Riverside City College Academic Senate
August 31, 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 2029)
President: Patrick Scullin
Vice President: Megan Bottoms
Secretary-Treasurer: Kayla Henry

Department Senators (Term ending 2027)
Applied Technology: Daniel Eini
Behavioral Science: Eddie Perez
Business, Law & CIS: Jennifer Corr
Communication Studies: Lucretia Rose
English: Christine Sandoval
History/Philosophy/Humanities/Ethnic Studies: TBD
Library & Learning Resources: Sally Ellis
Life Sciences: Gregory Russell
Mathematics: Mary Legner
Music: Steve Mahpar
World Languages: Huda Aljord

Associate Faculty Senator (Term ending 2026)
Virginia McKee- Leone arrived at 3:01

Department Senators (Term ending 2028)
Art: Will Kim
Chemistry: Leo Truttmann
Cosmetology: Rebecca Kessler
Counseling: Sal Soto
Dance and Theatre: Kristin Nemecek
Economics/Geography/Political Science: Sean Pries
Kinesiology: Jim Elton
Nursing Education: Lee Nelson
Physical Science: Aaron Sappenfield
School of Education & Teacher Preparation: TBD

Ex-Officio Senators
TLLC: Lashonda Carter- Not present
ASC: Jacquie Lesch- Not present
EPOC: Wendy McKeen
GEMQLC: Virginia White- Not present

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RDASLC: Tucker Amidon- Not present
SAS LC: Melissa Harman- Not present
Curriculum: Kelly Douglass
Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association
Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives
College President: Eric Bishop
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
Aleida Hill

Recorder of Minutes
Sydney Minter

Guests
Shari Yates- CTE
Micherri Wiggs- LHSS
Wendy McEwen- OIE

3:05 II. Approval of the Agenda
M/S/C: (Kessler/Russell) approved by consensus

3:05 Ill. Approval of the Minutes May 4 and June 8
M/S/C: (Legner/Nelson) approved by consensus
M/S/C:(Legner/Nelson) approved by consensus

3:08 lV. Public Comments

- ASRCC's student body presidents across the district are working with the Chancellor to come up with a RTMA MOU due to increased fees for bus travel. A survey has been created with the information that was given and faculty have been asked to share this information with their students.
- Special elections for ASRCC are happening across campus. Faculty, please encourage your students to come out and join Senate. There are so many opportunities available and students get to make and include themselves in the policies across California.

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- In honor of Latine Heritage Month, ASCCC is hosting a Lowrider car show, and flyers have been disbursed across campus. If you know of someone who is interested in bringing their cars, they can scan the QR code on the flier to sign-up.

3:18 V. Officer and Liaison Reports

A. President

- President Scullin gives a special thank you to his predecessors for their inspiration and guidance. The goal is to learn how things operate and to look for ways that the Senate can be more productive and improve things that our in their purview.
- Thanks to the Academic Senate leadership team for all they do.
- Professor Kwokai Sonny Sui is not able to serve on the district equivalency committee any longer and we are looking for nominations for faculty who are interested in this position. Please let President Scullin know if you or anyone you may know is interested in the position.
- We should be receiving more information on accreditation, accessibility, DE Certification, and campus building projects which will be discussed in Academic Senate this semester.
- President Scullin is grateful to the faculty that serve on Academic Senate as well as other committees across campus. If possible, he would like to collaborate and coordinate to make sure that items are sunlit and we can actually make a difference

