

College of Marin
Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Location: AC 303

Call to Order: 12:45 PM

Adjournment: 2:00 PM

Senators Present: Cullen, Coulson, Muller, Oxford, Kreit, Beal, Rolston, Finlayson, Perrone, Sethre

Senators Absent: Wood, Jones, Russell, Beattie

Invited Guests: President Jonathan Eldridge, Vice President Dana Emerson

I. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Muller/Perrone
- Motion carried

II. Approval of Minutes (September 4, 2025)

- Motion: Oxford/Sethre
 - Motion carried
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III. Public Comment

Sarah Frye and Dave Patterson reported continued communication with OIM and with President Eldridge and Vice President Emerson. They emphasized the urgency of the situation, with the library move scheduled in two weeks. They also reported an urgent CSEA matter concerning the head of Technical Services. A new circulation head has been hired. Frye and Patterson expressed appreciation for faculty support and stressed that the situation remains ongoing, but they hope for a swift resolution.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. President (Coulson)

- Reported being asked to represent UPM in a meeting with librarians and administration. She clarified that she attended not as Senate President, but as a faculty member and UPM member, to show presence and support. She expressed concern that no one else from UPM attended.
- Later received an email from Vice President Emerson requesting a short meeting regarding Senate officer units. She and Senator Cullen met with Emerson on Monday for 15 minutes. The concern was compliance with Senate officer unit allocations. Senator Cullen noted that compensation is grossly underpaid. The Curriculum Chair position was identified as a sticking point: although not an officer of the Senate, it has been included in the calculation.
- A similar proposed solution had previously been rejected, with the matter directed instead to UPM. A call was made and UDWC processed it quickly. Public gratitude was expressed for that work.
- President Coulson expressed concern that the Senate is being targeted and that this feels personal.
- Other updates:
 - Fall Plenary – the Disciplines List is out for review.
 - Hiring committee challenges and equivalency remain an issue. A review of the equivalency form may be agendaized next week. The current form includes a broad blank box; clarity is needed.
 - HR will remind deans about the process for expedited hires.

B. Vice President (Cullen)

- Reported that statewide service requests are out and webinars are upcoming
- [Common Course Numbering Opportunity: Phase III Course Template Post-Convening Surveys](#)
 - [Common Course Numbering \(CCN\) Development and Faculty Engagement | ASCCC](#)
- [Accepting Proposals for the Disciplines List Revision Process](#)
 - [Disciplines List | ASCCC](#)
- [Request for Statewide Service](#)
 - [Volunteer to Serve on a Committee! | ASCCC](#)
- [ACCJC's Fall 2025 Webinar Series](#)
- [Listening to Lead: Amplifying the Student Story Through Focus Groups](#)

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 pm (PDT)

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

- **Bridging the Gap: Helping Students Translate Competencies into Career Success**

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (PST)

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

V. Invited Guests – Monthly Leadership Meeting

- **Oxford:** Reported that the ZTC Pathways COM is developing and nearing completion. This is an important achievement for students, as it ensures zero textbook costs. There are plans to work with OIM and marketing to highlight this.
 - **Sethre:** Asked about contingency planning in response to potential external pressures on the college. **President Eldridge** responded that planning is underway for a range of scenarios, including how to sustain basic needs programs in the face of possible federal cuts. He noted that COM is fortunate to have a supportive Board, and that the college is now a member of the Bay Area College Mutual Support Network to coordinate efforts with peer institutions.
 - **Vice President Emerson:** Thanked the Senate and reported that she has been meeting with all department chairs and coordinators. She highlighted a backlog in the POCR (Peer Online Course Review) process. Expedited hires and senior faculty require POCR, which has created delays and a waiting list. She asked whether the DE Committee, as a subcommittee, should discuss this issue moving forward, and welcomed other ideas and concerns.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Maria emphasized the importance of COM's rigorous process, noting that other colleges have experienced problems due to poor quality controls.
 - President Eldridge asked whether a model already exists that could alleviate some of the delays.
 - Vice President Emerson raised the question of RSI (Regular and Substantive Interaction) requirements, asking whether COM is prepared to meet the need.
 - President Eldridge added that statewide debate continues over AI policy: whether colleges need a distinct AI policy or whether AI should simply be treated as part of responsible technology use. He noted that this discussion differs from Stacey Lince's COP (at the state level, more focused on IT and fiscal policy), but that both debates will inevitably overlap.
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VI. Committee Reports

- **DEC:** President Coulson reported that the current DEC chair had requested that DEC be given explicit authority to advocate for equity-mindedness in scheduling DE courses. Senators discussed and decided that DEC should not have this authority. Scheduling is the responsibility of department chairs and deans, and ultimately rests with the district through right of assignment.
- **Curriculum (Cullen):** Reported that trainings were held on noncredit and on common course numbering.

VII. APBP – AP 4230 Grading and Academic Records Symbols:

- Proposed deletion of the "FW" grade symbol and revision of probation language.
 - Motion: Muller/Sethre
 - Motion carried unanimously by show of hands.
 - **Other Reports:** President Coulson noted that the Chancellor's Office criticized a nursing grant proposal as lacking substance. The Director of Nursing contacted the Chancellor's Office directly and was advised that the program leadership, not the Dean of ETC, should control the funds.
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Adjourned at 2:00 PM.

College of Marin Academic Senate

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