

COLLEGE OF MARIN
ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

March 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM AC 303

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

Senators Absent: Luna Finlayson

Invited Guests: None

- I. Agenda: Approved (Wood/Kreit)
- II. Minutes from 3/5: Edited and Approved (Wood/Muller). Wood abstained.
- III. Public Requests: none
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. President:
 - i. President Coulson and VP King attended the Board meeting, where the Senate resolution was read by VP King, with several Senators in attendance. Afterwards, President Coulson received word that subsequent meeting records characterized her statements as inaccurate and conveyed the Senate's concerns in a manner that did not fully reflect the intent or weight of the Resolution.
 - ii. A memo to hiring managers will go out from HR soon, instructing them to exhaust ETUM and the temporary pool before doing emergency hires.
 - b. Vice President:
 - i. **DEC Recommendations:** No update from VP Emerson.
 - ii. **Academic Freedom:** Met with UPM leadership last Friday. On our agenda today.
 - iii. **Board of Trustees:** Presented the Academic Senate report to the Board on Tuesday. Read "Resolution 2026.10.1 - Restoring Functional Processes and Collegial Consultation in PRAC." Updated on program review revisions and our equivalency process.
 - iv. **PRAC & Other Issues:** Scheduled to meet with President Eldridge and Maria Coulson tomorrow.
 - v. **Conferences & Learning Communities**
 1. [Curriculum Regional Meeting \(Area B\)](#), March 13th at Evergreen Valley College. [Survey](#) about topics to cover.
 2. [Artificial Intelligence and Academia 2026](#), March 19th-21st in Costa Mesa. Calls for proposal open until 1/30.
 3. [Spring Plenary](#), April 9th-11th in Santa Rosa. Scholarships available.
 4. [Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education](#), April 12th-14th in Anaheim. Scholarships available.
 - vi. **Webinars**
 1. Monday, March 23rd, 2:00pm: [Equivalency Without Chaos: Effective Practices for Local Academic Senates in Multi-College Districts](#)
 2. Monday, March 23rd, 3:00pm: [Follow-Up Office Hours: Effective Equivalency Practices for Local Academic Senates in Multi-College Districts](#)
 3. Tuesday, March 24th, 1:00pm: [Leading Authentically: Navigating Imposter Syndrome, Identity, and Power](#)
 4. Wednesday, March 25th, 12:00pm: [Authentic Assessments and Academic Integrity in the Age of AI](#)
 5. Monday, April 6th, 1:00pm: [Twenty-Five Years After: CA Community Colleges' Inroads in the Education of Undocumented Students](#)

- V. Committee Reports
 - a. PLC: Steve Carrera will come next week with a PLC update. Maria will begin inviting him regularly.
 - b. Curriculum (Gina Cullen)
 - i. The Committee will hear about CNA again.
 - ii. ESL proposed culinary cooking and baking classes.
 - iii. There has been back-and-forth discussion regarding nursing clinical class size; this will be approved today.
 - iv. The Committee is working on mandatory revisions.
 - v. The next item will be addressing courses that are in the catalog but never offered.
- VI. Academic Freedom Statement
 - a. President Coulson and VP King met with Gregg Grist and Marco Gonzales of UPM on Zoom. They provided background information going back to the Gaza situation; faculty had reached out to the Union for support in a politically tense context. UPM leadership clarified that there was a long narrative of faculty concerns, which led to UPM approaching VP Emerson about the need to reassure Faculty of the College's support, and for this support to come not just from the Union and Senate, but the Administration. Dave King offered an edit to the statement: to state at the top that academic freedom is important. Marco Gonzales noted that the document does not fundamentally change anything; it provides another way in which faculty can hold administration accountable if they go back on their word.
 - b. Approved unanimously (King/Muller).
 - c. The Senate would like the three Presidents' names included/signing the document: Patrick Kelly, Maria Coulson, Jonathan Eldridge.
- VII. OER/Bookstore and Beyond Task Force Update (Ron Oxford)
 - a. **LibreTexts**
 - i. There was a systemwide launch of LibreTexts on February 26. It is part of a \$115 million initiative tying together higher education across California, based out of UC Davis. It is different from other OER repositories. UC Davis created one location for all textbooks by discipline. Faculty can remix content by dragging and dropping, it integrates well with Canvas, and streamlines OER adoption and focuses on making textbooks more affordable. Each college has a liaison; Ron is the liaison for COM. There is a LibGuide and newsletters. There will be significant training and support. Not all faculty need to know everything, but some need to be knowledgeable to help others.
 - ii. Adapt (a homework system) is a free version of MyMathLab. President Coulson has requested Adapt in Canvas.
 - iii. VP King asked whether there is any DEC subcommittee overlap. Oxford responded yes; Stacey Lince will be aware because it integrates with Canvas.
 - iv. LibreTexts allows easier compliance with Title 5.
 - b. **Bookstore and Beyond**
 - i. The task force wrapped up recommendations and sent them to the President. After a year-long process, the recommendation is to remove the physical bookstore and go virtual. The current payments to the Bookstore total \$36,000 per year for them to maintain their presence on Campus. The recommendation is to redirect that funding to faculty creating and printing OER. The bookstore is now on a month-to-month lease. Jonathan stated that the timeline is too fast and that implementation will not be in place by fall. However, Follett indicated they cannot continue because revenue is insufficient.
 - ii. ESL need is significant because of the large number of consumables, and ESL is included in the recommendation.
 - iii. Reprographics needs to be expanded and supported.
 - iv. A pickup point for textbooks is needed on campus.
 - v. Now that the task force has ended, there needs to be an implementation team. VP Puch will be unavailable to lead this team, but OER does not function without an administrative champion, and COM does not appear to have one. Dean Servais has done a strong job managing the grant since it has been in her domain, and the College will meet the

requirements. Going forward, it is unclear how the College will manage Title 5 requirements. There are certainly highly qualified individuals who would be excellent to work on this

vi. COM needs to steer away from “inclusive access” subscription models which are limiting and inequitable.

c. **OER:** After the grant ends in June, there will be no funding for creating OER or OER Pathways. If ESL or Allied Health needs to create materials, there is currently no funding.

i. To meet Title 5 requirements, there must be administrative support to implement both OER and Bookstore needs.

d. President Coulson will reach out to Cari Torres to propose her involvement as Administrator.

VIII. Sabbatical Committee Update (Caitlin Rolston)

a. Given complications arising from unclear processes and roles within the committee, and the potential resulting impact on faculty applicants, Senator Rolston raised the following questions that she and Senator Finlayson had discussed previously:

i. Beyond the applicant procedures outlined in the UPM/CBA, and the rubric for evaluation, where are the committee’s operational guidelines defined? The process did not proceed smoothly last semester; committee members have commented on the need for process to be clarified or developed.

ii. In particular, the committee was instructed it would not have a Chair. Therefore, there was no one to convene the committee and this is still the case. Other committee members had brought up various other issues that could be clarified in terms of scoring, communication with applicants, and committee composition for quorum purposes.

iii. What is the committee’s role in reviewing and responding to submitted sabbatical reports?

iv. Rolston expressed concern shared with Finlayson that the absence of a clear structure, including an earlier timeline beginning in October rather than December, was not beneficial to applicants. To avoid that situation in the future, the two Senators have noted that applicants should be able to receive support from faculty serving on the committee, during the semester of the application. This was past practice on the committee.

IX. Adjourn: 2 PM.