

COLLEGE OF MARIN  
ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES  
February 26, 2026  
CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM AC 303

**Senators Present:** Maria Coulson, Dave King, Caitlin Rolston, Cara Kreit, Kristin Perrone, Luna Finlayson, LyRyan Russell, Logan Wood, Ian Sethre, Ron Oxford, Kyle Beattie, Rebecca Beal

**Senators Absent:** Gina Cullen, Kevin Muller, Alex Jones

- I. **Agenda** approved (Perrone/King).
- II. **Minutes** corrected to clarify information about Program Review (King/Perrone).
- III. **Public Requests: Paul Cheney (Chair, Social Sciences)** addressed Senate regarding changes in college make-up testing practices.
  - a. Due to retirements and workload for staff, SAS is no longer providing make-up testing for students who do not receive SAS accommodations. Furthermore, there is currently no collegewide system to replace this service. Instructors have been encouraged to manage make-up testing independently.
  - b. Cheney emphasized that this presents a workload challenge for faculty, and especially for part-time faculty, who make up a majority of COM instructors. He requested additional conversation about this topic, and support from the Senate. He stated that this should be addressed as a collegewide issue and noted that doing so may require additional resources.
  - c. Cheney stated that both Academic Senate and UPM have an interest in the issue due to its workload implications. He noted he had not yet received feedback from the other members of the UPM Executive Council team, and requested additional pressure/advocacy to support a broader discussion.
- IV. **Officers Reports** - Deferred
- V. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **OER:** Senator Oxford reported that *Textbook and Beyond Task Force* now has an official recommendation. It was noted that an implementation team will be needed. The item will be agendaized for next week.
  - b. **UPM:** Senator Beattie reported that he attended the UPM Exec. Meeting and clarified items related to the VP's academic freedom statement draft. It was also reported that UPM would like to meet with Academic Senate.
- VI. **Status on Previous Agenda Items.**
  - a. Senators continued discussion from the prior week regarding Program Review and PRAC, including themes of communication, organization, consultation, and collaboration in PRAC operations.
  - b. Senate President Coulson read aloud a formal letter of concern she submitted to President Eldridge and VP Emerson, copied to Senate Vice President King. The full text of the letter is included below in these minutes.
  - c. Following the reading of the letter, Senators continued with a robust discussion of Senate's role in Program Review and PRAC, Senate's direct access to the Board, and possible solutions to the current situation, including concerns that established College priorities are not being adhered to and that PRAC is not functioning effectively as a committee.

- d. Replies to the letter of concern were sent by both President Eldridge and VP Emerson. The Senate directed President Coulson not to engage further at this time, and instead to draft a Resolution to be read at the next Senate meeting.
- e. Memo Regarding PRAC:

**Subject: Formal Concern Regarding PRAC Governance and Co-Chair Processes**

Date: 2/23/2026

Dear Executive Leadership and GRC Chair,

I am writing to formally document my concerns regarding the governance processes of PRAC and the role of faculty leadership within the committee.

Faculty participation in shared governance, including service as co-chair of PRAC, is not a courtesy extended by the District, but a right and responsibility grounded in California Education Code and Title V. As you know, the “10+1” areas define matters that are the purview of the faculty. Specifically, item number 10—“Processes for institutional planning and budget development”—falls squarely within faculty responsibility. The current situation and climate raise serious concerns about adherence to both the letter and spirit of these requirements.

Over the past year, I have documented multiple instances in which established governance processes and collaborative norms were not followed. A particularly troubling example occurred last year when a memo was written, signed with my name, and sent to the President without my knowledge or consent. I was forwarded the memo only after it had already been distributed. The letter was recalled after my objection was shared.

Throughout the fall semester, I experienced increasing difficulty in fulfilling my responsibilities as co-chair. Requests for inclusion, information, and consultation regarding agendas, minutes, and planning were frequently unanswered, delayed until the last minute, or not addressed at all.

In December, the PRAC committee received a new presentation template developed by my co-chair without prior consultation with me. Given that this is a transitional year, I expressed—in a private email—my concern about implementing significant changes to committee processes. The committee ultimately struggled extensively with the new template, devoting hours to its discussion. Despite these challenges, the template was shared with managers without my prior knowledge. I learned of this decision informally while accompanying MESA students on a tour of CSS.

On January 26, I met with my co-chair to communicate my concerns regarding the ongoing lack of communication, planning, and collaboration between us. The next

communication I received was notice that both the February PRAC meetings had been canceled. I expressed that my concern was not with canceling meetings, but with the absence of collaborative planning. I was told I had misunderstood the situation, and subsequently one meeting was reinstated.

We also exchanged emails about establishing regular planning meetings, to which I agreed; however, I have not been invited to any such meetings.

Most recently (last week), I reached out requesting collaboration on the agenda for today's PRAC meeting and received no response. On Sunday, when a faculty member inquired about the agenda, it was distributed by the Executive Assistant. To be clear, I was neither informed of, consulted about, nor involved in planning today's meeting.

The continued exclusion of the faculty co-chair, whether intentional or accidental, undermines the principles of collegial consultation and contradicts the processes outlined in our Participatory Governance Plan. These patterns significantly impair my ability to fulfill the responsibilities of my role and weaken the integrity of shared governance and specifically PRAC.

I am formally requesting that the District and the Governance Review Council, in consultation with the Academic Senate, review this situation and take immediate steps to restore proper governance processes, ensure meaningful collaboration between cochairs, and uphold faculty purview as defined by law and policy.

I look forward to your response and to a prompt resolution.

- VII. **Resolution** - Deferred
- VIII. **Individual Reports** - Deferred
- IX. **Future Business**- Deferred
- X. **Adjourn** 2:02 PM

For more information about Academic Senate Minutes, contact  
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