

Riverside City College Academic Senate
April 6, 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- absent

Vice President: Star Taylor

Secretary-Treasurer: Megan Bottoms

Department Senators (Term ending 2026)

Art: Bryan Keene

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler -absent

Counseling: Sal Soto

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Sean Pries

Kinesiology: Jim Elton- not present

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson

Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield- arrived at 3:06pm

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Kayla Henry

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)

Lindsay Weiler

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

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- left at 4:02pm

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass

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

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Courtney Carter, Counseling

Mia Timme, TLLC

3:05 II. Approval of the Agenda

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

3:05 III. Approval of the Minutes Mar. 2; March 16 (tabled)

M/S/C: (Russell/Borses) March 2- approved by consent

3:08 IV. Public Comments

1. Independent study is in the process of approval, and faculty are requesting an update
2. Senator Scullin requested clarification about approved and non-approved @One DE certification courses.
3. Associate faculty expressed frustration about DE certification process.

3:18 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- a. The new election dates and timeline will be amended. We will have more details after the Faculty Association meeting on Tuesday, April 7th.
- b. The Faculty Association is having conversations about associate faculty and how they will be compensated for completing the @one courses. Associate Faculty will be compensated at a flat rate of \$750 for completing the @One courses for the peer-to-peer review. The FA is trying to ensure that associate faculty are compensated for the add-on courses because the locally we have not yet created a new certification course (to replace the former "camp").
- c. Last week, the Faculty Association, the Academic Senate VP, and Sergeant Rojas had a conversation about a police incident with RCCD police coming into one of our classrooms during instruction. Thank you, Dr. Bishop, for communicating with the two faculty members affected by this incident and for ensuring that a process will be in place moving forward.
- d. Negotiations are coming along and should be finalized soon. Once finalized, there will be a town hall to update the faculty on the changes, and then it will be sent out for a vote before it goes to the RCCD Board for approval.

B. College President or designee

- a. The situation about the officer coming into the classroom was mishandled, and the President's office is working on protocols for not putting faculty in difficult situations. It is on the president's office radar, and they are addressing how to move forward.

- b. We have been invited by the State Chancellor's Office to Pan African Virtual College for the Study Abroad at Home program, which will connect us with several colleges. The program officers will be bringing a more formal plan later.
 - c. There is a lot of buzz about the accessibility requirements. It is on the president's radar to be addressed. We need to have a comprehensive conversation as a district to see how best to support faculty.
 - d. The president is aware that he has not published the prioritization ranking document and he hopes to get it out in the next couple days.
 - e. The pilot demo will be set up with senate representatives from all three colleges to ensure broad input about the Element 451 tool, including an early alert feature. The pilot's purpose is to evaluate what the system can and cannot do before making further decisions.
 - f. The district has received a space utilization report, which was discussed with Senate officers. The President plans to bring in a consultant to explain the report's methodology to the Academic Senate. He also proposes forming an ad hoc workgroup to collaboratively review the report and develop recommendations for moving forward.
- C. ASRCC Representative**
- a. ASRCC attended the Federal Advocacy event with SSCCC from February 31st to March 4th, sharing their experiences and touring the state capital, including witnessing Tim Waltz's testimony
 - b. ASRCC attended the SSCCC General Assembly in San Francisco (March 26–29), they participated in writing and passing several resolutions.
 - i. Key resolutions that passed at the state level include establishing a Pathways to Law School program for all 116 California community colleges, amending Penal Code 626.4 to increase the campus ban for petitioners from 14 to 30 days, and the student-parent center resolution, which was first approved at RCC.
 - ii. Our student senators did the hard work of preparing these resolutions with student input, specifically from the 400 students surveyed earlier this year, and passed them first on our campus and then at the state level.

