



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

December 15, 2025

**APPROVED**

### **ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Ben Adams, Mary Ellen Brooks, William Dalrymple, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, Heather Elliott Pham, Kelly Falcone, Wendy Gideon (Zoom), Jason Jarvinen, Scott Klinger, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vicki Mellos, Michael Mufson, Patrick O'Brien, Beth Pearson, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler (Zoom), Russell Sheaffer, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Anastasia Zavodny (Zoom)

**ABSENT:** Adriana Guillen, Jazmin Reyes (ASG), Ashley Wolters

**GUESTS:** Gheni Alba, Matt Grills, Luis Guerrero, Benjamin Mudgett, Alyssa Vafaei

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**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Benjamin Mudgett announced the first Lavender Recognition Ceremony, scheduled for the spring. It aims to capture graduating students, those transferring, or those completing a certificate this semester; interested students can scan a QR code or email to be added to the invitation interest list. He also announced the grand opening for the new center on April 2nd, running from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The opening will include the announcement of new branding and logos, and the Foundation will officially kick off the Pride Endowment Fund.

Senator Mufson announced two Performing Arts events before the end of the semester. The first is the Holiday Jazz Concert featuring two jazz bands on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. The second is the 60-piece Concert Band performing holiday sounds from around the world on Friday, December 18th at

7:00 p.m. More details are available at [Palomarperformance.com](http://Palomarperformance.com).

Luis Guerrero announced the second semester AI Book Club, which will use the second edition of the book *Teaching with AI*. The upcoming sessions on Feb-20, Mar-13, Apr-10 & May-8 will focus on more practical applications. Interested parties must register first before picking up the book at the EDGE Center with Matt.

Senator Siminski announced a rally hosted by CCE during the board meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, December 16th). Jeffery Freitas, the president of CFT, and Carl Williams, the CCE lead for CFT, will be present and giving comments. The media will also be there. Pizza is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., and the rally starts at 5:00 p.m., the same time the board meeting begins. The goal is for the board to hear the rally during the meeting.

Senator Lawson also announced a couple of items on the board meeting agenda, including the long-delayed equity plan, which the board is finally voting on, valued at about \$6.3 million. He also noted that the board asked him to present on BP3000.

Senator Dalrymple announced a reminder that part-time faculty who offered office hours to students this semester need to submit those hours to HR by December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC: Sheaffer/Sanchez**

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for December 8, 2025 as amended.

The motion carried.

**Abstentions – 1: Senator O'Brien**

## **ACTION**

### **A. Committees on Committees (Exhibit 1) – Zavodny**

**MSC: Zavodny/Mufson**

Faculty Senate to approve the results of the ballot for the Sustainability Master Plan Task Force appointment.

The motion carried.

**B. Curriculum Committee – Mellos**

No business.

**C. New Senator Confirmations – (Exhibits 2.1 & 2.2)**

**MSC: Klinger/Sheaffer**

Faculty Senate to ratify the membership of Gene Gushansky & Alyssa Vafaei to the Faculty Senate

The motion carried.

**Term Ending May 2027: Gene Gushansky – Biology**

**Term Ending May 2026: Alyssa Vafaei – Instructional Design/Accessibility Specialist**

**INFORMATION**

**A. ASG Report – No Current Representative**

No Report

**B. Nominations for Senate President 2026-2028 – (Exhibit 3), Pearson**

President Pearson presented information regarding the upcoming election for the Faculty Senate President for the term beginning Fall 2026. The Constitution requires the President to be nominated and confirmed by the second meeting of the spring semester. Pearson noted that the position is typically a two-year term, and her current term ends in May 2026. The President serves as a liaison with the administration and governing board, is on College Council, and interacts frequently with college leaders. Candidates must be elected from within the existing Senate body at the time of the election. If a non-Senate member is interested, they would need to have their name submitted by the first spring meeting to be confirmed as a Senator and eligible for nomination as President.

### **C. ASCCC Curriculum Regional Meeting – Highlights – (Exhibits 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5), Mellos**

Senator Mellos reported highlights from the November 1st ASCCC Curriculum Regional meeting. Key updates from the Chancellor's Office included a new requirement for curriculum committees to have a documented procedure reflecting the new equity, inclusion, and universal design for learning language in the Course Outline of Record. The college plans to roll this out in the spring semester with course reviews, providing training and support.

The Chancellor's Office is phasing out local TOP codes (Taxonomy of Programs) in favor of CIP codes (Classification of Instructional Programs) used elsewhere nationally, and the Curriculum Committee will work to ensure courses have the correct CIP codes.

Regarding attendance accounting, starting Fall 2026, apportionment will be based on units and the total hours associated with those units, rather than the total number of hours for a course. This change creates an issue where the college may not receive apportionment for some courses with lab hours that do not yield enough extra hours to be awarded a unit.

An update on Common Course Numbering (CCN) noted that Phase 1 courses will undergo review in Spring 2026. Phase 2A and 2B curriculum has already been approved, and for Phase 3, templates will be released next semester as they are ready, rather than waiting for all of them. Additionally, the CCN legislation received an extension until 2027, and the decision on whether the phasing continues will be discussed later with legislators.

### **D. Maverick Updates – (Exhibit 5), Mellos**

Senator Mellos provided updates on the Maverick system designed to streamline curriculum processes. The program proposal process for launching new programs now exists within Maverick, replacing a previous Word document submission. Users submit a "Notice of Intent Program Viability" by clicking "Create New Proposal".

Program deactivations are also now managed using a specific button associated with the program listing. A new field has been added for program changes and new programs requiring users to select a math pathway for students, choosing between STEM, business math, or SLAM (Statistics and Liberal Arts Mathematics).

The DEIAA page is being finalized and will launch in the spring. Updates to the DE page streamline the process by reordering fields and adding examples to reduce misunderstandings and the need to return proposals.

