

College of Marin Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025

Location: AC 303 / Zoom

Call to Order: 12:45 PM

Present: Kristin Perrone, Gina Cullen, Maria Coulson, Luna Finlayson, Ian Sethre, Logan Wood, Ron Oxford, Kevin Muller, Rebecca Beal, Kyle Beattie, Caitlin Rolston

Absent: LyRyan Russell, Alex Jones

Guests: President Eldridge, VP Emerson, Mia Robertshaw, Meg Pasquel

I. Approval of Agenda

- a. **Motion:** Muller / Rolston.
Result: Approved.

II. Approval of Minutes (11/12)

- a. **Motion:** Wood / Finlayson.
Result: Approved

III. Public Requests -- None.

IV. Officers' Reports

a. President (Coulson)

- i. Shared that she found a printed set of internal emails commenting on her actions as Senate President during the equivalency review process. The language used ("gone rogue," "Trumpian," "incompetent") was concerning and inconsistent with expected professional standards. She forwarded the document to HR on Tuesday the 11th.
- ii. HR has handed the Equivalency Review issue to outside counsel. A meeting was scheduled, but Maria said the full Senate needed to be included. HR is waiting for direction from the attorney, so the meeting is paused for now, but expected next week. Maria asked for an agenda in advance.
- iii. Senators are encouraged to attend the Board meeting on Tuesday.
- iv. **Plenary takeaways:**
 1. Need to build a deeper leadership bench
 2. There should be an end in sight for Senate presidentship; consider restructuring/delegation, and recruitment pathways (such as past president staying on to mentor).
 3. Plenary resolutions not yet finalized.

b. Vice President (Cullen)

- i. COM is ahead of other state schools on CCN work; acknowledgment to Grace Yuan and Sarah Malmquist-West, who have led this effort.
- ii. Upcoming events: Curriculum Institute in Santa Rosa (July); Plenary in April.

V. Invited Guests: President Eldridge & VP Emerson

- a. **Campus Tour:** Senate will most likely tour the new building on December 4th. Senators should write to Eldridge to about they would like to see on the tour, but the specifics will depend on construction progress and activities that day.
- b. **Community-Engaged Projects:** With centennial support from the Marin Community Foundation, district may consider thematic, district-directed opportunities that fall outside the ARG grant parameters.
 - i. Marin Community Foundation is interested in concrete action items and community involvement.
 - ii. Eldridge suggested classes researching families impacted by healthcare policy changes, or sea level changes, as two examples.
 - iii. Opportunities could be embedded in existing classes or initiated by faculty with relevant connections.
- c. **Grants:** Maria asked about grants where curriculum was promised in CTE, and where we could find such information. Eldridge and Emerson were both unaware of aware of any new grants.
- d. **FART / Emergency Communications:** Ongoing discussions about emergency protocols are being held. In case the college must go remote, both senates must be part of decision-making. Bay Area CC mutual support group met two weeks ago and can share insights. Monday meeting: VP Emerson and Mia Robertshaw met with Legal Aid of Marin and 40+ CBOs regarding mutual support and protections for the communities we serve.

VI. Guest: Mia Robertshaw a AP on Consensual Romantic/Sexual Relationships

- a. Policy prohibits relationships where there is evaluative authority, supervision, mentoring/coaching, or participation in decisions that could reward or impact an individual negatively.
- b. Also prohibits Faculty from romantic/sexual relationships anyone who may enroll in their classes, with specific rules for necessary exceptions.

- c. Employees must refrain or recuse themselves from evaluation processes involving other employees with whom they are already in a relationship.
- d. This exceeds federal law (which focuses on unwelcome conduct/harassment). Me Too-era reforms have led many districts to prohibit consensual relationships between staff as well as staff and students.

VII. **Meg Pasquel — Policy Updates**

- a. **New Policy: BFIM (Burden-Free Instructional Materials).** Meg will work with Senator Oxford to write this new policy.
- b. **Graduation / Catalog Rights:** Added language regarding Catalog Rights to graduation policy, and will send draft to Sara Malmquist-West for review.
- c. **Program Discontinuance:** Corrected language.
- d. **Student Equity Plan:** This AP lists “Dean of Student Success” as responsible party — that position no longer exists. All policies mentioning this position need review; duties will most likely shift to the new AVP.
- e. **Academic Standards Committee:** Because this committee was discontinued, Meg will convene appropriate experts as needed to review APs and BPs.
- f. **AP/BP drafts on Senate website:** Policies should not be posted until approved. Need to determine whether to link to AP or post Senate-approved version.

VIII. **Adjournment: 1:50 PM.**