

**Riverside City College Academic Senate**  
April 20, 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- Absent

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson -Absent

Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield- Absent

School of Education & Teacher Preparation: Kayla Henry

***Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)***

Lindsay Weiler – Not present

***Department Senators (Term ending 2027)***

Applied Technology: Patrick Scullin

Behavioral Science: Eddie Perez

Business, Law & CIS: Skip Berry – Absent

Communication Studies: Lucretia Rose – Absent

English: Christine Sandoval – Not present

History/Philosophy/Humanities/Ethnic Studies: Daniel Borses

Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis

Life Sciences: Gregory Russell

Mathematics: Mary Legner

Music: Steve Mahpar- Absent

World Languages: Huda Aljord- Absent

***Ex-Officio Senators***

TLLC: Lashonda Carter- Not present

ASC: Jacquie Lesch- arrived at 3:05pm

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman – Not present

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass- Not present

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

***RCCD Faculty Association***

Araceli Calderon- arrived at 3:02pm

***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***

Ellen Drinkwater- Adjunct Counselor, CPL

Vivian Ygloria, DRC, VRC Counselor

Shari Yates, Dean of CTE

Micherri Wiggs, Interim Dean LHSS

Claudia Barrios, Adjunct Cosmetology Instructor

Herb English, Dean of Counseling and Specially Funded Programs

Lisa Martin, Counseling

**3:05 II. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**3:05 III. Approval of the Minutes** March 16; April 6 (tabled)

M/S/C: (Borses/Soto March 16 minutes approved unanimously

**3:08 IV. Public Comments**

- No public comments

**3:18 V. Liaison Reports**

**A. RCCD Faculty Association**

- a. The Faculty Association hopes everyone had a wonderful and restful spring break.
- b. The FA is making headway in negotiations and will start reviewing the language. A town hall meeting will be held before the contract gets ratified and brought to the Board of Trustees for approval. So, keep an eye out for updates in your email.
- c. Faculty Association elections are still happening. Please continue to cast your votes.
- d. The Revised DE certification MOU was sent out—make sure to read and review carefully. The updated deadline for peer-to-peer DE certification has been extended until December 31, 2026.
- e. For graduation at the faculty mixer, the FA will provide adult beverages.
- f. For those planning extended leave, please notify the Faculty Association, especially if faculty will be undergoing IOI evaluations or other activities.

- B. College President or designee
  - a. The hard deadline on accessibility requirements has been delayed until 2027; we are still working to see what support will look like.
  - b. The intent is to sign on to the Pan African Virtual College Consortium. More to come!
- C. ASRCC Representative
  - a. Faculty, please encourage your students to vote in the ASRCC elections May 5 and May 6. Latiesha Williams will be running for president this year.
  - b. ASRCC will be holding a town hall meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> 12:50-1:50 in the Hall of Fame. Student engagement is important
  - c. The district student trustee position is open, so encourage students to run till May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### 3:35 VI. Committee or Council Updates

- A. RCCAS will hear any updates regarding IETTC (information)
  - a. There were two community forums last week during break for what is known as CEQA requirements. Requirements to engage those who live in the community so that they are aware and can raise questions about impact.
  - b. The first meeting was about 40-50 people, and most of the conversation was about city issues, traffic and traffic flow, street widening, traffic lights, stop signs. Some of these items are not in RCC's purview, but we will work with the city to ensure we maintain communication. President Bishop has been talking to Vice Chancellor Brown about mitigating community concerns.
- B. Accreditation co-chair, Jacquie Lesch or designee, will continue discussion with RCCAS on the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) in preparation for the third read and vote on May 4 (discussion, second read)
  - a. At the last Academic Senate meeting, the four accreditation standards and instructions for accessing the ISER and feedback survey were provided.
  - b. The accreditation team received limited feedback, mainly on Standard 3. Standards 1 and 4 need only minor edits, while Standard 2 has been expanded with more examples that focus on how well processes are working.
  - c. The final, polished ISER will be ready for Senate review by April 27<sup>th</sup> and published online by April 28<sup>th</sup>. The team also aims to highlight student perspectives in the report. Any new documents or changes to be included in the ISER should be submitted by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### 3:35 VII. Ongoing Business

- A. RCCAS will consider any new information about the proposed faculty SPRs to conduct a Canvas gradebook software pilot for Early Alert (information and discussion)
  - a. The pilot for the early alert software test is still paused
- B. President Scott-Coe or designee will review an update on local DE certification options and timeline (information)
  - a. Please check the email that went out through RCCD. ALL. The email includes clarifying language of the MOU related to DE certification equivalencies, available @one trainings, and compensation. The new deadline for certification is Dec. 31, 2026.
- C. VP Taylor or designee will sunshine the nominees for RCCAS officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer 2026-29) as well as PT Faculty representative (2026-27), and will review the voting process timeline, discuss adjustments if needed (information)

- a. One nomination per position was received. We will share nominee names via email and send the ballot out next week from the elections committee.
- b. The nominations are as follows:
  - 1. Senator Patrick Scullin as RCCAS President
  - 2. Senator Megan Bottoms as RCCAS Vice president
  - 3. Secretary -Treasurer Senator Kayla Henry
  - 4. Associate Faculty/PT Senator: No one has volunteered or been nominated, so the call will be extended for that position so that PT faculty can vote this spring.

