



Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE
November 10, 2025

APPROVED

PRESENT: Ben Adams, Mary Ellen Brooks, William Dalrymple, Heather Elliott Pham, Kelly Falcone, Wendy Gideon, Adriana Guillen (Zoom), Jason Jarvinen, Scott Klinger, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez (Zoom), Vicki Mello, Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Jazmin Reyes (ASG) (Zoom), Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler (Zoom), Russell Sheaffer, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT: Alexandra Doyle Bauer, Patrick O'Brien, Ashley Wolters

GUESTS: Matt Grills, Luis Guerrero, Sherehe Hollins, Timothy Swan II (ASG), Alyssa Vafaei Elena Villa Fernández de Castro

All votes are presumed unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Elizabeth Pearson, in LRC-116 at 2:33 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Sanchez announced the AI Book Club meeting on Friday, November 14th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The author of "The Opposite of Cheating," Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant, will be present to answer questions and navigate the conversation.

Luis Guerrero announced invitations to apply for the LEAD Academy on January 7th and 8th, a two-day leadership development opportunity. He emphasized that the college needs more leaders, especially from the faculty side. He also announced a three-day AI Literacy Workshop the following week to ensure teaching remains human-centered.

Senator Siminski announced that ESL students held an artwork poster competition last semester; the winning poster, created to support immigrants/immigration, is available for faculty to take and display in their spaces.

President Pearson announced that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Fall

Plenary had recently concluded. She shared highlights of resolutions discussed and adopted at the session, noting that several directly affect local senates, including resolutions on grading flexibility, artificial intelligence, faculty primacy in curriculum, and the inclusion of DEIA-based outcomes in professional development. Pearson encouraged senators to review the full list of adopted resolutions available through ASCCC's website and emphasized the importance of Palomar's continued engagement in statewide governance issues.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC: Shmorhun/Sanchez

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for November 3, 2025.

The motion carried.

ACTION

A. Committees on Committees (Exhibit 1) – Zavodny

MSC: Zavodny/Shmorhun

Faculty Senate to accept the results of the ballot for the committee placements.

The motion carried.

Hiring Committee: Dean Financial Aid, Veterans, Scholarship Services: Emily Watts (Biology), Faculty & Christine Barlolong (Counseling), Faculty

B. Curriculum –Mellos

MSC: Mellos/Shmorhun

Faculty Senate to approve the Curriculum changes from the November 5, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting.

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

A. ASG Introduction and Report, Jazmin Reyes, ASG Representative

Jazmin Reyes, ASG representative on Zoom, reported that she did not have anything to report at this time.

B. Changes to Title V – Course Outline of Record – (Exhibits 3.1 & 3.2), Mellos

Vickie Mellos reported that regulatory revisions to the course outline of records, previously brought forward, became law on October 24th, initiating an 180-day compliance window.

The major change is strengthening Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) requirements in the Course Outline of Record (COR). There needs to be procedures for embedding DEI into the Course Outline of Record.

Other changes include incorporating principles of Universal Design for Learning; inclusion of OER resources; and requiring assessment to be demonstrated through multiple authentic means (including projects, problem-solving, or skills demonstrations, not just written work) to reflect diverse learning styles and strengths.

The Curriculum Committee will work on a communication plan and training for rolling out these changes. It was suggested seeking an agenda item to educate the Governing Board on these statutory Title V requirements.

C. Academic Standards & Practices Committee: Updated Grade Dispute Policy – (Exhibit 8), Shmorhun

Senator Shmorhun reported on the committee's work revising the Grade Dispute Policy. The update aims to streamline the appeals process, clarify timelines, and ensure alignment with current instructional modalities, including online courses.

Input was gathered from ASG, Student Life and Leadership and Instructional Services. The policy encourages students to pursue the informal process before the formal process and will include a student-centered flowchart.

Feedback from Senate will be incorporated before the committee returns with a final version for action.

DISCUSSION:

A. DE Resolution Adoption of Simple Syllabus – (Exhibits 9.1 & 9.2), Sanchez

Senator Sanchez presented the DE Resolution regarding the adoption of a Simple Syllabus as an institutional tool. This proposal aims to standardize the process for syllabi creation across the college. Key benefits highlighted include the tool's alignment with accessibility and security standards, its ability to embed into Canvas, and its function as a central repository.

Simple Syllabus simplifies creation by pulling data such as drop dates and holidays directly from PeopleSoft. Furthermore, it allows for the standardization of language for statements concerning accessibility, DEI, and the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

A significant advantage noted was the ability for changes to standard language, such as fixing a broken link, to automatically propagate across all syllabi. Faculty would retain control over privacy settings, with options to make the syllabus public, public only to Palomar students, or private only to enrolled students; specific sections could also be made private.

ASG representatives emphasized the student benefit of a Simple Syllabus dashboard, providing centralized access to all their course syllabi. While adoption would be highly encouraged rather than mandatory, work remains in coordinating with Academic Standards and Practices (ASP) to finalize template language.

Although funding for the institutional tool still needs to be secured, potential sources have been identified.

B. Burden-Free Access to Course Materials – (Exhibits 10.1 & 10.2), Pearson

Falcone led the discussion on Burden-Free Access to Course Materials, addressing the Faculty Senate's role in ensuring students have access to required materials on the first day of class, aligning with Title V requirements. This legislation seeks the long-term goal of burden reduction by 2030 by removing the cost of instructional materials, including textbooks, supplemental materials, and supplies.

The regulation mandates that the college create a BP and AP addressing first-day access, overall cost reduction, and long-term planning by January.

The Chancellor's Office is seeking ideas on how to reduce costs through negotiation or by having the college pay for supplies by potentially utilizing equity funds or lottery funds. Faculty retention of academic freedom in selecting course materials is protected by Title V.

Concerns were raised regarding the high cost of equipment in areas like Media Studies and Art, noting that the department currently has zero allocated funding for equipment repairs, making burden-free access impossible without significant district investment. Furthermore, the common delay in financial aid, often two weeks into a semester, complicates the day one access requirement.

A suggestion was put forward to include a dedicated burden-free line item on budget requests to increase transparency regarding funding necessary to eliminate costs for specific programs. Senators who are on the policy workgroup for CALM requested specific faculty feedback to incorporate into the policy development.

C. AI Taskforce – (Exhibit 7), Shmorhun

Senator Shmorhun provided an update on the AI Taskforce governing structure. Following prior Senate feedback, the structure was revised to incorporate a co-chair model. This model will feature the Dean of Instruction and a faculty member selected from the committee representatives, justified by the fact that the Taskforce's products align with the faculty's 10+1+1 academic and professional matters role. This updated structure is scheduled for presentation to College Council this Friday.

This agenda item was interrupted by a college-wide lockdown. Further discussion was halted as the lockdown extended past the meeting time.

D. DE Committee Resolution: Institutional Technology – (Exhibit 8), Falcone

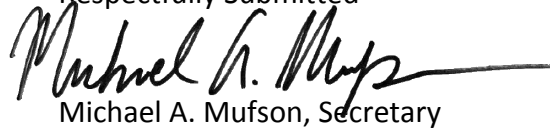
Tabled.

E. PFF Resolution: Nectir & AI – (Exhibit 9), Siminski

Tabled.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm (early due to campus lockdown).

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Mufson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael A. Mufson, Secretary