Riverside City College Academic Senate

October 5, 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- Not present

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: Deborah Brown

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

Department Senators (Term ending 2028)

Art: Will Kim

Chemistry: Leo Truttmann

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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: Kayla Henry

Ex-Officio Senators

TLLC: Lashonda Carter- Not present

ASC: Jacquie Lesch

EPOC: Wendy McKeen- Not present

GEMQLC: Virginia White

RDASLC: Tucker Amidon- Not present

SAS LC: Melissa Harman- Not present

Curriculum: Kelly Douglass -Not Present

Parliamentarian: Sal Soto

RCCD Faculty Association

Araceli Calderon

Administrative Representatives

College President: Eric Bishop- Not present

VP Academic Affairs: Lynn Wright- Arrived at 3:06 pm

VP Business Services: Elia Blount -Not present

VP Planning and Development: Kristi Woods- Not present

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VP Student Services: FeRita Carter- Not present

ASRCC Representative

Aleida Hill- Not present

Recorder of Minutes

Sydney Minter

Guests

Micherri Wiggs, LHSS

Carla Reible, LHSS

Shari Yates, CTE

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3:05 II.Approval of the Agenda Oct. 5

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

3:05Ill.Approval of the Minutes Sept. 21- The minutes will be brought back for approval at our next meeting with two corrections. Senator Rose made a comment in open hearing that wasn't clearly defined and requested that the minutes be modified to accurately reflect her comment that her primary concern was that the platform is confusing because it combines all the classes and the evaluator cannot accurately speak to the student feedback for the classes that they are evaluating. Senator Brown requested that the minutes be modified to reflect the transparency around public-facing stakeholder information for the building plans and making the materials public-facing so that the information about IETTC and the ATEC building could be accessed through a link.

M/S/C:(/)

3:10 IV.Public Comments

- No public comments

3:35 VI.Officer and Liaison Reports

i. President

- Senate colleagues, please excuse President Scullin's absence.
- Regarding NECTIR, President Scullin is aware of the many complaints and questions about implementing this on the Canvas plugin. This item is being discussed at the other colleges and at the district academic senate. President Scullin will continue gathering information to share with Senate. It appears that this tool is a part of a statewide agreement with Canvas, and it is not activated until a faculty member requests it, and faculty are not required to use it.
- For accessibility, please take advantage of the local accessibility training meetings provided by Dr. Wright's office. Professor Siu and others have put together some excellent resources. Please share this information with your departments.
- I encourage faculty to learn more about noncredit education. Depending on the program, it provides an opportunity for enrollment growth while serving student populations in need. Look for more information to follow as the district develops the non-credit strategic plan.
- We have multiple planning meetings and groups projected for the rest of the semester for our campus building projects. If you have not received an invite, please reach out to Vice President Blount's office. The first project is the Inland Empire Trade Technical Center (IETTC), and the faculty representatives are from HVAC and electrical, which encompasses diesel truck services, EV vehicles, electrical, solar, commercial refrigeration, healthcare, allied health, and various student services. We also have ATEC, the advanced technology building project, which will house automotive, autobody, HVAC residential, and welding. The secondary effects of the ATEC building, once Tech B is removed, will encompass applied digital media/printing services, which will be on the first floor of the MLK building, and then existing programs will be relocated to the second and third floors of the MLK building to include multiple engagement and resource centers.
- The faculty spotlight for the Board of Trustees has selected the HVAC apprenticeship program in coordination with Kafir's work in HVAC to get students out into the workforce, and they will be presenting in December on behalf of RCC.

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i. Vice President

- Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey is working on standardizing the CCAP agreements across the three colleges, and so if you teach CCAP, there are some different agreements and criteria with different high schools. The chancellor's office liked the model so much that they are using some portions of the model.
- The Solar project with the car panels is happening this Friday, October 9th. The state chancellor's office, as well as several legislators, are coming to look at the project on all three campuses as a model for other community colleges, and according to the chancellor, they are generating enough income to sustain themselves.

i. Secretary Treasurer

- NA

i. RCCD Faculty Association

- In a previous meeting, it was mentioned that we have an issue with Keenan and our PPO's. Senator Calderon received some information from a colleague on reimbursements for PPO out-of-network. For the PPO out-of-network, they are using a code that is not reflecting the complete amount, so the Faculty Association is investigating this, and they are working to address this issue. If anyone has any issues with the incorrect reimbursement or out-of-network services, please have them email the FA leadership team.
- The Faculty Association is in conversation with Deputy Chancellor Star Rivera Lacey to discuss the faculty contract in regard to counseling faculty, and they are trying to make sure that all three colleges are implementing the contract in the same way.
- The interviews for the chancellor position have concluded!
- Senator Calderon has received about 10 notifications of IOI's being redistributed to other deans, and if there are any issues, please reach out to FA leadership.
- If anyone needs a contract, you can pick them up during their FA meetings weekly on Tuesdays in DL 404 from 1- 3 p.m.

