

Riverside City College Academic Senate
March 2, 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- absent

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Bryan Keene

Chemistry: Leo Truttman

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- absent

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Kayla Henry

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler 3:05pm

Department Senators (Term ending 2027)

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-absent

Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis

Life Sciences: Gregory Russell

Mathematics: Mary Legner

Music: Steve Mahpar

World Languages: Huda Aljord-absent

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter –not present

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen –not present

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman
Curriculum: Kelly Douglass –not present
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association
Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives
College President: Eric Bishop (Interim) 3:15pm
VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright
VP Business Services: Elia Blount
VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods
VP Student Services: FeRita Carter –not present

ASRCC Representative
Latiesha Williams – not present

Recorder of Minutes
Sydney Minter

Guests
Shari Yates, CTE Dean
Susana Escobedo, RCC Viewpoints
Courtney Carter, Counseling
Micherri Wiggs, LHSS Interim Dean
Herbert English, Counseling Dean
Andres Soria, Student

3:0 II. Approval of the Agenda

M/S/C: (Sandoval/Buuck) approved by consent

III. Approval of the Minutes (Nov. 17 and Dec. 8)

M/S/C: (Legner/Henry) Nov.17 with correction to attendance in minutes:
Lashonda Carter signed in and left on Nov.17

M/S/C: (Sandoval/Soto) Dec. 8 with correction to attendance in minutes:
Lashonda Carter was not present at the Dec. 8 meeting

IV. Public Comments

- Professors Virginia White and Mary Legner each spoke independently in remembrance of Greg Burchett, sharing kind words, followed by a moment of silence.

V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- a. Negotiations are underway and are meeting on Fridays from 8 am to the end of the day. The experience has been positive, and the Faculty Association has been diligent in working to create a clear contract.
- b. The Distance Education peer-to-peer evaluator MOU has been signed. If anyone is interested, please apply.
- c. The Chief of Police position is stalled due to a low candidate pool.
- d. Our PPO has switched to Kenan, and workshops and informational sessions are available if you have been affected by the change.
- e. The search for the next President of RCC is underway.
- f. Because of intellectual property, sharing of syllabi is allowed among colleagues but is not required. Department storage of syllabi for accreditation purposes is OK.

B. College President or designee

- a. The City of Riverside is working to revitalize and expand the Riverside Airport to attract aviation education. The city is working to partner with all educational institutions in the area, including colleges and high schools, on new programs and existing programs in the field. Currently, there is NO footprint for Aerospace Engineering in the Inland Empire. We will start hearing more about (LIFT), Leveraging Innovation and Flight Technology, in the near term.
- b. We are moving forward with an architect to draft the RFP for the (IETTC) Inland Empire Trade Technical Center and need to pull a team of faculty together to help craft the RFP.
- c. This spring, 7 new faculty members started here at RCC. There was a new faculty orientation that consisted of two days of training, preparing them for spring FLEX, so they were not scrambling to get acclimated to their new roles. For fall, the training could occur in June.

C. ASRCC Representative

- a. Our ASRCC Representative is traveling for a conference

VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A. Accreditation Co-chair Jacqueline Lesch will provide a progress report on the Winter 2026 intersession ISER work and updated timeline (information)
 - a. We held 3 writing workshops in the spring of 2025, and then a draft of the standards was sent to the Leadership Council groups for revision and update.
 - b. In winter (January), a team comprised of faculty, classified professionals, and administrators met and worked over the winter term to fully develop a draft for each standard, complete with linked evidence and files. The team convened on

Thursday, February 5th, 2026, where each standard team submitted their work and reported out. The writing teams have completed their assignments, and the document is in editorial review with Jacqueline Lesch, Lynn Wright, and lead editor Brit Osgood-Treston.

- c. Thank you to all the faculty, classified professionals, and admin. who participated in the winter work groups.
- d. We will bring the final full draft to the Academic Senate on April 6th for the first read and then come back to the Academic Senate for final approval on May 4.

VII. Ongoing Business

- A. The RCC Academic Senate will discuss a recommendation to accept the IETTC Phase One program proposal from the ad hoc advisory work group, with discussion of next steps and how to ensure regular updates to RCCAS (second read and action)
 - a. At the December meeting, the ad hoc workgroup presented a formal Phase 1 program proposal to the Academic Senate. The goal was to review the recommendation for phase 1. If we approve today, the ad hoc workgroup will be dissolved upon conclusion of its business. Going forward, we need to maintain connections with subject-matter experts and the Academic Senate to ensure we do not lose the connection on consultation and process/information.