#### 4:25 III. New Business

- A. President Scott-Coe or designee will share recent faculty questions related to hyflex course modality, in preparation for districtwide consultation with local DE committees, District Curriculum, and District Academic Senate (information + discussion)
  - a. There is a need for a clear definition of HyFlex across district, and district-wide conversations are underway involving curriculum and DE representatives from all three colleges.
  - b. Students as well as faculty need to understand what is expected.
  - c. Flexibility and accessibility—especially for students with disabilities—are important considerations.
  - d. The discussion is ongoing and will continue in future meetings. Questions that came up regarding HyFlex, to be represented in ongoing conversations:
    - i. Question: In a Hy flex classroom is the camera recording us or is just capturing us. Do we have access to the recording? Who has the video?
    - ii. Question: Can students choose their modality from two sections?
    - iii. Questions: If technology fails for accessibility or equitable reasons, is the entire class canceled?
    - iv. Questions: Are proctored exams accepted when students are not in person?
    - v. Do online students know that they will be interacting with students who are in-person?
    - vi. What is the enrollment threshold for a hyflex course, especially if most students are drawn to the remote side?
    - vii. Is hyflex expected to be synchronous or asynchronous?
    - viii. Will testing modalities be different for students who are online versus those who are face-to face?
    - ix. Flexibility for students with disabilities can be more accommodating then coming to face-to-face classes
- B. President Scott-Coe or designee will share names of retired faculty who have asked to be put forward for Emeritus status, with a request for RCCAS support (information and action)
  - a. In the last cycle for the golden handshake, faculty preparing to retire were considered for Emeritus status in advance of their retirement. Standard procedure during ordinary time is that faculty must be retired to be considered.
  - b. Two faculty members have come forward: One who retired in 2023 and missed the initial notification, and another who retired in December 2025.
    - i. Michael Barnes (2023) and Ellen Brown-Drinkwater (2025)

M/S/C: (Soto/Legner) Ratification for the above names to be put forward for Emeritus

- C. President Scott-Coe or designee will lead discussion to calendar a date for a special RCCAS meeting dedicated to faculty learning and input regarding the RCCD Space Optimization Study and Space Utilization Study (action)
- a. The district has completed two studies—the Space Optimization Study (SOS) and Space Utilization Study (SUS)—covering all three colleges. Although the initial presentation at DSPC was canceled, the reports were presented as information to the Board of Trustees earlier this month.
  - b. President Bishop is working with Senate leadership to create an engaging, collaborative review process, including consultant input on the methodology.
  - c. Proposal to hold a Special Meeting of RCCAS to allow adequate time for review and discussion of the two studies.
  - d. Several dates were considered in May, with a motion to hold the meeting 5/13.
    - i. Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 3-5  
M/S/C: (Borses/Bottoms) 2 opposed/ no abstentions to hold a special meeting on this date to address the SOS and SUS plans  
Room TBD.
- D. VP Taylor or designee will request that RCCAS designate the optional June 8 meeting date as a senate retreat session for welcoming, planning, and transitioning with new officers, senators, and chairs (action)
- a. June 8<sup>th</sup> is our last RCCAS meeting and we will be designate this meeting to do some transitioning, planning, and welcoming for new senators and our new Senate leadership.  
M/S/C: (Scott-Coe/Legner) approved by consent to hold 6/8 as the last meeting
- E. Ellen Brown-Drinkwater or designee will share an overview of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiatives, with a request for input on a proposal to update Board Policy (information + discussion, possible action)
- a. The Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) team is calling attention to inequitable language in AP 2235 and seeks to update it for greater equity among students earning CPL credit.
  - b. CPL began with military articulation and has expanded to include broader articulated pathways, aligning with Vision 2030 legislation and ongoing funding. Key initiatives include a Veterans sprint, statewide recommendations for industry credentials, and apprenticeships. For veterans, certifying officials upload JSTs to the MAP platform to potentially award CPL.
  - c. CPL is supported by Title 5, the Department of Veterans Affairs, AB123, and Vision 2030, with seven strategic priorities—one of which is to eliminate unnecessary obstacles, like the current 12-unit requirement in AP 2235. Unlike CLEP and AP exams, CPL currently imposes this unit restriction, and the team argues it is unnecessary.
  - d. Institutionalizing CPL at all three colleges is a priority, and all personnel are encouraged to become familiar with CPL processes. The CPL team provides training, hosts presentations, and meets regularly at both district and college levels. They are planning a districtwide fall FLEX to further promote and clarify CPL.
  - e. Barriers such as family and job obligations often impede students' educational goals. The CPL team urges the Academic Senate to support removing the 12-unit completion requirement for transcribing CPL, focusing solely on the transcript and award process, not residency or certification rules.
  - f. This aligns with ASCCC resolution 103.03, which advocates removing barriers to CPL awards.