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i. College President or designee

- NA

i. ASRCC Representative

- Homecoming is next week, and all the information should go out in students' emails.
- There are a couple of spirit days for students to participate in
- On Tuesday, ASRCC will be hosting a gingerbread house decorating event.
- On Wednesday, there will be a cake walk, which is like musical chairs.
- Thursday is the pep rally during college hour on the MLK steps.
- On Saturday, the ASRCC team will be attending the football game against Southwestern at 2 pm.

3:20 V. Committee or Council Updates and Reports

GLASC Report

- We are recruiting students for:

a. Program to Beijing, China (Spring Break 2027)

1. Recruitment for faculty leaders opening soon; look for an email.

a. Program to Tokyo, Japan (Summer 2027)
b. Deadline for students to apply: 23 October 2026
c. Culinary Institute (for culinary students only) to Lucerne, Switzerland (Summer 2027)

2. The deadline is much more fluid for this one.

a. Ongoing Information Sessions this semester (flyer forthcoming)

b. Other projects we are working on:

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c. Developing frameworks and district faculty expertise for virtual exchanges
d. Chemistry faculty virtual exchange with chemistry faculty from Nantong College of Science and Technology (the first virtual meeting is in the process of being planned). We are hopeful this will lead to a presentation during the 2026-27 AY.
e. Certificate of Achievement in Global Studies (in the College Catalog 2026-27). Keep spreading the word to students.
f. We are planning events that highlight Global Learning for each of the colleges. Please be on the lookout for announcements.
g. Fundraiser Community Tour

3. Request for proposals to lead a vacation tour coming soon. Please look for emails.

a. If you haven't heard from your program review representatives about responding to monthly prompts in Nuventive this fall, please ask them about it so that we can prepare ourselves for our spring program review and deadlines. The committee has written out smaller prompts to address throughout the fall to line up with the strategic plan communications calendar.

4:05 VII. Ongoing Business

i. RCCAS will discuss college accessibility efforts. District DE representative DJ Hawkins or designee will be available to answer questions. (discussion)

- The DE Team, at the request of the president of the colleges, tracks accessibility numbers every week. The team pulls the numbers, distills them, emails them, and answers questions. As you may or may not know, the numbers continue to increase due to late-start classes and faculty who are preparing for their late 8-week or late 6-week classes and are just now importing content.
- We are seeing, but it is not evident in the data, that faculty are engaging with our 5-step accessibility guide that is available on the Canvas dashboard. When faculty complete the first two steps, they can see a decrease of between 60% and 80% in their overall issues that needed to be addressed.
- October is cleanup month, and the DE Team wants faculty to complete steps 1 and 1.5. Please communicate with your departments and advise your faculty to look at their emails and encourage everyone from all modalities to work on their accessibility issue(s),

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so when faculty get to the later steps, the DE team and the vendors Dr. Bishop has invested in can come in and support faculty.

i. **Carla Reible will share the non-credit District Strategic Planning initiative and district survey (information)**

- A survey has gone out that will be coming from the district. The team asks that if you have any non-credit classes or if you are thinking about creating any non-credit classes or mirrored classes, you answer some of the questions that are on the survey. The goals are for the team to guide the conversation and provide resources so that they can try to develop the non-credit program.
- Professor Reible encourages everyone to talk to people in their disciplines, admissions & records, and anyone who is doing outreach with non-credit students because these are the individuals who are seeing the glitches that are happening with non-credit, and we would like to target those issues so that it becomes a smooth process and gets integrated into our college and used as a useful tool.
- As Dr. Bishop pointed out at the last meeting, the reason this is at the district level is that right now, our college does not have any structure for non-credit to exist. Right now, a mechanism needs to be developed, and as we think about program review, we need to think about how we can embed our non-credit courses.
- College stakeholder feedback based on the information provided and on your own knowledge of your division and disciplines' non-credit offerings

- How can we enhance support?
- Increase participation and make changes that effectively and efficiently serve working adults and working learners.
- Create student access
- There has been a change in the contract. For our mirrored non-credit courses, everything stays the same, but if you do have non-credit courses, please take a look at the change for the 18-hour lecture and make sure everyone’s TAs reflect that.

