

COLLEGE OF MARIN
Minutes
ACADEMIC SENATE
October 24, 2024
CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM AC 303

Senators Present: Maria Coulson; Rebecca Beal; Kyle Beattie; Gina Cullen; Dave King; Cara Kreit; Ron Oxford; Kristin Perrone; Caitlin Rolston; Patricia Seery; Ian Sethre; Logan Wood; Kevin Muller; Alex Jones

Senators Absent:

Invited Guests: Eresa Puch

I. **Agenda:** Approved (Muller/Oxford)

II. **Minutes:** Approved (Seery/Muller)

III. **Public Requests:** none

IV. **Officers' Reports:**

a. President: Maria Coulson read a more detailed version of the following statement to the Senate:

- A faculty member made a public comment at the Academic Senate meeting on 10/17. Per the Brown Act and Robert's Rules, the Academic Senate did not engage in nor act on the public comment. Any member of the public is welcome to make comments at our meetings.
- The news/story of the public comment reached members of the community in record time. A faculty member was at the door of the Senate meeting within minutes of adjournment. I and other senators received texts/emails/calls about the comment. I planned to reach out to the UPM leadership once I was out of a screening committee meeting. However, by the time I was free, there were emails in my inbox regarding the situation, the first was addressed to some of the Senators and the second was addressed to a UPM member.
- Senate is a Brown Act Committee and I reminded those copied that we do not do business over email and that I planned on reaching out to the EC. My hope was that things would calm down.
- On Friday 10/18, I reached out to the UPM President via text. I shared that I had intended to reach out in regard to the public comment, but by the time I was free, it had blown up.
- Over the weekend, I shared phone calls, texts, and emails with my faculty colleagues. After careful consideration and reflection, I reached out on Sunday to the UPM President to share that I would not be putting a discussion of the Contract on the Senate agenda. I believed and still believe it is not in the Senate's purview to host a forum on the Contract as a whole and that responsibility belongs to the EC of the UPM. I invited the President of UPM to make a public comment and observe our meeting.
- I will not dignify the lies, false accusations against me, the disparaging of my character, and insults to the fidelity of the Senate with a response.

b. VP:

- i. **ASCCC Hayward Award.** "Honors faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in teaching and professional activities while showing a deep commitment to their students, profession, and college." Nominations for Area B due by December 15th.

Conferences & Learning Communities

- ii. **AI 4 Learning Network:** January through May 2025. Deadline to apply is October 15th.
- iii. **COLEGAS Conference:** November 5th and 6th in Sacramento.

Webinars:

- iv. **Thursday, October 31st, 2:00pm-3:00pm:** [Fall Common Course Numbering Support](#) (ASCCC)
- v. **Friday, November 1st, 12:00pm-1:00pm:** Empowering Voices: The Role of ASCCC Caucuses and Liaisons in Academic Governance (save the date)
- vi. **Thursday, November 14th, 2:00pm-3:00pm:** [Fall Common Course Numbering Support](#) (ASCCC)

V. **Committees**

- a. PLC (Cara Kreit): Jonathan attended PLC meeting and got good feedback from faculty on supporting students. Duane Big Eagle's panel is next week. Senator Kreit joined AI Playlab cohort. Chancellor opened 100 more spots.
- VI. **Units and Funds for Senate:** In new contract, the units are under Senate's control, while UDWC looks at calls if Senate has special projects. UDWC will approve work and compensation, and Senate will pick the people and decide on the process thereof. Senate underspends every semester. The categories are not exactly right. President Coulson has asked for an MOU to put more units in the officers' pot, but the total is fine. Possibly, Senate will use a process similar to that of UDWC, with applications and interviews. The need for classified support to receive applications was discussed, as well as the possibility of an ad hoc subcommittee for interviews. Another issue that will be decided in the future is a system of accountability and follow-up for those awarded units for special Senate projects.
- VII. **Invited Guest — Eresa Puch on Bookstore:** Follett is losing money on COM bookstore and offered 3 models, most of which are virtual, or District could pay them 3k a month for physical bookstore, or an access program where all students pay a flat fee and all books are provided. Dean Horinek expressed that district has looked at access program for a while and is not going in that direction: the flat fee of \$24.50 per unit, per semester, is prohibitive and would apply to credit as well as noncredit. Senators debated and expressed desire to cut ties with Follett long term, but requested to keep the current set up status quo for another year, or, if that is not possible, to go an all-online (free to District) option with Follett and then seek some other way to provide on-site book services to those who need it (for example, ESL). Administration did not follow BP process in this case. More input is also needed from faculty, because some people may rely on the bookstore and its disappearance could create problems for their students.
- VIII. **Adjourn:** 2:00 pm.

For more information about College of Marin Academic Senate Minutes, please contact Academic Senate Secretary Caitlin Rolston at CRolston@marin.edu or 628-234-7695