

Riverside City College Academic Senate
May 18, 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- Not present

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler

Counseling: Sal Soto- Absent

Dance and Theatre: Jason Buuck

Economics/Geography/Political Science: Sean Pries

Kinesiology: Jim Elton

Nursing Education: Lee Nelson- Absent

Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield- Arrived at 3:02pm

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 – Absent

Communication Studies: Lucretia Rose

English: Christine Sandoval

History/Philosophy/Humanities/Ethnic Studies: Daniel Borses

Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis- Arrived at 3:15pm

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- Arrived at 3:04pm

EPOC: Wendy McKeen

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Patrick Scullin

SAS LC: Melissa Harman
Curriculum: Kelly Douglass- Left at 4:33pm
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto-Not present

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- arrived at 3:33pm

Recorder of Minutes
Sydney Minter

Guests
Natalie Vazquez, Professional Development Coordinator
Corey Timberlake, Umoja Coordinator
Wendy McEwen, OIE
Dr. Joan Gibbons-Anderson- Professor of Communication Studies & DE at Large Member
Courtney Carter, Counseling
Paul Richardson, Chemistry
Shari Yates, CTE
Monique Greene, Faculty Development
Bobbie Grey, Science (Chemistry)
Rhonda Taube, Faculty Association President
James Rocillo, Music
John Adkins, FPA
Elena Kobzeva, World Languages
Adrienne Grayson, Educational Partnerships

3:05 II. Approval of the Agenda
M/S/C: (Legner/Taylor) Approved by consensus

3:05 III. Approval of the Minutes April 20 and May 4 (both tabled)

3:08 IV. Public Comments
• No public comments

3:18 V. Liaison Reports

A. RCCD Faculty Association

- a. Thank you to the Faculty Association and the District Teams for spending 7 months going over the contract. Much language has been cleaned up in the new contract.
- b. There is another Town Hall on May 19th from 1-2 pm. Remember that only members can vote on ratifying the contract.
- c. There is some angst going on about the appendices regarding salaries. Currently, placeholders are in place where the numbers should be; that information will be updated when the contract goes to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- d. An email circulated about a request for documents that will take some time to acquire. Today, May 18th, the Faculty Association received another RIV-ALL email requesting a delay in ratifying the contract and changes to dates and timelines. FA President Rhonda Taube referred the email to CTA and met with them this morning; they advised that 1-2 weeks is a reasonable time to provide the requested documents.

B. College President or designee – No Report

C. ASRCC Representative

- a. Elections have concluded for ASRCC and results will be sent next week.
- b. ASRCC Banquet will be Thursday 5/21/26, at the same banquet hall in Moreno Valley. The doors open at 5:30pm.
- c. ASRCC will conduct its first review of the proposed budget on Tuesday, 5/19/26.

3:25 VI. Committee or Council Updates

A. Curriculum chair, Kelly Douglass, will provide end-of-semester committee updates and reminders (information)

- a. Common course numbering phase 2 is on track for June 5th, with Phase 3 on hold. Kelly will have more information after attending the Curriculum Institute this summer.
- b. Remember that June 5th is now the deadline for the 2027-28 catalog, moved up from October. Faculty needing assistance with launching items should contact their curriculum representatives. All items launched on June 5th must be finalized by June 12th so curriculum analysts can process them over the summer. Please share this information with disciplines and department chairs.
- c. Additionally, a new Title 5 change requires that all course outlines include language on equity, inclusion, and universal design for learning by 2030 (to be launched by 2029). Kelly is planning a related workshop at Fall Flex for 26/27.
 - The Standardized Attendance Accounting Method (SAAM) must be implemented by the June 5th deadline to align with the new funding formula for the 2027-28 academic year. Since the state will no longer fund overhanging hours, disciplines have been adjusting CORs offset this defunding. Some disciplines have special considerations (cosmetology and nursing) due to licensing requirements. Any faculty discovering implications for their load when updating curriculum to accommodate this state funding change should let the FA know immediately.

3:40 VII. Ongoing Business

- A. VP Taylor or designee will share RCCAS Election Results: President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer (terms 2026-29) and Part-time/Associate Faculty Senator (term 2026-27)