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i. **Library representative Sally Ellis will provide guidance regarding accessibility of in-house digitized books. (information)**

- Senator Ellis provided a statement and wanted to stay consistent in the messaging that is being shared at Moreno Valley College. Please see the statement below.

  - During COVID, the RCC and MVC Libraries launched a controlled digital lending initiative to ensure students maintained access to essential print textbooks (we digitized them and lent them out in a copyright-compliant manner). While optical character recognition (OCR) was applied to these files, the collection currently does not meet **WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standards**, particularly regarding complex images, charts, and graphs. This collection is separate from the eBooks we license from publishers and other vendors.

To remain compliant with federal guidelines and align with California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) directives, the library discipline has determined that these digitized titles will be removed from public view at the start of the **Spring 2027 semester**. We are formally requesting the Academic Senate's support to advocate for a coordinated, funded District-wide remediation plan.

Scope and Usage Impact

The digitized collection represents a vital academic resource for our students (as of 10/5/26 am)

- **1,355** unique titles
- **2,885** total items
- **18,871** views to date (projected up to 50,000 views per semester)

Although the Distance Education team has noted that automated remediation tools can assist, all remediated files require manual verification to ensure compatibility across diverse assistive technologies.

Library Action and Institutional Responsibility

Continuing to provide course materials known to contain accessibility barriers exposes the district to legal risk and compromises our commitment to equity. However, addressing accessibility at scale is an institutional responsibility that exceeds the resource capacity of individual campus libraries.

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As emphasized by the CCCCO, accessibility requires cross-departmental coordination, planning, governance, and budget allocation at the district level.

Proposed Action Plan & Request for Academic Senate Support

We request that the Academic Senate support a motion urging the district to establish a coordinated, phased remediation strategy.

Proposed Immediate Steps:

a. **Pilot Phase:** Begin professional remediation with the **10 most heavily used** digitized textbook titles.
b. **Evaluation:** Use this pilot to assess workflow efficiency, vendor accuracy, and precise cost parameters. Preliminary estimates for professional PDF remediation average **$5.00 per page**, underscoring the need for dedicated District funding.
c. **Scaled Rollout:** Establish a sustainable timeline and framework to systematically remediate the remaining collection.

Impact on Faculty and Students

Beginning in **Spring 2027**, un-remediated digitized textbooks will no longer be accessible through the library.

- **Faculty Action:** Faculty members using digitized library textbooks should review their course materials. The library staff is available immediately to help faculty determine if their required texts are impacted.
- **Broader Implications:** This transition directly intersects with student access, instructional planning, Accessibility Services, Distance Education, and institutional compliance.

We welcome the opportunity to present this issue here today and discuss collaborative solutions to ensure equitable, compliant access for all students.

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4:25 VIII. New Business

i. **Secretary-Treasurer Henry will provide information regarding the Work Experience handbook update. (information)**

- The Work Experience Handbook that is used for work experience courses was last revised in July 2016 and is being updated.

- The team revising the handbook will be bringing back the updated version to Academic Senate to get faculty feedback.
- The cosmetology department wants to make sure that the correct information is incorporated into the handbook because there are laws in place for work experience to make sure that their students are industry-level ready.
- More information on the handbook will be coming your way, so if anything comes up for anyone teaching work experience, please reach out to the team that is working on the handbook.

i. The HVAC program has been selected as the RCC Senate Spotlight for the December BOT meeting.

- If you are not familiar with the Senate spotlight, each college gets to go before the Board to do a 5–10-minute presentation regarding a specific program. The schedule rotates based on who is the Academic Senate president. Moreno Valley presents in October, Norco College presents in November, and RCC goes to present in December.

- RCC is highlighting HVAC and Kfir's work with the mentorship program, where they bring professionals into the classroom, which is a great innovative program.
- If you have an innovative program that you would like to bring forward in the spring, you can send an email to the Academic Senate leadership team.

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

1. N/A

4:45 X. Open Hearing

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- On Wednesday, October 7th, from 3-4:30 p.m., there is a celebration for Filipino American History Month in CIS 114A about the life and legacy of Filipino boxing champion Poncho Villa. There will be a boxing and community uplift and author panel, as well as a retired and current pro-fighter demonstration with lots of Filipino food.
- Rebecca Kessler's statement of discrimination assessments and investigation complaints: I would like to express concern regarding the timeliness of discrimination assessments and investigation complaints. Regardless of the outcome of any individual case, delays in the review process can have significant consequences for all parties involved. Complainants, respondents, and departments deserve prompt discrimination assessments so that concerns can be addressed fairly, transparently, and in accordance with district policies and legal requirements.

