



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

April 20, 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, Vickie Mellos Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Russell Sheaffer, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Alyssa Vafaei, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Matt Grills, Taneisha Hellon, Sherehe Hollins,

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

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Mufson announced the opening of the theater department's production of *Dracula*, a "feminist revenge fantasy" featuring immersive sets and punk aesthetics, which opens on May 1st and runs for two weekends.

Senator Doyle Bauer announced that it was National Library Week, mentioning that the library had established themed tables near the elevators featuring daily student giveaways.

Senator Adams invited the Senate to the baseball team's final spring home game on Friday at 2:00 PM, which is being held as a Military Appreciation Day. He noted that the team would wear Army green uniforms and that Palomar veterans would receive special recognition on the field during the event.

Additional campus events include a "Women in the Trades" panel at the Career Center, located across from the NS building, scheduled for the following Wednesday between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

The "One Faculty" series is also set to kick off next Monday with a screening of the film *Adjunct*, an award-winning piece by a local San Diego filmmaker. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the director, and the series will continue throughout the week with information sessions and a gathering on Thursday.

President Pearson made an announcement regarding Earth Week, where she urged senators to help spread the word about the various sustainability talks and tables being held across campus, noting that an informational email had been sent out the previous Friday.

President Pearson mentioned that faculty interested in the institutional self-study for the accreditation process could attend ISER training on April 6th. She noted that this is a way for faculty to get involved without necessarily joining a formal committee.

President Pearson announced the one-year institutional extension for accessibility compliance; while she urged departments to continue aiming for the original April 24th deadline, she felt it was important to share that the official deadline had shifted.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC: Mufson/Doyle Bauer

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for April 13, 2026.

The motion carried.

ACTION

A. Curriculum Committee

MSC: Mellos/Sanchez

Faculty Senate to approve the curriculum changes made during the April 15th Curriculum Committee meeting.

The Motion Carried.

INFORMATION

A. ASG Report, Miller

No report.

B. Committee Reports – (Exhibit 2), Pearson

President Pearson directed the Senate to the compiled subcommittee reports attached to the agenda.

She encouraged senators to review these documents and suggested inviting specific committee chairs, such as those from Academic Standards, Distance Education, or Equitable Placement, to give in-person presentations if there was interest.

She explicitly noted that Krystal Rypien had taken over the chair position for the Equivalency Committee following the retirement of Michael Dudley.

C. Brown Act Committee Training -(Exhibit 3), Zavodny

The Senate discussed proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution and the eligibility for the Vice President position.

Senators Shmorhun, Dalrymple and Martinez presented updates intended to open the VP role to all senators, including part-time faculty. The proposed revisions also included updating outdated terminology, such as changing "probationary faculty" to "tenure-track faculty," renaming the "Committee on Committees" to "Committee Coordinator," and establishing the "Historian" role in place of the "Past President".

Discussion touched on whether these changes should be presented to the full faculty as a single package or split into separate voting items. It was noted that constitutional changes require a two-thirds vote from responding full-time faculty and planned to bring the item back for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

A. DE: Third Party Publisher Resolution – (Exhibit 4.1 & 4.2), Sanchez

The Distance Education (DE) Committee introduced a draft resolution regarding the use of third-party course packs and publisher tools.

There were raised concerns about student equity, high costs, and data privacy, noting that the college's ATRC cannot provide technical support for these external platforms. The conversation explored why some faculty, particularly part-time instructors teaching across multiple campuses, rely on these "plug-and-play" materials to alleviate prep burdens.

It was emphasized that accreditation standards now strictly require Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) to be visible within the Canvas LMS. Members discussed the importance of faculty-designed content to ensure students are not just interacting with a publisher's platform.

Examples from the music and automotive departments were shared to show where third-party tools are necessary, but the Senate agreed that the majority of learning should still occur in Canvas.

There was a suggestion around adding a "resolved" clause supporting pay for part-time prep and grading to address the systemic reasons some faculty use these tools.

The Senate reached a consensus to bring the resolution back for action next week with these additions.

B. TERB – Non-Instructional Questions (Exhibit 5), Cook-Whearty

Marquesa Cook-Whearty presented new evaluation forms for non-instructional faculty, such as counselors and librarians, to align them with the instructional forms recently adopted. The forms maintain consistency in values and criteria while adapting language for different workspaces, such as counseling sessions or library workshops.

While all departments will transition to the "Blue" evaluation system in the fall, Marquesa noted that unique departments like the library or behavioral health could provide rationales for supplemental forms if the standard ones are insufficient.

C. Brown Act Committee Training- (Exhibit 6), Zavodny

Senator Zavodny conducted a detailed training session on the Brown Act, focusing on teleconferencing and remote attendance.

She clarified the distinction between traditional teleconferencing, which requires posting the remote location and keeping it open to the public, and the "just cause" remote attendance provision, which allows for private remote participation under specific limits and requires both audio and visual engagement.

The training also covers "eligible subsidiary bodies," which may hold meetings where a majority of members are remote, provided at least one person is at a physical location accessible to the public.

The session concluded with guidelines for committee chairs on posting agendas in accessible locations and establishing policies for handling technical disruptions during meetings.

D. Committee Volunteer Form – Questions Update – (Exhibit 7), Zavodny

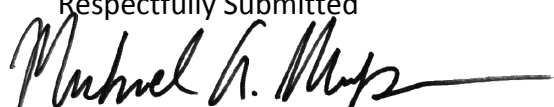
The final item of the session involved a review of the committee volunteer forms. Members discussed revising the two standard questions to reduce repetitive answers and better capture specific faculty experiences.

The Senate suggested flipping the order of the questions so that volunteers first address their general knowledge and interest in a position before discussing their experiences with diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It was also recommended to change the wording from "recent experiences" to "specific experiences" to encourage more concrete examples of advocacy work. Pearson agreed to update the forms for a final vote the following week.

ADJONRNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael A. Mufson, Secretary