
 - c. Greater faculty representation across disciplines is encouraged, and the SPR process is paused. The goal will be for 10 faculty members participate. The Early Alert software pilot will be a standing item at future Academic Senate meetings.
- C. President Scott-Coe will lead a discussion of a standing RCCAS agenda item related to IETTC (discussion)
- a. Upon acceptance of its Phase One proposal at our previous meeting, the ad hoc group for Phase 1 of the IETTC was dissolved.
 - b. Faculty SMEs have been provided to the Facilities Planning Committee to consult and advise on the Request for Proposal (RFP) as we move into the next phase of development.
- 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)
- a. Elections are moving forward and Academic Senate leadership seats are up for election (2026-29) along with our part-time representative (2026-27).
 - b. Candidates can self-nominate or nominated by someone, but please make sure they are aware of the nomination.
 - c. Vice President Star Taylor and the nominating committee will be sending out an email this week. Nominations will be sunshined at Academic Senate's April 20th meeting and elections will open that week and proceed until May 8th.

4:25 VIII. New Business

- A. Dr. Mary Rankin will provide an update about RCC Cares Resources for faculty support of students (information)

- a. The RCC Cares Team meets weekly to discuss support, not discipline, for students, and encourages proactive referrals via their new website.
 - b. All team members receive immediate notifications of submissions, with urgent cases addressed within an hour and all referrals handled in accordance with a national standard.
 - c. Clear, accurate information on referral forms is essential for effective follow-up, and the team is working to automate responses through Maxient. There's been a steady stream of housing referrals and an increase in online student needs during the holidays.
 - d. For immediate assistance, bringing students in person is advised; calling 911 should be a last resort. Faculty should submit referrals even if students refuse services.
 - e. Confidentiality is maintained through secure systems with limited access, and ongoing efforts are improving follow-up communication with faculty.
 - f. The Cares Team is working on improving and clarifying feedback loops, and they are aware that this is an area of faculty concern when referrals have been made.
- B. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate a forum for expression of faculty concerns and priorities for the next College President (discussion)
- a. A discussion was open for faculty to explore needs, concerns, and ideals for the next college president. The information was taken back to the committee by Professor Laneshia Judon, a member of the search committee.
 - b. The faculty seeks a president with long-term commitment to the college and a genuine investment in the institution and its community.
 - c. It's important to recognize past achievements and ensure the new president feels welcomed and connected to the city/community.
 - d. Ideal qualities include openness, humility, strong communication, an appreciation for both the work and the diverse population served, and the ability to engage in healthy, transparent discussions.
 - e. There is support for promoting internal candidates due to recent leadership turnover.
 - f. The Faculty Association emphasizes accountability and the importance of faculty-friendly, transparent leadership.
 - g. The idea of conducting exit interviews with previous presidents was also discussed.
 - h. Healthy conversations are crucial especially when there are disagreements.
 - i. Transparency was also a concern.
- 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. There are some vacancies lingering and we will get those collated so that we can share them in April with a standard "all call."

4:30 IX. Officer Reports

A. Vice President

- a. Dr. Bettina Love will return to RCC on Thursday, March 19th from 3–5pm in BLCIS 114.
- b. A Know Your Rights Workshop will be held the same day from 6–8pm in the Kane Building.
- c. The Undocu Ally Group is hosting “Building Futures as Immigrant Families” on March 21st at 11am and 5pm via Zoom (pre-registration required; invites were emailed).

B. Secretary- Treasurer

- a. The ASCCC Leadership Institute will be held June 11–13, coinciding with commencement. Contact Academic Senate Leadership for more information.
- b. The 8th Annual LGBTQIA2S+ Summit, hosted by the Chancellor’s Office, will be held virtually April 15–16. Interested participants should reach out to leadership.
- c. The Bunny Hop event is on Friday, April 3rd, featuring games, crafts, a sensory neutral area, and food for purchase. The event is free for ages 0–12 with free parking.
- d. ASRCCC student leadership applications are open and due April 16th; increased student representation is encouraged.
- e. The 4th Annual Supporting Successful Reentry Conference will take place at RCC on April 16th.
- f. A student-parent event, hosted by former student-parent Mary Elise Valencia, is scheduled for March 17th with equity flex credit available. Zootopia 2 will be shown on March 20th in Kane 140 with activities for kids.

C. President

- a. President Scott-Coe announced she will not seek another term and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve. She also indicated that her goal, along with the current team, is to make sure new officers are well-supported through the transition.
- b. The Glen Hunt Center has been renovated, with efforts underway to organize historical senate materials and determine what can be archived, disposed of, or shared with the Faculty Association. Sydney Minter is assisting on this work.
- c. Senate and faculty are trying to comply in good faith with accessibility requirements, but we are having significant logistical issues with posting agenda packets and other materials due to unclear accessibility tools/messaging and a clear workflow. We need more support. Bodies/groups that have time-sensitive needs for web posting (due to Brown Act or other reasons) are frustrated.
- d. Both the Faculty Association and Academic Senate are advocating for increased faculty involvement in the AI Council, but the meeting this month was cancelled. More to come.
- e. At the recent ASCCC Area D meeting to discuss resolutions, President Scott-Coe shouted out Senator Mary Legner for an upcoming presentation at Spring Plenary.
- f. President Scott-Coe also encouraged attendance at Dr. Love’s presentation on March 19th.

4:45 X. Open Hearing

- b. Thank you to Jo Scott-Coe for all of her hard work in this role.
- c. Last week Senator Berry and another co-advisor took 6 students to the Women in Cybersecurity Conference. It was fantastic and powerful.

- d. Our RCC library has an archive department. We have an archivist librarian, Jacquie Lesch. Dr. Keene brings students all the time, and this week they are going to be working on cataloguing Chicano art history for an assignment this week.
- e. Professor Arya Parsa is holding an event on March 19th from 1pm -2:15pm in BLCIS 114A. Equity flex is available for this event on the History, Religion and Culture of Iran. Please be advised that there are disturbing images in this presentation.
- f. There is a student parent panel happening in the cafeteria on March 17th from 10-1.

4:45 XI. Learn, Share, Do

- g. What is and what is not a Brown Act body (see one sheet for reminders and guidance)
- h. The TOPS code is California and the CIP code is federal
- i. Commencement will be back to one ceremony this year
- j. Curriculum due dates (June now!)
- k. Student Senate applications are due by April
- l. Cares updates and flow (see presentation notes)
- m. Election for departments and divisions are this spring
- n. Faculty Association elections are also this spring
- o. Come sign the petition for Prop 55
- p. Watch for an email coming out for elections
- q. Dr. Bettina Love's presentation is March 19.

5:00 XII. Adjourn at 4:50

M/S/C: (Nelson/Bottoms) approved by consent