3:30 VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A.** Faculty co-chair of GEMQ, Ginger White or designee, will review the Program Review process for this spring including guiding questions and relevant deadlines (information)
 - a. There are minor changes to the program review process this year: new prompts have been added for departments to address in their updates, and representatives have been instructed on how to access last year's comprehensive plans.
 - b. Resource requests will be handled by Curtis, with more detail's forthcoming.
 - c. Department plans are due by the end of April, so early preparation is encouraged. Wendy McEwen is available to help with data, with two upcoming data sessions scheduled, including one on April 7th.
- B.** TLLC faculty co-chair, LaShonda Carter, will share a revised draft position statement on AI for senate feedback (information and discussion)
 - a. A position statement on AI, developed in response to a 2023 Senate charge to TLLC, was presented to the Academic Senate.
 - b. The updated statement seeks to establish an institutional stance on responsible AI use, considering innovation, learning efficacy, access, and concerns such as bias, environmental impact, and academic freedom.
 - c. TLLC requests guidance from the Senate on next steps—whether to remove this item from their agenda or continue work. The document is intended to remain flexible.
 - d. AI remains a topic of discussion at District Academic Senate. TLLC will update the Senate after leads conduct further discussions with President Bishop.
- C.** RCCAS will hear any updates regarding IETTC (information)

- a. There are two community meetings coming up Tuesday, April 14th from 5pm-7p and one on Thursday April 16th also from 5pm-7pm.
- b. Be on the lookout for additional information.
- D. Accreditation co-chair, Jacque Lesch or designee, will introduce the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) for the first read (information and discussion, first read)
 - a. The accreditation report provides an overview of changes since the last accreditation cycle and documents RCC's quality, effectiveness, and alignment with ACCJC standards.
 - b. The self-evaluation process demonstrates evidence-based compliance and is used by a peer review team to assess the college. Recent cycles have shifted from lengthy, process-focused documents to a concise, 50-page report (excluding appendices) that emphasizes equity, disaggregated data, and student success over student learning alone. (Previous reports in 2014 and 2020 were 200-300 pages!)
 - c. The report uses embedded hyperlinks for data references and includes institutional context, history, demographics, and student success rates. Each of the four accreditation standards—mission and effectiveness, student success, infrastructure and resources, and governance—is covered, with examples illustrating college practices.
 - d. The report is available on the RCC website, with a short feedback window before submission for approval, followed by final submission in August.
 - The report itself documents the quality and effectiveness of our programs, services, practices, as well as the degree to which we meet our own mission and goals for student success.
 - Prior to 2014 the standards, were more prescriptive and compliance-oriented and emphasized required processes rather than how well they work.
 - Another shift is to demonstration of meaningfully disaggregated data and equity minded practice, and also a shift in focus from student learning to student success.
 - The report itself, the front material is the institutional context that was written by our Institutional Effectiveness Department. It includes a brief history of RCC, demographics of our college service area, RCC student data and headcounts, FTE's, race, ethnicity, age, course offerings by modality and the disaggregated student success rate.
 - For standard 1, which is our mission and effectiveness. It explains the timeframe of our self-study that we are in the middle of sunseting one cycle of strategic planning and developing our new best strategic plan for the upcoming 2025-2030
 - Standard 1 also has our new vision, mission, tiger values, and our BEST strategic plan goals of Build, Engage, Serve, and Treasure. In each of the sections there are 4 standards with 30 subsections.
 - Stories or examples are used to illustrate the points that are being made about the college. The Veterans Resource Center and their concern for credit for prior learning has brought attention to the curriculum committee to work with the state because it is not accepted as a UC
 - Standard 2 is student success which is our bread and butter. Its curriculum, assessment and our different processes for teaching and learning. It also discusses communication channels in standard 2 and RCC has engaged with strategic communication consultant in December of 2025 to evaluate our internal communication with employees.
 - Standard 3 is infrastructure and resources to include business resources, human resources, hiring practices, and our evaluation processes for employees.
 - Standard 4 is our governance and decision making, which emphasizes on the board of trustees, board polices, administrative procedures, and the defined roles of district and college leadership. Standard 4 also touches on free speech, academic freedom, and does mention the Academic Senate's facilitated discussion of the ASCCC position paper on academic freedom.
 - The ISER is on the RCC website along with the feedback form. The feedback time frame is very short and there is a short window to accommodate the other deadlines that we have to make to make it to DSPC, cabinet, and then to regular board for approval by June 16th. The report then ships off in August.

3:35 VII. Ongoing Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will share information about the forms and timeline for 2026-27 Education Assistant applications (information)
 - a. Early education applications were sent out from District Academic Senate email.
 - b. Everyone should have received a message reminding that the applications are available. Please look those over and if you have any questions, please refer to the email or contact your leadership.