### **E. General Education Progress Report – (Exhibit 6), Mellos, Mudgett**

Benjamin Mudgett provided an update on the GE subcommittee's work defining the outcomes for the new General Education area 7. The subcommittee unanimously approved the outcomes, title, and description, striking out language deemed too limiting.

The outcomes focus on Self-Development and Skills Acquisition (applying knowledge into action). The next phase involves developing a rubric, for which a shell has been created.

Discussion centered on Outcome 2, which referenced navigating "major global and technological challenges". Suggestions were made to revise this to explicitly include local, state, or national challenges. Another comment proposed including language about "participating with" those major challenges to capture responsible civic influence, rather than just navigating them. Feedback and comments can be emailed to Ben Mudgett or Vicki Mellos.

#### **F. End of Fall 2025 update on Senate Goals – (Exhibit 7), Pearson**

The Senate reviewed progress on goals set at the beginning of the semester.

Regarding the goal advocating for policies that strengthen faculty participation in shared governance, Senator Lawson reported checking with other senates on how they assert the 10+1 purview when challenged.

Pearson noted that conversations about shared governance being optional due to the removal of service points persist, and she anticipates progress on strengthening participation in the spring.

For the goal of having a faculty voice in enrollment and planning, Kelly Falcone's task force also working on examining the student enrollment. The workgroup met with the Outreach team to understand their activities and determine how faculty could support their efforts. Key findings included that Outreach is severely understaffed (3 staff vs. 10 recommended for the college size), resulting in a heavy focus on traditional high school students and little information available on non-credit programs. Faculty need purposeful ways to engage that don't increase workload, and simple suggestions like wearing Palomar gear in the community were highlighted. Advocacy for increased staff investment in outreach is needed to grow enrollment.

For the goal around Dual Enrollment training, Luis Guerrero confirmed meeting with Associate Dean Bongolan, and a plan was established to ensure comprehensive and ongoing training is offered in both semesters, addressing the previous lack of spring offerings. Discussion arose about the need for a feedback loop, specifically a full faculty survey, to gauge how supported faculty teaching dual enrollment feel, especially given changes to the contract.

Regarding the goal around advocating for a College Hour, President Pearson noted progress toward implementing one. However, a senator noted conflicting information, stating that ADAs were instructed to use a schedule block that conflicts with the college hour. This issue affects departments with Lecture Lab classes, such as Arts, CTE, and Sciences. Pearson agreed to investigate the issue and Senate's purview over scheduling blocks.

#### **G. TERB Non-Instructional Evaluation Questions – (Exhibit 8), Pearson**

President Pearson presented The TERB committee's new system for non-instructional evaluations, with pilots scheduled for spring. Pearson presented proposed criteria for non-instructional faculty evaluations, which are adaptations of the instructional criteria. Feedback was requested, particularly

from non-instructional faculty or faculty in reassigned time positions, as these forms would also be used for those roles.

A senator from the Counseling department noted they are already spearheading feedback efforts.

The new system includes specific forms for chair/dean questions, self-evaluation questions, and workplace observation questions. A senator raised a critical point from negotiations regarding the instructional forms: deans are specifically excluded from commenting on curriculum or classroom material (criteria 1.1 through 1.6). It was suggested that this exclusion of dean purview might also apply to the corresponding criteria on the adapted non-instructional form.

#### **H. NEW DE Resolution Adoption of Simple Syllabus – (Exhibits 9.1, 9.2 & 9.3), Sanchez**

Senator Sanchez noted that this item was brought back as new business due to a significant change in the cost proposal following negotiations. The newest estimated price is estimated to be \$26,764 for the first year, and the annual renewal dropped to about \$21,764.

The resolution aims to help faculty meet accessibility standards and reduce workload by auto-populating syllabi with relevant information. This item was presented as Information and is scheduled to return as Discussion in the first spring meeting, followed by Action.

A senator questioned the process of bringing back a defeated resolution, but it was reiterated that the Faculty Council deemed the price change significant enough to warrant a new discussion. Additionally, it was clarified that Brown Act dictates that a legislative body may reconsider an item that previously failed if the item is clearly listed on a future agenda as a separate, explicit agenda item with the mandatory 72-hour proper notice is given.

The Senate's authority in approving tools was discussed, acknowledging that the syllabus falls specifically under Senate purview due to academic freedom concerns, unlike some other tools that were implemented without a Senate vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Professional Development AI Resolution, (Exhibit 10), Guerrero**

Luis Guerrero presented the amended Professional Development AI resolution, incorporating feedback from the previous meeting. Language was added to the "resolve" clauses to explicitly address the negative impacts of AI, including biases and cognitive offload.

The clause regarding adopting AI tools was updated to include "where possible" and define tools as "voluntary," protecting faculty academic freedom and requiring faculty opt-in for activation of tools like PlayLab or Quicker within Canvas.

Guerrero emphasized that the Senate has not yet adopted any AI resolution, and the purpose of this framework is to articulate the faculty voice and vision regarding AI *before* the planned administrative task force begins its work next semester. Senators agreed that this broad resolution acts as a necessary framework alongside the PFF resolution, which focuses on job replacement. It

was agreed that adopting guidance sooner rather than later is critical given the daily issues chairs faced in the classroom.

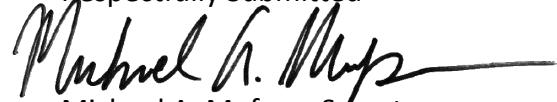
The Senate agreed to move this resolution to Action for the special meeting on Thursday.

A senator suggested adding language addressing special considerations when working with younger students within the dual enrollment program. Luis requested this specific language be emailed to him by Thursday for consideration.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Michael A. Mufson, Secretary