



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

April 27, 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, Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Russell Sheaffer, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski (Zoom), Alyssa Vafaei, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

**ABSENT:** Vickie Mellos

**GUESTS:** Marquesa Cook-Whearty, Matt Grills, Taneisha Hellon, Sherehe Hollins, Bill Jahnel, Ben Mudgett, Elena Villa Fernandez 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**

Carrie Espinoza Villanueva, a faculty advocate of 27 years, provided a detailed comment regarding her candidacy for Assembly District 76, which covers several communities including Escondido, San Marcos, and Poway. She expressed significant concern over California's current financial state, leading her to name the upcoming year the "year of the big squeeze". Drawing from state controller data, she noted that education and Medi-Cal consume 2.3 times the expenditures of all other state categories combined, with education alone taking up two-thirds of that portion. She cautioned the Senate that education would likely be the primary target for budget cuts and criticized the institution for being "top-heavy" with administrators while faculty remain underpaid. Furthermore, she raised alarms about a projected change in the district's pay structure for the fall semester, moving from hourly pay to unit-based pay. She argued that this change could effectively cut pay substantially for certain lab classes and called for greater transparency and written documentation, as she found no mention of the change in the PFF contract or instructional guidelines.

Elena Villa Fernandez de Castro announced that a celebration of cultural and linguistic diversity would take place the following day from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.. She highlighted that students from her Spanish for Spanish speakers classes would be running a stand and encouraged faculty and staff to attend, interact with the students, and celebrate their identities.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Mufson announced that the theatre department's production of *Dracula*, a "feminist punk revenge fantasy," would open on Friday.

Senator Adams announced that both softball and baseball had concluded their most successful regular seasons in program history with a combined record of 74-6. Both teams are entering the playoffs as number one seed in California, with games beginning Friday morning.

Dr. Ben Mudgett reminded the Senate of the Pride Festival scheduled for April 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., featuring 50 community partners. He highlighted an Afrofuturism lecture being held in partnership with the PBFSA in the Student Union and noted that lunch service would begin at noon, with a priority on keeping the event student-focused.

Senator Lawson shared that the Solidarity and Strength Community Festival, sponsored by PFF and CCE, would take place on Saturday in the old main lot from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., featuring food vendors and music.

President Pearson informed the Senate that the College Council had approved "College Hour" for the Fall 2026 semester on a Tuesday-Wednesday pattern. This initiative is intended to create a dedicated space for student clubs and activities, though the possibility of moving committee meetings to that hour may be explored in the future.

President Pearson reported that five new faculty members would be hired for the fall in the areas of Medical-Surgical Nursing, Fire Academy, American Indian Studies, Paramedic Program Coordination, and Architecture.

President Pearson announced the Faculty Senate award winners, including Betsi Little for Scholarly and Professional Achievement, Marquesa Cook-Wearty for Faculty Service, and both Mary Ellen Brooks and Candace Rose for the Margie Ruzich Gift of Time Award.

Senator Dalrymple announced that it was "One Faculty Week," with a successful opening gathering already held in the EDGE center.

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC: Sanchez/Adams**

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for April 20, 2026.

The motion carried.

## **ACTION**

### **A. DE Third-Party Publisher Resolution – (Exhibit 1.1 & 1.2), Sanchez**

**MSC: Sanchez/Brooks**

Faculty Senate to approve the third draft of the third party Publisher Platforms resolution.

The Motion Carried.

Amendments included: changing "whenever possible" to "whenever appropriate" to emphasize faculty expertise in making the determination. Senator Sanchez accepted the friendly amendments to include "high-quality" and "whenever appropriate" in the final language.

### **B. TERB – Non-Instructional Questions (Exhibit 2), Cook-Whearty**

**MSC: Mufson/Dalrymple**

Faculty Senate to approve the TERB – Non-instructional forms.

The Motion Carried.

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

**MSC: Zavodny/Dalrymple**

Faculty Senate to approve the Committee Chair training as proposed.

The Motion Carried.

**Abstentions 1: Senator Lawson**

### **D. Committee Volunteer Form – Questions Update – (Exhibit 4), Zavodny**

The Motion Carried.

## **INFORMATION**

### **A. ASG Report, Barnes**

Elijah Barnes, ASG representative to the Senate, reported that the student government had officially adopted a position concerning the creation of GE 7 Lifelong Learning, though further discussion on the matter would remain within the curriculum committee.

### **B. District Requirements Vote from May 15, 2024, and next steps –(Exhibit 5), Pearson**

President Pearson provided a historical overview of the district requirements vote from May 15, 2024, to clarify current misunderstandings.

It was explained that while the curriculum committee and Faculty Senate had voted to keep the requirements, they had also specifically voted to continue discussing the content of those requirements rather than keep them as-is in the subsequent academic year.

Pearson outlined the next steps, noting that the GE Subcommittee is currently developing a proposal and that town halls will be scheduled to solicit faculty feedback before any proposal moves from curriculum to the Senate for a final vote.

### **C. AI Syllabus Policy statement recommendations: drafts for Senate review - (Exhibit 6), Shmorhun**

Senator Shmorhun presented draft AI syllabus policy recommendations developed by the Academic Standards and Practices committee and the AI Special Projects Coordinator.

She clarified that these are optional templates intended to help faculty be transparent with students regarding AI use. During the presentation, it was noted that under the current AP 5505 policy, the use of generative AI is treated as assistance from another person if a faculty member does not have a clear syllabus statement.

Shmorhun emphasized that an Academic Integrity Workgroup is currently working to update this policy, as it has become outdated since its creation in 2024.

## **DISCUSSION**

**A. Faculty Senate Discussion regarding updates to Faculty Senate Constitution- (Exhibit 7.1, 7.2, & 7.3), Shmorhun, Dalrymple, Martinez**

The Senate then engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the Faculty Constitution, focusing on whether to expand eligibility for Senate leadership positions, such as Vice President, to include part-time faculty.

A senator opened the debate by expressing support of part-time parity, yet believing leadership roles should remain filled by full-time faculty because they are specifically hired and tenured with the expectation of providing institutional leadership and shared governance.

Some senate members respectfully disagreed, arguing that part-time faculty voices are equally valid and that students do not distinguish between faculty statuses.

A senator cited a statewide ASCCC resolution that encourages local senates to develop leadership pipelines for part-time faculty and to eliminate "gatekeeping" practices. It was also added that having part-time faculty in leadership could improve communication with the large proportion of the faculty who work part-time, ensuring critical information regarding accreditation and accessibility is disseminated effectively.

A senator expressed frustration, around debating the rights of colleagues who work alongside them and noting that the Senate had just awarded a "Gift of Time" to a part-time member, acknowledging they already perform unpaid institutional work.

Other senators suggested a focus on institutional knowledge, noting that long-serving part-time faculty often possess more institutional insight than new full-time hires.

Also highlighted was the success of the union's co-leadership model, suggesting that attaining "prioritization" could serve as a qualification to ensure part-time candidates have sufficient institutional investment.

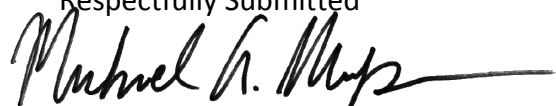
The Senate decided to bring this item to action the following week.

**B. Eligible subsidiary bodies of Senate- (Exhibit 8), Zavodny**

Tabled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
  
Michael A. Mufson, Secretary