M/S/C: (Soto/Keene) approved by consent  
directs Academic Senate President Jo Scott-Coe to vote at DAS in support of  
removing the 12-unit requirement and to assist with the update to AP 2235

- F. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)
- a. Updated District Committee vacancies and re-appointments: Recruitment call for college faculty will be shared this week from the RCCAS email, so that we can get these results completed by May and ratified here.

#### **4:30 IX. Officer Reports**

##### **A. President**

- a. The State Chancellor's Office released a memorandum about revisions to Title 5 regarding academic progress, probation, and dismissal. We are trying to provide students with clarity about changes to their status without using language associated with incarceration. The state materials will be part of the agenda packet May 4th.
- b. Clarifying DE certification options and timeline. If anyone has any situations or concerns, please send them to President Scott-Coe so that she can bring them forward.
- c. Plenary was the weekend before last. President Scott-Coe attended as your delegate. The results packet will be part of our next agenda, including voting highlights and some interesting debates.
- d. ASCCC hosted a webinar on anti-black racism and local Academic Senate culture. The Academic Senate president from Long Beach City College shared their experience about goalposts move for Black leaders on campuses, including Academic Senate. President Scott-Coe will seek a copy of the presentation to share.
- e. Shoutout the BOT meeting: please come to support of faculty who are getting tenure or being recognized for changing rank.

##### **B. Vice President**

- a. CCN Phase 2 effective this summer. There are quite a few courses that will be affected by this. Please remind your students about these changes of course names so they are ready for summer/fall registration.
- b. Enrollment for the summer semester starts next week, and flyers have been put on all classroom doors.
- c. Division elections are underway, so be on the lookout for an email from your deans, department chairs, and Academic Senate alerting you to the division elections.
- d. Faculty make sure to check your book requests--make sure books are the correct text and edition. Sometimes listings are completely wrong!
- e. Please encourage part-time faculty to get involved and ask questions if they are interested in the part-time senator election.
- f. Flyers are up for the election town hall May 6th in the Cafeteria, 1pm to 2:30pm.
- g. "We Are Here Because You Are" is a panel discussion put on by our faculty in LHSS and La Casa. On May 7th, during college hour in BLCIS 114 A/B

- h. Ballet Folklorico is here on campus. You can scan the QR code on flyers across campus. If you have questions, contact Dr. Jason Torres-Rangel (Engl. Dept).

**C. Secretary-Treasurer**

- a. Black Student Success Week is happening and is hosted by the *I Can Go to College* campaign and the California Chancellor's Office. There will be webinars, watch parties, and engaging support services through the week.
- b. New Faculty Orientation is in the planning process, and feedback is needed. If you have new faculty in your department, please have them reach out to Audrey Holod or Monique Greene.
- c. Student of Distinction is approaching, so nominations to get to the first level are next week. So please make sure that the faculty have a chance to talk amongst themselves, and then the department chair discipline will send the details to Secretary Treasurer Bottoms by May 12th. This year Students of Distinction will receive the orange/white honor cords and will be highlighted at commencement.
- d. ASRCCC elections are May 5 and 6. Megan has flyers for faculty to post in their offices or at engagement centers. Student trustee applications are due by May 4th.

**4:45 X. Open Hearing**

- Processes with the bookstore need to be evaluated for efficiency
- RCC hosting the first Student Climate Convergence on May 30<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow as the day gets closer.
- Preview: a "leaf course" proposal is coming to Senate next month. We are seeking to designate RCC courses which incorporate sustainability into existing student learning outcomes.
- Tiger Con: Next Week! Now expanded to two days and will be held in BLCIS 114A/B, and the Hall of Fame to include special guests
- Next Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> is Plant Swap in the Digital Library Breezeway
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Pathways to Law Conference- multiple rooms in BLCIS building
- The BFA is hosting their first conference on April 30<sup>th</sup>...tickets are available
- Next Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> Student-Parent resource fair
- Save the date: July 24<sup>th</sup> Data Science in the Classroom Conference

**4:45 XI. Learn, Share, Do**

- DE certification has been extended until December 31, 2026
- Black Student Success week is happening, swag available for purchase
- Tiger Con is next week
- Special Academic Senate meeting will be May 13, 3pm-5pm. Watch for location.
- Make sure you understand the new CCN numbers coming into effect.
- CPL seeks to remove a barrier inside our current procedure for students
- Share with part-time instructors to get involved in Senate, watch for the ballot
- Faculty Association voting season and Division elections also underway
- Check your books for summer and fall in bookstore listing
- Come to plant swap
- Attend BOT meeting to support colleagues

**5:00 XII. Adjourn at 4:59pm** M/S/C: (Bottoms/Henry) approved unanimously