B. Vice President

- The Chancellor's Office, Academic Affairs team in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is seeking volunteers for their regional professional development network. It will be launching in September, you do not have to be a senator but you do have to be a faculty member statewide, if you want to be apart of the network. If anyone is interested, please email Vice President, Megan Bottoms.
- The State chancellor's office is looking for AI fellows, if faculty are interested, please encourage them to sign up. An email went out from Dr. Lynn Wrights' office on the 26th with a link to sign up.
- DE Certification is still available until the end of the semester, please remember that faculty have to complete their DE certification if they want to teach in their modalities.
    - DE District office has workshops available during the fall semester on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30pm—3pm and then in the evening on Mondays and Wednesdays for associate faculty. The DE Office has personal on-on-one appointments available to help brainstorm ideas and click through content and those will be available on Tuesdays.
- Accessibility certifications are now needed for faculty to have their materials available on Canvas.
- Student life and leadership is always looking for faculty to serve as advisors for clubs. We have 80+ clubs and we are looking for one full-time faculty of record and then an

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associate faculty can assist as need to share the work load. There will be an email coming out through the faculty list serve for those that are interested or may have questions.

C. Secretary Treasurer

- Introduction of new and returning senators. The group went around the room and introduced themselves and the departments they represent.
- Our syllabus is submitted in a new way and currently there is no due. To help you remember syllabus are due on the census due date, so please share this information with your departments.

D. RCCD Faculty Association

- FLEX was great, thank you to all that attended and participated. It was standing room only, and we were able to hear a lot of faculty concerns which were around accessibility and AI in addition to the new contract.
- We have until September 15 to complete open enrollment and make any changes or updates.
- The Faculty Association held their first FA retreat in collaboration with the district. This was a great way to connect and collaborate, and it was definitely a testament to the positive relationship that they have with administration.
- For those having issues with Keenan reimbursements, please send Araceli an email and she will bring those concerns forward at the next benefits committee meeting.
- If you are a new faculty and you need to be reclassified for salary placement, please reach out to Araceli because there is a 30-day time limit. Faculty submit their salary placement request through PG&SL
- If you are interested in joining the Faculty Association, please send Araceli an email because being a member has so many benefits.
- Public thank you Dr. Bishop for listening to faculty regarding their concerns which shows that he is not afraid to change direction based on needs.

E. College President or designee

- Welcome back and it is good to see everyone.
- Over the summer Dr. Bishop and Dr. Wright worked with the DE Team to purchase @One seats specifically for RCC. We have about 267 faculty on the list that still need to be certified by December 31st, so we have purchased 300 seats to make sure that there is no bottleneck. Details and information about signing up will be coming soon.
- Accessibility is important and primary on Dr. Bishop's agenda and he hopes to have an update by our next meeting in terms of supporting the movement and supporting faculty with the work that needs to be done.
- The Pan-African virtual college project has moved forward. They will be looking for programs and courses to offer. The state Chancellor's Office has signed with 4 or 5 institutions and 2 or 3 countries in Africa. Students will be able to start enrolling once everything is set up in the spring and fall.

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- Colleague is being updated and the President is initiating the process.
- In conversation with Senate leadership and a conversation that Dr. Bishop wants to explore under the realm of accessibility is OER and OER resources to ensure that they are accessible.
- An invite will be sent out early next week for an OPEN forum for Accreditation via Zoom Monday, October 12th from 3pm-4pm. 62 courses were selected and we will go through the process and we will not know anything other than if we passed or did not pass with the 85% pass rate. The accreditation team will be holding anther writing group on October 30th. If you were apart of the small writing group, Dr Wright will be reaching out so that you can attend the meeting.
- Dr. Bishop will be experimenting with Think Tank on Fridays to start brainstorming together on college wide issues.

F. ASRCC Representative

- New representative Aleida Hill introduced herself to the committee on behalf of ASRCC.

