



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

May 18, 2026

APPROVED

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Gheni Abla, Ben Adams, Russell Backman, Elijah Barnes (ASG), Mary Ellen Brooks, William Dalrymple, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, Heather Elliott Pham (Zoom – Just Cause), Kelly Falcone, Gene Gushansky, Bill Jahnel, Jason Jarvinen, Scott Klinger Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vickie Mellos, Ben Mudgett, Michael Mufson, Patrick O'Brien, Ivan Patterson, Beth Pearson, Russell Sheaffer, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Mercedes Tiggs, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT:

GUESTS: David Gray, Matt Grills, Tanessa Sanchez, Sherehe Hollins, Elena Villa Fernandez de Castro, Alyssa Vafaei, Natalia Volodina

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 Mufson expressed curiosity and concern regarding the determination of "College Hour," currently scheduled from noon to 1:00 p.m.. He noted that in his thirty years at Palomar, the 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. slot has historically been the most impacted, and the current hour does not appear to align with established course blocks.

Senator Nicole Siminski thanked the Senate for the clear and direct handling of a recent vote. She also shared concerns regarding the ESL department and the allocation of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students. Siminski highlighted successful community outreach for classes at sites like the Fallbrook Food Pantry, but noted that approval for these popular classes has stalled due to confusion over FTE management and potential shifts to a non-credit "pot" that does not yet exist.

Senator Jahnel thanked the Senate for their support during previous conflicts with the Governing Board regarding "Political Economy Days". He announced that the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF) is now

sponsoring the event, which guarantees academic freedom and protection for speakers; the program is expected to return fully in the fall.

Senator Dalrymple celebrated that the Senate now has six part-time senators seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Adams shared athletic updates, noting that the softball team swept their weekend games and the baseball team won their series, advancing them to the state championships in Irvine.

Senator Mufson announced the music department's honors recital on Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Howard Brubeck Theatre, as well as the Palomar Symphony's upcoming performance of "Ode to Joy".

President Pearson brought attention to a professional development survey from the Chancellor's Office designed to gather information on faculty needs and help fund future opportunities.

AGENDA CHANGES

MSC: Shmorhun/Sheaffer

Faculty Senate to approve moving Information item 3B to before action.

The motion carried.

Senator Shmorhun moved to move Information Item 3b (Constitution Votes Update) ahead of the Action items. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell Sheaffer and approved by the Senate. A question was raised regarding the rotation cycle for part-time senators, but President Pearson indicated she had a plan to address it later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC: Shmorhun/Klinger

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for May 11, 2026.

The motion carried.

Abstentions 3: Senators Doyle Bauer, Gushansky, & Pearson

ACTION

A. Emeritus Status Votes – (Exhibit 1), Pearson

MSC: Jahnel/Shmorhun

Faculty Senate to approve the Emeritus Status for:

Daniel Clegg 31 years of service, Mathematics

Denise Rudy 23 years of service, Dental Assisting

Joseph Early 30 years of service, Kinesiology-Health-Recreation Management and Athletics

Susan Zolliker 26 years of service, English

The Motion Carried.

B. Passing of the Gavel – Pearson

President Pearson ceremonially passed the gavel to the incoming leadership, expressing that she was honored to represent the faculty during her term. She reflected on her growth in the role.

C. Senator Election – (Exhibit 2) Shmorhun

MSC: Mudgett/Jahnel

Faculty Senate to ratify the Election of Ivan Patterson to a part time Senate seat with a term ending in May 2027.

The Motion Carried.

D. Committee on Committees - (Exhibit 3), Zavodny

MSC: Zavodny/Klinger

Faculty Senate to approve the results of the ballot for the regular committee appointments.

The motion carried.

**Academic Standards and Practices Committee
Luz Ferro (Automotive Technology), Faculty, at large (26-28)**

**CALM Committee
Ken McMullen (EHPS), Faculty, SBS (26-28)**

**Disability Resource Center (DRC) Advisory Committee
Nicole Rose (Behavioral Sciences (AODS/SWHS)), Faculty, at-large (26-28)**

**Distance Education (DE) Committee
Zia Yurchuck (Student Services), Faculty, DRC (26-28)**

Employees, Community, and Communication Council (ECCC)
Ken McMullen (EHPS), Faculty, Senate appointed (26-28)

Faculty Position Prioritization Committee
Alexandra Doyle Bauer (Library), Faculty, Library (26-28)

Learning Outcomes Taskforce
Jason Jarvinen (Workforce Development), Faculty, CTE (26-27)
Heather Pham (Heather Elliott Pham) (Child Development), Faculty, SBS (SLO Facilitator, if possible) (26-27)

Policies and Procedures Committee
April Cunningham (Library), Faculty (Senate Appointed) (25-27)

Sabbatical Leave Committee
Lily Glass (Art), Faculty, AMBA (26-29)

Web Advisory Committee
Sherehe Hollins (Ethnic Studies), Faculty (25-27)

MSC: Zavodny/Mudgett

Faculty Senate approve the results of the ballot for the ranked-choice ballot for the Interim Dean of AMBA Hiring Committee.