M/S/C: (Elton/Berry) to approve the Phase 1 IETTC program proposal as submitted and dissolve the ad hoc workgroup- approved unanimously

- b. Relatedly, the district facilities planning group has engaged an architect to write the Request for Proposal (RFP), and given the work done in the fall, we want to make sure key faculty SMEs are involved help the architect understand the needs for specific programs. Interim President Bishop met with Academic Senate President Jo Scott-Coe to gather names to ensure faculty representation.
 - c. The goal is to complete the RFP by the end of spring so it can go out for the design bid at the beginning of summer. That will give us time to figure out the needs, including students, faculty, security, lighting, etc., to be incorporated into the design bid.
- B. Vice-President Taylor or designee will share reminders of collegewide spring election cycles for distribution among faculty departments/divisions (information)
 - a. Division and department elections are currently underway. Faculty, please take this information back to your departments and review the highlighted areas. The ones in yellow are on deck for replacement this spring (2026 is an “even” year), so please pay close attention.
 - b. Please encourage faculty to represent their departments or divisions, as there are gaps in representation, and we want to make sure everyone’s voice is heard. If someone wants to continue serving, they still need to put their names forward so that they can be voted on.

- c. For committees and councils, please make sure the term of service is added to the agenda (in years, rather than length, of term—i.e. 2026-28 rather than just “2 years”)

VIII. New Business

- A. Laura Diaz-Barbosa, RCC Undocumented Student Liaison, will review available resources and materials for faculty to support undocumented and mixed-status students (information)
 - a. At the beginning of the semester, Laura sent an email encouraging people to sign up for the UndocuAdvocate training. Faculty will be eligible to receive a certification. The UndocuAdvocate Training is on March 5, 2026, from 1pm-2pm via Zoom, and from 2-3 with an optional Q&A. Undocu scholars will be presenting a training to prepare faculty on how they can do their part in supporting students.
 - b. There are many students who are concerned about how to communicate about the presence of ICE in the Riverside area. We want keep lines of communication open so that students have alternatives in their classes to help them stay on track. ICE officials are not permitted to enter private or public spaces here on campus unless they have a signed judicial warrant. Kyla Tuefel is the designated person to contact if you encounter ICE, or you can also contact RCCD police. California law requires our schools to notify students when ICE is present on campus.
 - c. In her position, Laura can assist students with navigating the admissions process, eligibility for financial aid through the California Dream Act application, and in-state tuition. Support is available for students to receive a legal immigration consultation or to discuss other topics, such as legally starting a business. An email will go out whenever they have a spring clinic. Emergency funds are available to students who are facing financial hardships.
 - d. Faculty can reach out to Laura Diaz-Barbosa for more details
- B. President Scott-Coe or designee will facilitate discussion of an opportunity for faculty to pilot a software tool for possible use in Canvas gradebooks to support early alert and intervention efforts (information and discussion)
 - a. Several weeks ago, there was a Special Projects Request (SPR) sent out to faculty to participate in piloting a software program in Canvas gradebook to support early alerts for students. The tool/software is Element451.
 - b. This software has been already used as an administrative tool inside Kane to facilitate different types of record-keeping, etc. so the possible use within instructional/LMS/gradebook context would be a different use—definitely within 10+1/faculty purview.
 - c. Thee SPR is an optional opportunity. If faculty participate, we would want them to bring information back to the Academic Senate so that we can hear what the program looks like and faculty’s experience of the tool within the context of their specific disciplines.

