

College of Marin
Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2025

Location: AC 303

Call to Order: 12:45 PM

Adjournment: 2:00 PM

Senators Present: Cullen, Coulson, Muller, Oxford, Jones, Kreit, Beal, Beattie, Sethre, Rolston, Finlayson, Russell

Senators Absent: Wood, Perrone

Invited Guest: None

I. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Muller/Finlayson
- Motion carried

II. Approval of Minutes (September 4, 2025)

- Motion: Flinlayson/perrone
- Motion carried
- Senator Coulson abstained

III. Public Comment

Sarah Frye and David Patterson (Library) addressed the Senate regarding the unexpected removal and reduction of the Library Coordinator units as of August 1st. No timeline was provided to complete outstanding work, which has significantly impacted the Library Textbook Program and the scheduling of information literacy sessions. These sessions — typically 70 per semester, including 30 for English — are tied to the college's SLOs. Additional services such as Saturday ESL sessions have also been postponed.

Senators were told that two major changes have taken place in circulation and technical services, and that the library is also preparing to move to a new building in 14 business days. Professors Frye and Patterson said the combination of changes has left library staff overwhelmed. They expressed concern about the proposed reduction in total units allotted for coordinator and chair compensation — from 7.5 units to 5 — which was made without consultation.

IV. Officers' Reports

President:

- President Coulson reported on the newly formed Federal Action Response Team (FART), which she is part of. UPM leadership was invited but did not attend. The Chief of Police gave an update; from what he hears from other police departments, federal action is not expected here this year. There was also discussion of other universities switching to remote instruction on emergency basis if necessary. President Coulson advocated for ESL to be included in further FART conversations, and was informed that ESL had been included. Senators Beal and Rolston confirmed that the college President and General Counsel were present at the ESL department meeting but that they didn't know of further consultation.
- A grant from the Chancellor's Office was awarded to the Nursing Department with the promise to create a course. This was done without going through Curriculum.
- A call was made this morning by the UDWC to develop a noncredit business certificate. Compensation is promised, but full-time faculty in the Business Department were not consulted and are not interested.

Additional concerns:

1. **Hiring Committees** – Ongoing issues with disorganization and disregard for faculty time, including:
 - A committee that met and formulated questions without all members present.
 - A screening committee scheduled with short notice, prompting President Coulson to advocate on behalf of faculty members.
 - Pressure to move candidates forward without consensus.

2. **Equivalency Process** – President Coulson intervened in two expedited hires where candidates did not meet minimum qualifications. Despite pushback from department chairs, she refused to sign off on equivalency. The candidates had been promised classes before being vetted.

Vice President:

- [Overview of the ASCCC Academic Freedom Resources Guide and Bot Tool | ASCCC](#)
 - CCN survey for Phase III due September 29 [Common Course Numbering \(CCN\) Development and Faculty Engagement | ASCCC](#)
 - Nandi Conference October 9-10 in San Diego
 - [Faculty Scholarship Application Form for the 3rd Annual Nandi Conference – Academic Senate Foundation](#)
 - Fall Plenary Nov 9-10 in La Jolla [2025 Fall Plenary Session Registration, Thu, Nov 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Highlighted that Sara Malmquist-West is requesting feedback on Common Course Numbering.
 - Transfer Summit will be held October 9–10 at UC Irvine.

V. Committee Reports

GRC (Coulson for King):

- First meeting in two weeks.
- Under Senator King's co-chairship, the committee made significant progress on governance plans and the PGC following a past issue involving an administrative appointee to Curriculum.
- GRC has a standing item at College Council.
- Faculty disengagement is a growing concern, with committee resignations across campus.
- A new Biology instructor and a part-time faculty member are stepping into GRC and EPC respectively.
- No updates received regarding PRAC.

VI. Interim Dean of Math & Sciences

Q&A with Dr. Jeffrey Reeder

- Acknowledged the work of the Academic Senate and expressed appreciation for participatory governance.
- Background: 23 years at Sonoma State (Senate Chair, State Rep), former Dean at CSU Northridge, ran Study Abroad in Spain.
- His wife, Ruthie, is Director of the COM Child Study Center.
- He is currently on leave from his faculty position at CSU Northridge.
- Academic background: Spanish, Portuguese, and linguistics.

Discussion Points:

- Ron Oxford raised the issue of ZTC and the Library Textbook Set program.
- Dr. Reeder affirmed his understanding of textbook cost barriers, noting his own community college and Navy background.
- Oxford also mentioned the need for more faculty engagement with the bookstore task force.

VII. Consent Agenda

Item: AP 5011 with revisions (discussed on 9/4/25)

- Motion: Cullen/Muller
- Approved by show of hands

VIII. AP/BP Revisions

Invited Guest: Jon Horinek

Items Reviewed: AP 5013, AP 5015, AP 5035, AP 5130

- Motion: Muller/Finlayson
- Approved by show of hands

Key Update:

- Probation and dismissal policies now align with state Ed Code regarding notice and pause procedures. Changes take effect next academic year.
 - Banner 8 will remain in use due to Banner 9 issues. Faculty Zoom sessions will be scheduled.
 - Student headcount and credit hours are up:
 - 5,000 student credits
 - 2,000 noncredit
 - FTS at 2,500—highest since Horinek’s tenure
 - Growth in CCP, ESL, and STEM
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IX. Individual Reports

Senator Oxford:

- Noted noncompliance with the textbook initiative.
 - Plans to meet with Lauren Servais next week.
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X. Future Business

- President Eldridge and Vice President Emerson will attend next week.
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Adjournment: 2:00 PM.