3:25 VI. Committee or Council Updates and Reports

A. Curriculum chair, Kelly Douglass or designee, will provide fall semester committee updates and reminders (information)
   - The Curriculum committee has not met for this academic year but they did complete their training last week, and they have a district meeting on Tuesday, September 1st. The college curriculum committee meets on September 8th.
   - Common Course Numbering phase III remains on hold
   - Title V added a new section early this year 55001 which has 3 sections. A. Is the curriculum committee and what is in their purview B. Gives a new charge to the curriculum committee that they have to review course outlines of record C. Universal Design for Learning Practices have to be visible in the core. Between now and June of 2029 you will have to review your course outline of record…
   - During FLEX week there were 3 flex session presented on these topics, when Dr. Monique Green sends out a review of the PowerPoints, please try and review them.
   - Curriculum has resources for faculty and some of them are discipline specific. Academic Standards meets for the first time on Thursday, September 3rd. and they will be finalizing the resource page.

3:40 VII. Ongoing Business

A. Vice President Bottoms will provide a review of the roles and responsibilities of Academic Senate under Title V, as an orientation for new members (information)

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- Basic overview of 10+1 which is written into California Educational code which plays a unique role where faculty get to speak on behalf of not just faculty but curriculum, processes, and experience.
- AB1725 helps to create the inclusive system of governance within higher education which is where we get shared governance and the ability to co-create processes together.
- Board polices help to outline the structure of Academic Senate which gives us part of our 10+1.
- Board of Trustees relies primarily on recommendations of Academic Senate in items 1-6 which includes curriculum, grading, educational program development, degree certificate requirements, and the district governance as it relates to faculty roles. Items 7-10 +1 are items where faculty come together to understand, co-create, and collaborate on items such as: accreditation, polices, professional development, program review, institutional budgeting, and planning
- Academic Senate meets biweekly and those meeting are on the first and third Monday of the month and are adjusted for holidays. We have extra meetings at the end of the semester that are reserved in case there is extra business that needs to be addressed.
- We have an Academic Senate website that is updated with information, minutes, agendas, professional development, and curriculum.
- Academic Senate is a Brown Act body and is open to the public to be able to hear, discuss and understand how the committee has come up with their decisions.
- The Posting of our minutes usually gets done fairly quickly. It just depends on schedules, corrections, and getting materials.
- Senators are representing a department and are elected on a 2-year term. Part-time senators are on a one-year term which allows representation to adjust. The officers which is the president, vice-president, and secretary treasurer are elected on a 3-year term. We also have ex-officio members but they do not vote and finally we have administrators tat get to sit in and provide updates.
- Quorum is needed to conduct business. Quorum is the minimum number of people needed to be able to conduct the meeting and vote.
- The responsibilities as a senator are to bring information back to your departments and then bring information from your departments back to Academic Senate so that we can see what is happening in those areas. Some senators might participate in workgroups.
- Academic Senate leadership works closely with President, Dr. Bishop, VPAA, Lynn Wright, EPOC, and planning councils and standing committees. At times Academic Senate crosses over and meets with Vice President, Woods from Planning and Development as well as Vice President, Blount from Business Services and Vice President, Carter from Student Services.
- We partner with our sister colleges to coordinate alignment for issues across the district. Senate leadership meets with District Academic Senate once a month. Leadership also coordinates in the Brown Act to be in alignment with issues across the district.

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- We need to build up new faculty to get them involved in shared governance and more involved in the decision-making process.

B. President Scullin will share the RCCDAS approved changes to BP/AP 2250 and 2255 that has revised language in regard to student academic progress to better align with Title 5 (information)
   - Some language in the board policy has been updated and it has gone through the approval process at District Academic Senate and it is going to board for approval this week.

C. RCCAS will discuss the new DE Committee that was approve in Spring '26 and review duties and new faculty representation and appointment schedule (discussion)
   - We have a few standing committees that report regularly to Academic Senate
   - Last spring, we voted in and approved the DE committee
   - The DE Committee has not met yet but they will be starting their regular meetings soon, and department representation is very important for this committee.
   - How is the DE Committee speaking to the District DE office? How are these two bodies working together to help us accomplish goals? Faculty would like to see this clearly defined.