- President- Patrick Scullin
 - Vice- President- Megan Bottoms
 - Secretary-Treasurer- Kayla Henry
 - Part-time faculty Senator- Virginia McKee-Leone
- B. Vice President Taylor or designee will sunshine the faculty nominees for EPOC faculty tri-chair (2026-28) in preparation for voting on June 8 (information)
- Only one person submitted a nomination and it is the current faculty tri-chair, Wendy McKeen
 - We will discuss and vote on this nomination at our June 8th meeting
- C. Vice President Taylor or designee will sunshine faculty nominees for RCCD committees (2026-28) in preparation for voting on June 8 (information)
- Nominations are in the packet and will be discussed and voted upon on at our June 8th meeting
 - We did not receive any nominations for PG&SL and will extend the call for nominees because this is a vital standing committee of Academic Senate. Names will be shared by email and also added to the current packet for voting on June 8.
- D. President Scott-Coe or designee and Faculty Development Coordinator, Dr. Monique Greene, will facilitate a review of [Faculty FLEX](#) and re-share the [CCC Memo on FLEX from Fall 2025](#) (information and discussion)
- a. Dr. Monique Greene clarified the distinction between institutional service and FLEX, referencing FAQs and guidelines from the State Chancellor's Office. Faculty Development has posted information and resources on the difference on the committee website.
 - b. The Chancellor's memo emphasizes the difference between faculty FLEX and collegewide professional development, highlighting that ongoing learning is required and open for everyone.
 - c. A recent survey, both at RCC and at the state level, sought faculty feedback on professional learning.
 - d. Questions were raised about FLEX approvals. There was discussion about who has the authority to approve FLEX. The new contract stipulates that it is a Dept. Chair duty. It was argued that neither Faculty Development Committee nor administration should be approving it.
 - e. The new state guidelines (as of May 6, 2026) specify that course redesign and curriculum editing count as FLEX, but there have been questions about whether this applies to routine update/preparation for classes each semester. Digesting and applying this new guidance will take some time.
 - f. It was suggested that Academic Senate, DLC, and Faculty Development continue the discussion in Fall to ensure greater clarity on FLEX and communication to faculty. Further discussion is planned.

- E. RCCAS will discuss the proposed resolution from the DE Committee regarding its status within RCCAS bylaws and determine next steps (second read and possible action)
- a. Distance Ed, as a standing committee to Academic Senate, will no longer report to the councils but directly to Senate. This will recognize the academic purview of DE, especially with the increase of online offerings since the pandemic, and will also align with the DE-Senate relationships established at MVC and Norco College. DE also seeks to change from division to department representation on the committee, aligning with other standing committee structures.
 - b. Since the last meeting, DE reps have consulted with the Teaching and Learning Committee, RDAS, and Curriculum, receiving positive feedback about the proposed adjustment.
 - c. The voting membership and cycles are drafted to match the RCCAS bylaws process for the Curriculum committee
 - d. There was a question about the reference to a “DE Coordinator,” whose role and selection was not defined in the drafted proposal. Only faculty vote on standing committees of senate, and the faculty chair role is clearly defined. The “DE Coordinator” role was removed.
 - e. The additional DE proposal related to the Academic Standards Committee cannot be considered at this time.
 - f. Proposal: To update RCCAS bylaws clarifying Distance Education (DE) as a standing committee of the Academic Senate, shifting to departmental (not divisional) representation, and interfacing directly with the Academic Senate.

M/S/C: (Rose/Henry) Approved unanimously.

- F. RCCAS will consider the possibility of an ad hoc workgroup to evaluate Element 451 Early Alert tools (possible action)
- a. The discussion at the last meeting was to possibly form an ad hoc group to discuss technology and evaluate it. The conversation is tabled until Fall.
 - b. SAS representatives would like to be involved in the ad hoc work group.
- G. President Scott-Coe or designee will share the ASCCC Resolutions Packet from SP26 Plenary (information) - Please share the Plenary Resolutions packet within your departments. The approved resolutions packet was released after the agenda of our last meeting posted. Despite the lag, we want everyone to be able to see all resolutions that passed.
- H. RCCAS will receive any updates regarding IETTC (information + discussion)
- a. The first “kickoff” meeting with District and consultants did not go well because they had not reviewed or incorporated the Phase One program proposal drafted by the ad hoc IETTC group last semester and approved at RCCAS in March.
 - b. A re-do “kickoff” conversation is planned to ensure a meeting that addresses the work that has already been done, meets the college’s needs, and considers ongoing SME input.

4:20 VIII. New Business

- A. RCCAS Leadership will seek input for conversations with Presidential candidate finalists (discussion)
 - a. During the upcoming week, the Academic Senate will have an opportunity to meet with presidential candidate finalists in forums and interviews.
 - b. The Senate discussed questions and themes to address with the candidates. Key priorities were identified:
 - i. Institutionalizing practices for HSI and BSI student populations beyond grant funding.
 - ii. Seeking a leader who understands community college work and can address campus siloing, foster transparency, and advocate effectively at the district and college levels.
 - iii. Additional concerns include upholding accessibility standards, decisiveness, addressing faculty workload and morale, valuing both student voices and data, and ensuring the new leader is committed to building community and staying long-term, rather than using the role as a career step.

