



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

March 16, 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, Jason Jarvinen, Scott Klinger, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vicki Mellos, Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Russell Sheaffer, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Alyssa Vafaei, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:** Erin Feld, Matt Grills, Ben Mudgett, 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 2:31 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Senator Siminski offered congratulations to the faculty that received tenure.

Senator Falcone President shared an opinion regarding a proposed form for deans to assess institutional responsibility for faculty, noting that while it might be unpopular, she is not opposed to tracking service, similar to how professional development hours are reported.

Senator Dalrymple announced that a part-time faculty survey regarding professional and working conditions has been open for a week. He encouraged both full-time and part-time faculty to participate anonymously before the survey closes on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Ben Mudgett, the Faculty Pride Center Coordinator, announced that the Pride Center is seeking volunteers for its upcoming grand opening.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Mellos reminded faculty to launch course reviews by the recommended April 3rd deadline and to track their proposals in Maverick.

Senator Lawson announced the Strength and Solidarity Community Festival, co-hosted by PFF and CCE, scheduled for May 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will feature activities to raise funds and items for students' basic needs.

Senator Dalrymple announced that the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF) is offering 2026 academic scholarships for family members of faculty attending public higher education in the 2026-27 year. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for those with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

President Pearson announced that last year's ceremony at the stadium was beyond capacity, creating a safety hazard. For the upcoming graduation, students are guaranteed four tickets with the option to request more. Senators suggested potential solutions for the capacity issue, such as holding multiple ceremonies split by division or ensuring a high-quality livestream for overflow crowds. It was noted that current construction limits emergency evacuation flow, though this is expected to improve after the construction is completed.

President Pearson announced that there are currently open seats on the Senate for both part-time and full-time and encouraged senators to recruit colleagues.

President Pearson announced that she emailed an open survey to all faculty to gather opinions on Senate matters and looks forward to receiving more responses.

President Pearson announced a reminder to the body that nominations for The Faculty Service and Scholarly and Professional Awards are currently being accepted; she has received a few nominations and urged senators to consider nominating additional individuals or encouraging their colleagues to do so.

President Pearson confirmed that a "college hour" block has been established in the new schedule. While its specific use is still in the "idea stage," the intent is to create a space primarily for student participation.

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC: Shmorhun/Adams**

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for March 9, 2026 as amended.

The motion carried.

## **ACTION**

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

**MSC: Zavodny/Shmorhun**

Faculty Senate to approve the result of the ballot for the regular committee appointment.

The Motion Carried.

#### **Faculty Position Prioritization Committee**

**Lakshmi Paranthaman** (Business, Legal Studies, Real Estate), **Faculty at-large (25-27)**

**MSC: Zavodny/Shmorhun**

Faculty Senate to approve the result of the ballot for the Dean of Enrollment Services Hiring Committee.

The Motion Carried.

**Erin Hiro** (Media Studies), **Faculty**

### **B. Equitable Placement and Completion Committee - (Exhibit 2), Feld**

**MSC: Shmorhun/Sanchez**

Faculty Senate to approve the changes to the Governance Sheet for the Equitable Placement and Completion Committee.

The Motion Carried.

## **INFORMATION**

### **A. ASG Report, Miller**

Naomi Miller, the ASG Vice President of Communications, reported on a recent advocacy trip to Sacramento. Student representatives met with legislators to discuss funding for basic needs and resources for students with disabilities. She also announced the March Madness event in honor of LaCraigory Garrett being held in on the Clock Tower Lawn and the upcoming Student Assembly in San Francisco at the end of the month, where the student board will vote on statewide resolutions for California community colleges.

### **B. Presidential Search Update- (Exhibit 3), Pearson**

President Pearson provided an update on the presidential hiring committee, noting that faculty representation was increased from four to five seats following pressure from faculty. The governing

board also decreased student representation from three to two seats, which was noted to be unrelated to the increase in faculty seats and supported by student trustee Ariel Fridman. The five faculty seats will be distributed with the PFF appointing two members (one full-time and one part-time) and the Faculty Senate appointing three members (two full-time and one part-time). The district has contracted PPL consultants for approximately \$55,000 to manage the search process. It was noted that there are no governing board members on the hiring committee, which was attributed to the effective advocacy of the PFF and faculty at board meetings.

### **C. Reassigned Time positions for Fall 2026 Draft- (Exhibit 4), Pearson**

The Senate reviewed a list of reassigned time positions opening for the next academic year, including Credit for Prior Learning, Curriculum Co-Chair, Equivalency Committee Chair, and several coordinator roles. Pearson noted that Vicki Mellos is leaving the Curriculum role and that the administration has agreed to fund a shadowing period for a successor to learn the detailed responsibilities of the position. A discussion followed regarding Brown Act requirements for these roles. It was clarified that for committees like Curriculum and Equivalency, a quorum must be physically present on campus for the meeting to occur. While a Zoom option is required for public viewing, remote attendance by committee members only counts toward a quorum under disability accommodations. Pearson offered to add a column to the informational document to clarify which roles involve Brown Act committees and whether they are open to part-time faculty.

