



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

March 9, 2026

APPROVED

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Ben Adams, Russell Backman, Elijah Barnes (ASG), Mary Ellen Brooks, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, William Dalrymple, Heather Elliott Pham, Kelly Falcone, Gene Gushansky, Scott Klinger, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vicki Mellos, Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Russell Sheaffer, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Alyssa Vafaei, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT: Jason Jarvinen, Ashley Wolters

GUESTS: Gheni Abla, 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 2:35 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Falcone reminded the Senate that all courses must be accessible by the April 24th, 2026 deadline.

Senator Sanchez announced upcoming trainings for the Peer Online Course Review (POCR).

Senator Mufson announced the last few showings of Stephen Sondheim's musical *Into the Woods* this weekend.

President Pearson announced that The Senate is seeking volunteers to be name readers and marshals, as well as alternates for graduation. Scott Klinger and Melissa Martinez volunteered to be name readers.

Faculty volunteers are being sought to review Instructional Program Review and Planning (PRP) documents. This requires a commitment of one hour after Senate meetings every other Monday for three weeks. Discussion occurred regarding the membership of the PRP committee, which currently includes four faculty. Senators Doyle Bauer, Lawson, and Sanchez volunteered to assist asynchronously if possible.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC: Lawson/Shmorhun

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for March 2, 2026.

The motion carried.

ACTION

A. Committees on Committees (Exhibit 1) – Zavodny

No Business.

B. Increase in Senate Part Time Membership Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Update – (Exhibit 2), Shmorhun, Dalrymple, Martinez, Siminski

MSC: Klinger/Doyle Bauer

Faculty Senate to accept the vote of which of the options will be sent to the faculty at large.

The Motion Tabled.

MSC: Mufson/Sheaffer

Faculty Senate to make the decision regarding membership composition internally, rather than sending it to the wider faculty for input.

The Motion Carried.

Abstentions: Senators Backman and Pham

Discussion Points Included:

The Faculty Senate deliberated extensively on whether the five proposed composition options

should be sent to the full faculty for a vote or decided internally, ultimately concluding that the Senate held the authority to make the decision because composition now resides within the bylaws following the successful split of the Constitution and Bylaws.

A significant part of the discussion centered on the risk of setting a precedent; senators argued that if they sent this specific bylaw change to the wider faculty, it might create an expectation that all future bylaw amendments require a full campus vote, which would undermine the purpose of the "in-house" authority granted by the governance split. A Senator further emphasized that seeking a wider ballot would be disingenuous and confusing for the faculty at large, as it could lead them to believe they would need to vote on operational bylaw issues rather than constitutional ones. They noted that faculty are already represented by their elected senators to vote.

MSC: Lawson/Gushansky

Faculty Senate to vote on the five proposed options and to accept the results of that vote to update the bylaws.

The Motion Carried.

The Decision: After a ranked-choice ballot was conducted among the senators, it was announced that Option 1 (adding two part-time seats) was officially selected on the first round.

INFORMATION

A. ASG Report, Barnes

Elijah Barnes reported on the Associated Student Government (ASG) advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. Students met with representatives Mike Levin, Scott Peters, Adam Schiff, and Daryl Issa to advocate for Pell Grant funding, the Workforce Pell Program for technical fields, HSI grants, and the TRIO program.

B. Faculty Senate Award Selection Committee/Work Group – (Exhibit 3), Pearson

President Pearson introduced the item regarding the Faculty Senate Award Selection Committee, explaining that the Senate distributes three annual awards, two of which require the formation of senator-led task forces to select winners from forthcoming nominations. These awards include the Faculty Service Award and the Faculty Senate Award for Scholarly and Professional Achievement.

Volunteers were requested to serve on the task forces, with the expectation that members would review nomination materials asynchronously before meeting briefly via Zoom or in person to finalize their selections.

Senators Doyle Bauer and Sanchez volunteered to serve on the selection committee for the Faculty Service Award.

Senators Sheaffer and Lawson volunteered for the Scholarly and Professional Achievement award committee.

C. Proctoring POPS & Makeup Testing Services Update/Guidance - (Exhibit 4), Shmorhun

Senator Shmorhun provided an update on the Palomar Online Proctoring Services (POPS) and makeup testing guidance with a reminder that guidance was previously brought to Senate in Fall 2025. Dean Studinka and the Vice President of Instruction updated previous POPS guidance to clarify that use of POPS is for fully online, asynchronous courses only. Additionally, faculty utilizing these services are required to proctor at least one online proctoring session for each exam and must ensure that exact exam dates and times are listed in both the syllabus and class notes to remain eligible for the service.

The presentation prompted significant discussion regarding the logistics of makeup testing at satellite centers. Some senators noted that students have historically encountered barriers when attempting to use testing services at the Rancho Bernardo or Escondido centers if their course was officially associated with the San Marcos campus.

Further concerns were raised by a senator regarding the definition of asynchronous instruction. It was argued that requiring faculty to proctor a specific synchronous session is problematic. It was emphasized that proctoring should be student-centered, allowing students to take exams at times that work for them rather than forcing them into a synchronous window.

Additional feedback highlighted inconsistencies in the application of proctoring rules, specifically regarding high school students who may be unable to attend Palomar's scheduled sessions due to their own school constraints.

Senators also questioned the sustainability of the program's funding.

Due to the outstanding questions regarding faculty workload, student accessibility, and POPS eligibility, the item was tabled to allow Senator Shmorhun to clarify and gather more specific information.

DISCUSSION

A. ASG Student Voice on Faculty Senate Priorities and Student Success Survey- (Exhibit 5), Pearson

President Pearson presented the draft ASG Student Voice survey, designed to gather feedback on Senate priorities and potential collaboration with student leadership.

Senators recommended simplifying terminology, specifically replacing professional jargon like "onboarding" and "first-year experience" with clearer phrases like "when you started at Palomar".

The ASG Representative requested that the "College Hour" question remain, noting it is a high student priority currently under discussion in College Council.

B. 2025-2026 Senate Goals Update - (Exhibit 6), Pearson

President Pearson provided a progress update on the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Goals.

Regarding enrollment and staffing, a Senate workgroup is actively participating in the "student journey from enrollment to completion" project to improve student retention from enrollment to completion. In addition, an invitation will be re-extended to Anel to provide an update on the staffing plan resolution passed last year.

On institutional technology, the Senate recently passed a resolution and is awaiting a response from the new Director of IS to speak with the body about future plans.

The discussion also addressed faculty equity and academic processes. While acknowledging that part-time parity is a negotiated union item, the Senate remains committed to advocating for equity in instructional assignments, with a Senator suggesting that a variety of faculty voices provide public comment at Governing Board meetings to support these efforts.

The Equivalency Committee has been tasked with exploring new process options, and efforts to identify AI resources are ongoing via newsletters and a dedicated task force.

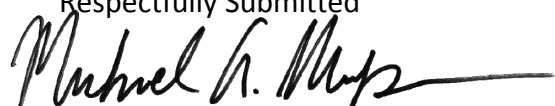
Internal operations have also seen progress through the implementation of a request form and efforts to tighten the flow of information during meetings, while advocacy for the "College Hour" continues.

C. Faculty Senate AI Policy Brainstorming - (Exhibit 7), Pearson

Tabled.

ADJONRNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael A. Mufson, Secretary