- B. President Scott-Coe will facilitate an overview of the draft RCCD CCAP MOU (information)
 - a. The district has drafted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the CCAP Program, discussed at the April 27th District Academic Senate meeting. The MOU aims to standardize processes and address past issues, with the main agreement spanning fifteen pages and several appendices meant for each local college and partner (covering topics such as scheduling agreements and textbooks).
 - b. Feedback was provided at DAS to ensure precision of language related to 10+1.
 - c. Some issues remain unresolved, and the agreement's language is intentionally general due to multiple district partners. The draft is currently under review by six school districts, with feedback pending, and is being aligned with the production schedule.

- C. President Scott-Coe or designee will share resources from the RP Group on inclusive data practices for African American/Black student success (information and discussion)
 - a. On the final day of Black Student Success Week, a powerful presentation by the RP Group examined how institutions record or "count" students who identify with multiple races. The presentation raised important questions for reflection about data practices—colleges are often undercounting totals of African American and Black students, thus discounting their experiences.
 - b. The session also highlighted the importance of both qualitative and quantitative data, prompting reflection on liberatory outcomes in addition to traditional metrics. We will continue these conversations during the next cycle of program review.
 - c. Faculty are encouraged to discuss these insights in department meetings. The Institutional Research Team, particularly Brandon Owashi, can provide disaggregated data (e.g., by grade, ethnicity, and gender) to help faculty identify and address student success gaps.

- D. Secretary Treasurer Bottoms or designee will introduce the RCC DE Peer-to-Peer Review Orientation Events (information)
 - o May 15th Noon-2pm (DL 206)
 - o May 29th 10am-12pm (DL 206)

- E. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scott-Coe or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)
- a. RCC Committee Chair Ratiications: Department Leadership Committee & Curriculum Committee
 - o 2 ratifications for chair elections conducted this month
 - o DLC Kathleen Sell
 - M:S:C: (Sandoval/Legner) to ratify the DLC chair election- approved unanimously
 - o Kelly Douglas for Curriculum
 - M/S/C: (Legner/Borses) approved unanimously

4:35 IX. Officer Reports

A. Secretary-Treasurer

- Commencement, Faculty reception in CIS 114A/B. remember no high heels—just wedges or flats only.
- Transfer recognition is happening. MESA had theirs last week. Cal and Trio Works are this week. EOPS, Guardian Scholars, Veterans, Promise Program, and Lavender are the following week. On June 5th we have La Casa Rising Scholars and June 6th is Umoja. June 13th is Gateway and this does not include any nursing or pinning ceremonies
- Student of Distinction is on June 4th in the Quad. Please come out and recognize your students and department chairs.

B. President

- a. District facilities seem to be pressuring changes at the college without consulting faculty about instructional impacts. Thank you to Dr. Bishop for pushing back and recognizing that that is not acceptable. If your departments hear or observe things like this happening, please bring it to our attention.
- b. As mentioned earlier, for disciplines discovering any issues related to SAAM and workload, now is the time to talk to the Faculty Association.
- c. President Scott-Coe attended a meeting today, 5/18/26, about updating language related to student progress in district policy and procedure. This has been a long time coming, and the meeting was constructive, and she anticipates they will see a draft at the District Academic Senate soon.
- d. Dr. Taube and President Scott-Coe attended a meeting related to district safety and security about trying to streamline some guidance for faculty about best practices in the classroom. More to come about a possible presentation at FLEX in Fall.
- e. AI Council has not met or conducted any business since first assembling in March but will be reconvened this Thursday, May 21st. More to come.
- f. If your term for senator is up in 2026, make sure you know whether you have been reelected or if someone else is coming in to represent your department.

C. Vice President

- a. Please remind your students about course renumbering. It is on the cover of the RCC website as well as the district website
- b. Remind your faculty to continue the DE certification process either through peer-to-peer or by checking Canvas for the courses approved and vetted by the district.
- c. How to support faculty with ADA compliance? Resources on PopeTech on Canvas, please bring conversations and concerns to the administration.
- d. June 8th is our RCCAS Retreat

4:45 X. Open Hearing

- District DE has communicated that it has paused assessing DE equivalency approvals. Lack of clarity about basis or reasoning.
- Department of Communication is doing a speech competition on May 29th from 9am-1:30pm and we will be showcasing all of our students in BLCIS 123 and 124
- Senator Russell has been teaching CCAP classes for three semesters and one of his students was named one of the 25 Most Remarkable Youth in Riverside.

M/S/C: (Elton/Bottoms) approved by consensus to extend the meeting 5 minutes

4:45 XI. Learn, Share, Do

- No heels at graduation
- Peer to Peer certification orientation sessions coming up
- Town Halls for new contract tomorrow
- PG&SL representatives are needed
- Student Banquet
- Rest over the Memorial Day weekend
- Watch video on PopeTech
- Let administration and Senate know if district facilities are pushing your departments

5:00 XII. Adjourn at 5:01pm in Memory of Professor John Byun

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