## **DISCUSSION**

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

Senator Shmorhun presented an update on the Palomar Online Proctoring Services (POPS), noting that the previous restriction limiting the service to asynchronous courses has been removed; it is now open to all fully online courses.

While usage has decreased this semester and no students have been turned away, confusion persists regarding course modalities. It was mentioned that requiring a proctored exam at a specific time effectively makes an asynchronous course synchronous, creating conflicts for students who signed up for a flexible schedule.

Significant discussion focused on the lack of a dedicated institutional budget for the service.

Another senator expressed frustration that students are often only permitted to use the service in extreme emergencies, arguing that the lack of accessible proctoring is negatively impacting enrollment because students are being forced to come to campus for exams.

To address capacity and cost challenges, senators discussed potential technological and collaborative solutions. A senator suggested using specific Zoom features, like all-screens mode, to monitor

multiple students simultaneously more efficiently. While external proctoring services were noted as being too expensive, a senator mentioned that the UC system is developing a shared proctoring network. It was suggested that the college advocate for a similar network within the community college system to share the burden of infrastructure and funding costs

#### **B. Subcommittee Chair Training Document- (Exhibit 6), Zavodny**

The chair of Committee on Committees, Senator Zavodny, introduced a draft training document and a corresponding “at a glance” guide designed to assist chairs of Faculty Senate subcommittees in navigating their roles.

This initiative was prompted by various updates to the Brown Act and the college's upcoming migration from BoardDocs to Diligent Community for managing committee records. It was emphasized that the goal is to provide a simplified cheat sheet that clarifies legal requirements and reporting lines, particularly because these subcommittees ultimately report back to the Faculty Senate.

The training includes key Brown Act highlights. Chairs must publish agendas 72 hours in advance of regular meetings and establish Zoom rooms for public viewing, a requirement that remains even if committee members are not attending remotely. Before a meeting, a chair is responsible for ensuring a quorum will be present and inviting any guests relevant to agenda topics. During the session, chairs must ensure minutes are being recorded and manage public comments, while also noting which committees provide compensation for part-time participants.

Regarding membership maintenance, a senator mentioned that the current policy allows for the removal of any committee member who misses one-third of regularly scheduled meetings, though the body may need to clarify whether this threshold applies per semester or per year.

After meetings conclude, chairs are expected to close the reporting loop by posting approved minutes and exhibits to the college website and reporting any relevant actions back to the Faculty Senate.

Another senator noted the specific challenges faced by committees that use closed sessions, such as the Equivalency Committee; it was emphasized that while sensitive discussions are confidential, the results of any actions taken must be reported out publicly to comply with transparency regulations.

Finally, a senator confirmed that the district has agreed to fund Diligent Community access for all Senate committees starting next academic year, which will help standardize the agenda and minutes process across governance.

#### **C. Faculty Senate Discussion regarding change in eligibility for Senate Council Vice-President Position, consideration for changing eligibility to all faculty eligibility - (Exhibit 7), Pearson, Shmorhun**

The senate engaged in a discussion regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to change the eligibility requirements for the position of vice president. Currently, the Faculty Senate Constitution stipulates that only permanent tenured faculty are eligible to serve in this leadership role.

A potential proposal seeks to open eligibility to all senators, including both full-time and part-time faculty members. A senator clarified that this change would not automatically result in a part-time faculty member becoming vice president; rather, it would simply remove the existing rule that prohibits them from being considered if the body chooses to elect them.

The discussion touched upon the procedure for constitutional changes, noting that any recommendation approved by the senate would be included in a broader set of constitutional edits sent to the campus for a vote.

A senator addressed potential concerns regarding presidential succession, explaining that if a president were unable to fulfill their duties, the vice president's primary obligation under current provisions is to call for a new vote for a president rather than stepping into the role permanently.

To gauge faculty sentiment, the senate reviewed data from a recent survey sent to the entire faculty. A senator mentioned the importance of disaggregating this data to specifically understand the level of support among full-time faculty, as they currently hold the voting rights for constitutional amendments.

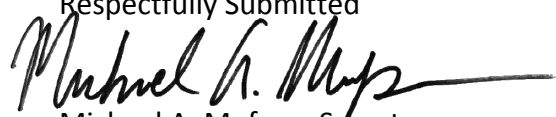
Finally, it was noted that many other community college faculty senates across California already allow part-time faculty to serve as vice president, and this amendment would align the college with those practices.

#### **D. AI Taskforce - (Exhibit 8), Pearson**

President Pearson invited the body to provide feedback and share their opinions regarding the work currently being performed by the taskforce's specialized workgroups. It was noted that the taskforce is actively seeking faculty input and had expressed a strong interest in incorporating senator perspectives into their deliberations. Senators were encouraged to review the specific topics and areas of focus assigned to the various workgroups and to submit their suggestions or concerns via email to President Pearson.

#### **ADJONRNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
  
Michael A. Mufson, Secretary