



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

April 6, 2026

**APPROVED**

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

**ABSENT:** Kelly Falcone, Gene Gushansky, Scott Klinger, Ashley Wolters

**GUESTS:** Michelle Barton, Matt Grills

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 2:32 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Senator Lawrence Lawson raised concerns regarding that have been mentioned around the current policy for students under 16 years of age. He reported that administrators had expressed the view that the policy, which allows instructors to decide if such students may remain in their classrooms, is "unfair" and noted that the governing board could change it. Lawson emphasized that this is an academic and professional matter under Senate purview and noted that the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF) is currently handling cases where the failure to follow this policy has impacted faculty working conditions, which is why PFF also has purview as the policy impacts working conditions.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Tanessa Sanchez announced that the Teaching with AI book club would meet Friday at the EDGE to discuss assignments and chatbots, it was also noted that six books remained for interested faculty. Senator Michael Mufson invited the body to the annual Latin Nights dance concert on April 17, featuring live music and Afro-Cuban Brazilian dance ensembles.

Faculty AI Coordinator Gheni Abla shared updates on his work with Google, AMD, and the San Diego Supercomputer Center to bring AI resources to campus and assist faculty in AI-enabling their assignments.

Senator Sheaffer announced a queer film screening of *National Anthem* on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in D10, featuring a conversation with San Diego Gay Rodeo Royalty.

President Pearson promoted an upcoming Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) training on May 6 from 12:00-3:00pm.

President Pearson provided updates on Brown Act compliance, noting that physical agendas are posted at the library and AA building. She discussed the possibility of using teleconferencing for remote participation, which would require roll-call votes, and promised to email a readable link to the Brown Act to the Senate.

President Pearson shared insights from a Climate Ambassadors meeting regarding the significant environmental impact of AI energy and water usage, suggesting faculty include these impacts when teaching AI and recommending adding "-AI" to Google searches to save energy.

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

President Pearson suggested moving Information Item 3f forward to accommodate the guest speaker's time.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC: Adams/Mufson**

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for March 30, 2026 as amended.

The motion carried.

**Abstentions: 1 – Senator Lawson**

## **ACTION**

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

**MSC: Zavodny/Shmorhun**

Faculty Senate to approve the result of the ballot for the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services (VPFAS) Hiring Committee.

The Motion Carried.

**Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Hiring Committee**

**Vickie Mellos (ESL), Faculty**

**Alia Barkzi (ESL), Faculty**

**Russell Sheaffer (Senator), Faculty**

**B. Curriculum, (Exhibit 2) – Mellos**

**MSC: Shmorhun/Doyle Bauer**

Faculty Senate to approve the new programs from the April 1st Curriculum Committee Meeting.

The Motion Carried.

**C. Reassigned Time Positions (Exhibit 3) – Pearson**

**MSC: Doyle Bauer/Sanchez**

Faculty Senate to confirm the uncontested volunteers for reassigned time positions as amended.

The Motion Carried.

**Melissa Haickel Bagaglio (Curriculum Co-Chair)**

**Ben Mudgett (Pride Center Coordinator)**

**Yvonne Hardy (Credit for Prior Learning)**

The Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Co-Coordinator position was pulled from the motion until a later date due to it being a contested position

**INFORMATION**

**A. ASG Report, Miller**

In a report read by Elijah Barnes, it was noted that the ASG is finalizing its budget.

The report also indicated that ASG members have been hearing presentations on history and health requirements; it was noted that some swayed by Bill Jahnel's arguments to keep the requirements. The report expressed concern that the current process felt like "strong-arming" a position that might not reflect some faculty thoughts.

**B. Common Course Numbering (CCN) Updates – (Exhibit 4.1 & 4.2), Mellos**

Senator Mellos provided a list of courses for Phase 2 implementation starting Fall 2026, which includes new prefixes like "Art H" for Art History.

She reported that Phase 3 is currently on pause because the Chancellor's Office found that identical CCN numbers were yielding different transfer outcomes across different segments.

She noted that new legislation (AB 2236) is being proposed to require intersegmental cooperation between CSUs, UCs, and community colleges to ensure articulation is streamlined.

Some Senators expressed concern that the CCN templates were becoming too restrictive and might lead departments to cut sections of courses that no longer align with their local learning outcomes.

**C. Title 5 Associate Degree Course Requirements - (Exhibit 5.1 & 5.2), Mellos**

Senator Mellos introduced a proposed change to Title 5 that would adjust Area 5 (Natural Sciences) to include applying scientific knowledge to real-world issues, such as climate change and human impact on the environment. She noted this aligns with the Chancellor's Vision 2030 and the college's Climate Action Work Plan, adding that many Palomar courses are already meeting these objectives.

**D. GE Subcommittee Progress Report, (Exhibit 6), Mellos, Mudgett**

The subcommittee presented a proposal for a new three-unit GE Area 7 for Lifelong Learning and Self-Development. It was noted there was significant confusion regarding the shift from the current ten units of district requirements to the proposed three units. It was emphasized that while the Senate had previously voted to keep the conversation open, no formal vote had occurred to reduce the total unit count.