The motion carried.

Russell Sheaffer (Media Studies), Faculty

MSC: Zavodny/Pearson

Faculty Senate to approve Faculty Senate to approve the results of the ballot for the Superintendent/President Hiring Committee.

The motion carried.

Russell Sheaffer (Media Studies), Full-Time Faculty
Candace Rose (Media Studies), Full-Time Faculty
Anastasia Zavodny (EHPS and Business), Part-Time Faculty

E. Faculty Senate Council Elections (Exhibit 4) – Shmorhun

MSC: Peason/Brooks

Faculty Senate to Elect Benjamin Mudgett to the

Faculty Senate Vice President Position 2026-2027 academic year.

The Motion Carried.

MSC: Brooks/Adams

Faculty Senate to elect Michael Mufson to the Faculty Senate Secretary Position 2026-2027 academic year.

The Motion Carried.

A discussion ensued regarding the Historian and At-Large positions, which initially saw competing nominations for Beth Pearson and Anastasia Zavodny. To utilize the institutional knowledge of both senators, a friendly amendment was proposed.

MSC: Mufson/Adams

Faculty Senate to simultaneously elect Beth Person as Historian and Anastasia Zavodny as At-Large Senator for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The Motion Carried.

Abstentions: 1 – Senator Martinez

F. Placement of Senator Committee and Chair Positions for 2026-2027 - (Exhibit 5), Zavodny

The Senate conducted roll-call votes for several positions. All votes were unanimous.

MSC: Mufson/Gushansky

Faculty Senate to approve Beth Pearson as the Academic Standards and Practices (ASP) Chair (20% Reassign Time).

The motion carried.

MSC: Pearson/Mufson

Faculty Senate to approve Lawrence Lawson as the chair of the Accreditation Steering Committee.

The motion carried.

MSC: Mufson/Mudgett

Faculty Senate appoint Krista Carraway as College Council.

The motion carried.

MSC: Jahnel/O'Brien

Faculty Senate to elect Anastasia Zavodny as the CALM Committee Chair.

The motion carried.

MSC: Pearson/Doyle Bauer

Faculty Senate to elect Jason Jarvinen to the Faculty Service Area (FSA) Review Committee.

The motion carried.

MSC: Pearson/Jahnel

Faculty Senate to elect Russell Backman to the Sabbatical Leave Committee.

The motion carried.

MSC: Jahnel/Mufson

Faculty Senate to Elect Beth Pearson to the Workforce and Community Development Advisory Group.

The motion carried.

MSC: Adams/Mufson

Faculty Senate extend the meeting by ten minutes to 4:00 pm.

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

A. ASG Report, Barnes

Representative Elijah Barnes reported that the ASG recently swore in new members following student elections. She also offered special recognition to Stephanie for her dedicated work as the ASG advisor.

B. Constitution Votes – Update (Exhibit 6), Shmorhun - Moved to before action.

Senator Shmorhun presented the results of the Constitution ballot, which received 135 responses from full-time faculty. Vote #1, which involved language updates such as changing "probationary" to "tenure track" and "past president" to "historian," passed with approximately 78% of the vote. Vote #2, which proposed opening the Vice President position eligibility to all faculty, failed to meet the two-thirds requirement, receiving only 35% in favor and 65% opposed.

C. ECELS Lab School forms for review,- (Exhibit 7), Cook Whearty

Tanessa Sanchez raised concerns that the forms requested feedback from both coworkers and parents simultaneously, noting that the questions did not align with the different roles of these groups. She argued that this would result in poor data and noted that as a Lab School liaison, she had not been included in the development of these forms.

D. ASP Faculty Manual - (Exhibit 8), Shmorhun

Tabled.

E. Updated Palomar College Online Education Website - (Exhibit 9), Gray, Sanchez

David Gray presented the revamped Palomar Online Education website, which had not been systematically maintained since 2016. The Distance Education Committee repurposed the site to act as an enrollment driver for prospective students, utilizing plain language at a 10th-grade reading level rather than technical academic jargon.

The new structure is highly graphical, accessible, and features "calls to action" on every page to guide students toward registering for online classes.

F. Proposed Title 5 Changes to Associate Degree Req. - (Exhibit 10), Mellos

Vickie Mellos discussed a memo regarding Title 5 revisions to associate degree requirements, specifically regarding Area 5 (Natural Sciences). The concern involves a change in regulatory language from "may" to "shall" regarding the inclusion of climate change and human environmental impact.

Faculty from the Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences department expressed that while the topic is important, a mandate would be problematic for courses like microbiology or anatomy where the subject matter does not naturally fit the curriculum

DISCUSSION

A. Eligible subsidiary bodies of Senate- (Exhibit 11), Zavodny

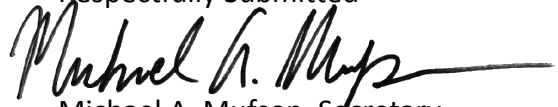
Tabled.

B. Reassigned Time Senate Pot and Positions- (Exhibit 12), Shmorhun

Tabled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm by President Shmorhun.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael A. Mufson, Secretary