- d. Element 451 has two components. One is the LMS component, where Canvas could flag a student in trouble so we can get that information to an educational advisor. The second component is working with IT to move grades automatically from the Canvas gradebook into WebAdvisor or Colleague.
 - e. For cybersecurity purposes, Susanne Ma has reviewed the contract and scope to determine whether we can say yes. The Academic Senate Committee is requesting more information from Susanne Ma on the program's cybersecurity elements at the March 16th RCCAS meeting.
 - f. We are looking at 10 faculty/classes to pilot for RCC only. There was a miscommunication in the original SPR, which called for “all faculty” across district.
 - g. Ideally, we would like to review the program’s findings at the end of the spring term and into the summer, and possibly complete a second pilot in the summer.
- 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
 - b. The goal is to make sure that we have a comprehensive list as we move into election season. Priorities include:
 - Part-time faculty liaison
 - Filling vacancies on district senate committees

IX. Officer Reports

A. President

- a. The Academic Senate seeks to maintain clear relationships with our leadership councils to ensure Senate support and two-way communication. We need to discuss the best rotation/rhythm of meaningful feedback loops.
- b. Keep an eye out for the educational assistant application around March or April, and the Academic Senate will be sure to sunshine the details.
- c. For retired faculty who would like to be considered for Emeritus, please start having those conversations because the process usually happens during the spring
- d. As you may recall from December, we had a change in Title V regarding “burden free access.” The District Academic Senate held a special meeting in January to draft the compliance aspect, which included language on subject-matter considerations. Going forward, there will be more robust conversations across the district about what constitutes quality OER.
- e. President Scott-Coe worked closely with General Council Dobyms over the winter to polish up our District Academic Senate bylaws. A couple of small adjustments were made and incorporated—one of which came from our local senate. You will see them in April for a recommended final approval vote.

- f. President Scott-Coe had three encouraging meetings with Deputy Chancellor/Provost Star Lacey. Their discussions focused on the need for support at district for faculty/educational services/academic affairs.
- g. The districtwide DE workgroup has been meeting weekly on our local certification process, most recently March 2 (today). The group has figured out how to use the rubric to assess hybrid courses now. Top priority is getting more funding for additional options to expand capacity to meet demand. Watch for messages from Prof. Adam Navas and District Academic Senate email.
- h. A workgroup team was pulled together in the winter as a subgroup of the District Safety and Security Committee. It was not expected. President Scott-Coe and Faculty Association President Rhonda Taube have been added to this group, and they are monitoring areas where faculty input is needed. This is a small, intimate group that will include the CARES Team, Student Services, and disciplines. President Scott-Coe will report out on our next RCCAS meeting on March 16th.

B. Vice President

- a. March is Women's HERstory Month, and we want to announce an event on March 3rd from 12pm-2pm in BLCIS 114A entitled Women of Color in Administration. The panel includes our very own Vice President Kristi Woods, Vice President FeRita Carter, Dr. Adrian Grayson, Dr. Mary Rankin, and Vice President Elia Blount.
- b. The Presidential search for the next RCC President is underway. Thank you to those who filled out the forms and/or attended the forums. Please continue conversations within your department and bring the information back to the Academic Senate so we can share it.
- c. There have been some updates to the AP on professional growth from January, which will be reviewed and shared at the next PG&SL committee meeting next week. The committee's recommendations are expected to be shared with the District Academic Senate at the end of March.
- d. The details about election timelines and software will be discussed at our next RCCAS meeting on March 16th
- e. General Council Dobyms presented a helpful review and update on Brown Act rules and Guidance at the District Academic Senate on February 23rd. We anticipate a presentation, summary, handout, or one-pager to be distributed at one of our local senate meetings soon.

C. Secretary- Treasurer - is traveling for a conference on federal advocacy

X. Open Hearing

- a. Senator Sandoval signed up for an @One course and found it to be a really great course with wonderful teachers. Senator Sandoval is looking forward to applying what she learned and how it will help her students online.

- b. We want to encourage everyone to come to the library to see the display created by a student-led group who worked with our equity librarian on fashion in black culture
- c. Cybersecurity Open House will be Friday, March 6, 2026 from 6pm-8pm in BLCIS 114. Student projects will be on display.
- d. Andres Soria is a journalism student who helps people find themselves again through emotionally intelligent conversations. If anyone is interested in building a relationship or having a meaningful conversation, please reach out to him.
- e. Thank you to the Faculty Association for their work in contract negotiations

XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Learned what an RFP is (Request for Proposals)
- Element 451 is a possible tool to be tested by faculty
- Share UndocuAdvocate training
- Election season is here so prepare your departments and divisions
- Be kinder to one another and ask a colleague how you can help

XII. Adjourn at 4:34pm in memory of Greg Burchett
M/S/C: (Perez/Nelson) approved unanimously