- B. President Scott-Coe or designee will share the final updated District Academic Senate bylaws following input in Fall 2025, with a recommendation for final approval that can be taken back to DAS in April (information + action)
 - a. The District Academic Senate bylaws were reviewed last fall, and a concern raised by RCCAS led to an adjustment incorporated for this final version.
 - b. The revision indicated that at least one college academic senate president must be present to constitute a quorum at DAS meetings.
 - o M/S/C: (Berry/Rose) approved unanimously

- C. VP Taylor or designee will share the [ASCCC Resolutions Packet](#) for distribution and feedback from departments in advance of ASCCC Spring Plenary 2026 (information)
 - a. Plenary is happening this weekend, with President Scott-Coe participating virtually on Saturday for the resolutions voting.
 - b. Two resolutions of interest from RCC faculty include anti-racism (106.01) and ethnic studies (101.01). President Scott-Coe will reach out to relevant disciplines for input.
 - c. Faculty are encouraged to share any concerns or discipline-specific resolutions with Senate leadership before Saturday's session.

- D. RCCAS will consider any updates regarding the proposed Canvas gradebook software pilot for Early Alert (information and discussion)
 - a. Ongoing discussions are focused on the Canvas gradebook pilot and early alert system, with particular concern about the use of AI and Element 451.
 - b. AS Leadership and the District Academic Senate are asking more questions about AI in Canvas as well as its role in student identification and communication, emphasizing that faculty should remain central in these processes.
 - c. There is also attention on how campus and district efforts should be coordinated in these efforts.
 - d. Faculty raised concerns about AI detection software (e.g. TurnItIn).

4:25 VIII. New Business

- A. Prof. Kevin Mayse or designee will share the application materials and supporting documents for the Naming Recognition of Professor Robert Dominguez for the Drum Set Room at Coil School for the Arts (discussion and action)
 - a. Approval for President Scott Coe to write a letter in support of the renaming of the Drum Set Room to honor Prof. Dominguez
 - b. M/S/C: (Bottoms/Berry) approved unanimously

- B. 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. Pres. Scott-Coe is working on a list of district committees for an "all call" to share where we will need new appointments OR renewal of current representation.

4:30 IX. Officer Reports

A. Secretary-Treasurer

- a. The graduation ceremony will be held on the football field at 6pm, with precautions in place to protect the field investment (no high heels allowed; security will enforce this, and a video will be provided).

Guests are allowed by wristband only. The faculty reception will take place in CIS 114A/B and proceed behind the scoreboard for the line up as we have in the past.

- b. ASRCC applications are due April 16th, with a mandatory candidate meeting on April 9th. Secretary-Treasurer Bottoms can assist with issues.
- c. Student of Distinction nominations should be submitted to department chairs, with one nominee per discipline/department.
- d. Faculty are required to complete cybersecurity training. In the top of your Outlook email there is a report button, please report those odd emails so that they can be tracked and then delete it. Suspicious emails should be forwarded to spam@rccd.edu and reported in Outlook; do not open them.

B. President-Absent. No report.

C. Vice -President

- a. DE Peer-to-Peer certification sessions are TBD in April and May, with dates being finalized and updates expected after spring break.
- b. The District Academic Senate fielded concerns about denied @One course certifications, requesting local DE committees to review these cases and find solutions.
- c. The Independent Study AP is progressing through district channels, and the PG&SL update to AP6160A is expected to be discussed by the District Academic Senate on April 27th, with local review likely in May. More to come.
- d. Discussing the definition of Hyflex modality will be on the local agenda April 20th and the district agenda April 27th.
- e. Election season is underway; faculty should speak to potential candidates for president, vice-president, or secretary-treasurer before submitting their names as nominees.

4:45 X. Open Hearing

- What should we do when someone who claims to be a student asks to observe your class? It is up to the professor's comfort level and will be agendaized for a future senate meeting.

4:45 XI. Learn, Share, Do

- We cannot wear high heels on the football field for commencement and if you do, they will be confiscated.
- We learned that students are human!
- TLLC position statement on AI is in process
- ASCCC Resolution packet should be reviewed by departments/disciplines
- We need candidates for Senate leadership positions of president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer
- Educational Assistant Applications are due May 1
- ISER feedback link is on the website

5:00 XII. Adjourn at 4:52pm

M/S/C: (Nelson/Henry) approved unanimously