D. RCCAS will discuss ongoing accessibility efforts for digital content
   - It is a monumental task to make sure that your course is accessible and there are tools embedded in Canvas to assist faculty.
   - In the Applied Technology department, a faculty member self-nominated themselves in becoming the accessibility expert to guide and teach other members in their department as needed.
   - Recommendation to purchase a better software that is easier for faculty to navigate
   - Readability concerns from faculty on PDF's
   - Far too little attention is being brought to disciplines that require a lot of graphs and images in the accessibility content

4:20 VIII. New Business

A President Bishop will provide an overview and discussion of major construction projects at RCC including opportunities for faculty participation in planning and development
   - Last spring, we paused the space and facility conversations for the summer.
   - VP Aleida Hill will be coming to student senate with a proposal for the students to be a part of this process.

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- We have some major projects that are coming that we need to jump on this fall. The Facilities Planning Division has given a timeline of what they have been trying to work through, as well ass the anticipated number of meeting and time of meetings.
- President Bishop would like to work through the representation on these various groups to make sure that we have the proper representation, right number, and the right voices at the table.
- For IETTC we started with an ad hoc workgroup and then that group meet with the architect. We want to make sure that everyone is represented and the core programs at the center have been identified.
- The Applied Technology building is coming on board and that has been approved by the state
- We also have the ATEC secondary effects which we need to figure out once Tech B goes down and what will happen with those programs.
- The space utilization and space optimization conversation were put on pause but we need to come back to that conversation we had about having the consultant who created it set up a meeting to discuss a methodology in optimizing our space.
- Department's that are directly affected by this change should be participating in the conversation and provide feedback.

B. President Scullin or designee will share the RCCD Strategic Plan documentation in preparation for the fall semester planning process (information + discussion)
   - Program review is responsible for the department-level program review development which is aligned with the strategic planning cycle
   - Real time feedback for strategic plan
   - Program review responses from last year coming out to faculty in an email from President Scullin
   - Wendy McEwen will be hosting drop-in sessions every month for Nuventive submissions.
   - Every month the committee reports out to EPOC on the strategic planning process. It is aligned with each of the objectives and strategies, and it will also include a report out from each of the leadership councils. Wendy will include a summary from the end of each month's narratives.

C. Ratification of Secretary Treasurer Henry as voting Senator representing Early Childhood Education Department (action)

M/S/C: (Legner/Nelson) approved by consensus

D. Ratification of new and ongoing appointments: President Scullin or designee will present candidates for the following committees or councils (action)

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a. N/A

4:45 X. Open Hearing

- For OER the foundation of the movement is equity, accessibility, and universal design
- As mentioned last semester, the publishing industry is responding with different procurement models and many of the textbooks that are being chosen are rent to own and the library cannot get a copy. OER is the best choice to balance tensions and there is a list at the Academic Senate ASCCC for your disciplines for recommended OER that are used across the state. Senator Ellis can guide you in the right direction of getting your text accessible. The next meeting is September 21st.
- We are looking for reps for the DE Committee which is now a Brown Act Committee
- September is National Student-Parent month
- All modalities are not being honored, student need to know exactly what they are signing up for, request to have it agenized for online teaching
- September 15- October 15th is Hispanic Heritage month. There is a Lowrider car show, HSI Celebration week on September 8th from 11-1 in CIS 114A/B, on September 15 Fuego Esfuerza Unidad Esperanza gente and origins has an exhibit that will launch from 12-2 on the second floor of the Digital Library, Mujed will host a student panel on September 16th from 12:30-2:30 in CIS 114A, and on September 22 we have El Camino Asia Excellence from 11:30-1:30 in CIS 114A.

4:55 XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Open enrollment is August 15th-September 15h
- Faculty for the District Equivalency Committee
- Assessment should be scheduled continuous and ongoing five-year strategic planning cycle not the accreditation cycle.
- Complete the DE certification
- Submit your syllabi by census

5:00 XII. Adjourn at 4:47pm

M/S/C: (Nelson/Rose) approved by consensus

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