Senators debated the merits of the reduction, with some expressing concern that educational standards were being sacrificed for financial incentives, while others argued that extra local requirements were barriers to student completion.

The body reached a consensus to bring this back as a dedicated discussion item for the next meeting.

**E. DE : Third Party Publisher Resolution – (Exhibit 7.1 & 7.2), Sanchez**

Senator Sanchez presented a draft recommendation regarding the use of third-party publisher platforms like course packs and homework systems.

Recurring concerns regarding equity and access was pointed out, noting that some materials cost students up to \$300 and disproportionately impact low-income students.

Additional concerns included pedagogical autonomy, data privacy, and the inability of the ATRC to support these external platforms.

Senator Sanchez reminded the body that a state mandate for zero-cost instructional materials goes into effect in July 2025.

#### **F. Nuventive Pilot and the Future of SLO Assessment – (Exhibit 8.1& 8.2), Hathaway**

Guest Shelbi Hathaway presented results from the Nuventive pilot, explaining that the move to a new system was necessitated by the lack of support for the previous product and new accreditation requirements for disaggregated data.

She reported feedback from the four participating disciplines Child Development, Biology, Accounting, and Library Information Technology which emphasized the need for longitudinal data rather than "snapshots" to identify systemic equity gaps. Disciplines reported that looking at data from only one semester makes it difficult to determine if identified mastery gaps or trends, particularly regarding ethnicity, are systemic issues or one-time anomalies. Hathaway addressed structural challenges such as irregular course offerings, rubric variability between instructors, and the redaction of data in smaller classes where sub-populations fall below ten students, which limits the ability to link results to Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs).

Hathaway highlighted that the new system integrates Maverick, Nuventive, and Canvas to reduce faculty workload by automating data tabulation. She proposed the creation of a Learning Outcomes Task Force to shift the campus culture toward meaningful, data-informed reflections rather than mere compliance. Discussion points included the specific types of disaggregated data being used age, course modality, gender, and ethnicity and the fact that data is viewed at the course level rather than the section level to protect student privacy.

## **DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Institution Set Standards and Stretch Goals – (Exhibits 9.1, 9.2 & 9.3), Barton**

Michelle Barton reported that out-of-state and in-state private transfer data from the National Student Clearinghouse has been delayed, which led the ACCJC to extend the annual report deadline to April 30.

Barton noted that athletes represent a significant portion of the college's out-of-state transfers and suggested the recent dip in transfer numbers likely correlates with the temporary suspension of athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic. She strongly recommended maintaining current standards rather than lowering them, arguing that such a move would be premature and would conflict with the college's stated vision regarding student transfer.

During discussion, it was clarified that these standards refer to the floor the institution holds for itself rather than student academic rigor.

Senators noted that the ACCJC handbook defines stretch goals as "aspirational," and they expressed a collective desire to keep these goals high to reflect the college's values. Barton explained that while

falling below a "standard" requires the institution to show follow-up and engage in dialogue about the data, there are currently no accreditation penalties for failing to meet an aspirational stretch goal, provided the college demonstrates it is monitoring the data and having appropriate conversations.

**B. Faculty Senate Discussion Regarding Change in Eligibility for Senate Council – (Exhibit 7), Shmorhun**

The Constitution Review committee presented the item concerning a potential constitutional change to broaden eligibility for the Vice President position. Currently, the role is restricted by the Constitution to tenured, full-time faculty, but the proposal aims to open the position to all faculty, including part-time and non-tenured colleagues.

A senator raised a clarifying point regarding succession, noting that the Vice President does not automatically become president if a vacancy occurs; a separate vote is required to fill a presidential vacancy.

The body debated the Senate's role in the process, specifically whether they should formally "endorse" the change or merely facilitate the vote of the full-time faculty, which requires a two-thirds majority for constitutional amendments.

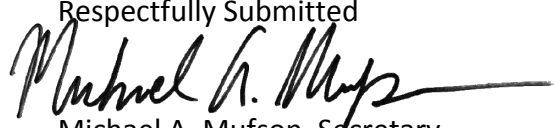
The Constitution Review Committee also proposed cleaning up outdated constitutional duties and renaming the "past president" role to "historian".

There was also procedural discussion on whether to present the changes as a single slate or as individual items for the faculty to vote on. Several senators suggested including a FAQ or a "pros and cons" list to explain that the Senate often struggles to find willing officers and that a larger pool of candidates could alleviate this stress.

A Senator added that the current exclusion of part-time faculty creates an inequitable "second-class" status and that moving toward parity was essential. To avoid a perceived end-of-semester rush, the body reached a consensus that the Senate Council would create a formal plan for the next meeting to define the structure of the upcoming vote.

**ADJONRNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
  
Michael A. Mufson, Secretary