Timely review of discrimination reports is essential to maintaining trust in our institutional processes. When discrimination assessments remain unresolved for extended periods, individuals may experience uncertainty, stress, and diminished confidence in the college's commitment to equity and inclusion.

I respectfully request that the Senate engage in a discussion regarding:

- Current timelines for intake, discrimination assessment, and resolution of discrimination complaints.
- Whether existing staffing and resources are sufficient to meet those timelines.
- Opportunities to improve transparency regarding the status of complaints while maintaining confidentiality.
- Periodic reporting of aggregate data so the campus community can understand whether cases are being addressed in a timely manner.

This is not solely a compliance issue; it is also a matter of institutional integrity. Our commitment to equity is demonstrated not only by our policies but by our ability to respond promptly and effectively when concerns are raised.

I appreciate the Senate's consideration of this issue and its commitment to fostering a fair, safe, and inclusive environment for all members of our college community."

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- Communication and transparency related to a mention of RCC being a polling location. On Facebook, this campus notes the dates and times that we will be a polling location. To Senator Brown's knowledge, RCC has not been a polling location since she has been a faculty member here. Moreno Valley College has a webpage with links that help to educate voters and links to registration. Norco

College has a similar page, and RCC doesn't have anything. In sharing this with her colleagues and in conversation, a number of questions arose. Is RCC developing a polling location website similar to the other campuses? What is the parking plan for voters, including accessible parking and signage, especially regarding where the BE building is located and because we have classes scheduled on the day of voting? There is a concern on the part of faculty as well as students being able to find parking. Is there a plan? Where does the plan live? Is it transparent? What restrooms will be available to voters? Is there a point person or a team that will field questions from faculty, staff, students, and the public? The goal is clear public information.

- The AI conversation that Professor Silva asked to be addressed was not on this meeting's agenda, as well as Senator Sandoval's request to have it included in the agenda. Senator Brown would like to hear why the decision was made not to include an AI discussion on the agenda.
- This item is about transparency in and access to either district-funded or college-funded events. What changed this year? How was this year's delegation selected? Why was there no transparency in the processes, and what is expected of those delegates once we find out who they are? What are we and RCC doing as senators to ensure that a continuing board-approved investment that is focused on important black-centered educational opportunities is allocated transparently, equitably, representatively, and in a way that produces benefits that return to the broader college community?
- Transparency processes about ASCCC and Plenary. Senator Brown wrote a statewide resolution called Supporting Equitable Faculty Leadership and Governance Practices in local academic senates, and it passed last year statewide coming out of the Black Caucus. One of the calls was about equitable, transparent, publicly communicated processes when there are fall and spring plenaries. What are the processes? Is there a written procedure? Do we have an open call? Is there a rotation of leadership that goes, and what are the criteria? If we don't have these processes already, how do we work toward getting them so there is not a question about the number of times a person attends a conference?
- We still have a couple more weeks of Hispanic Heritage Month, and there are still some outstanding events happening on campus. On October 6th from 12:50-1:50 in Bradshaw 201, there is a Chicano Soul Capturing Cultura and Identity through Photography event happening. On October 13th from 3-5 pm in the Bradshaw Cafeteria, there is the We are Here Because You were There event, which explores the historical roots of migration, displacement, and identity across America. Lastly, on October 15th from 11 am- 2 pm in the Quad Courtyard, the Sobres en Nuestra Cultura event is happening, celebrating culture, community, and connection. RCC and RIV-All emails to follow

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4:45 XI. Learn, Share, Do

- Faculty learned about the five-step program for accessibility, and if faculty do steps one and two, that should clean up about 60% of the issues, and there are resources to help faculty with steps three, four, and five.
- NECTIR is not activated unless faculty activate it
- If anyone is having issues with the PPO out-of-network reimbursement, please contact the Faculty Association.
- LatinX Heritage Month and Filipino American Heritage Month events are happening this week, so please encourage your students to attend.
- Ask a librarian if your textbook has been digitized, maybe without faculty even knowing it, and you may see a drop in engagement if that book comes off.
- Go to homecoming!

5:00 XII. Adjourn at 4:37 pm

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

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