

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

March 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:47 PM

LOCATION: AC 303 and Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City, 100 S W Temple Street

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

Senators Absent: Ron Oxford

Invited Guest: Steve Carrera

- I. **Agenda: Approved** (King/Muller)
- II. **Minutes (March 12): Approved** (Muller/King)
- III. **Public Requests:** None
- IV. **Officers' Reports**
 - a. **President**
 - i. President Coulson was asked to work with HR and Cari Torres to clean up issues with faculty assignment priority lists that should be aligned, including ETUM, discipline lists, and faculty service areas. FSA and ETUM lists are negotiated by UPM. Thus far, they have removed outdated disciplines (Math Skills, English Skills), and added new/missing areas (e.g., Education, Health Education). This will be agendized soon, in coordination with HR and UPM as appropriate.
 - ii. Foundation update:
 1. The foundation will be moving toward a revised charitable foundation model with new bylaws. The Board composition may expand, with a possible reduction of faculty representation .
 - b. **Vice President**
 - i. **DEC Recommendations:** Recommendations were accepted by Vice President Emerson, who welcomes ideas for membership for the working groups.
 - ii. **OERI:** [April newsletter](#) published.
 - iii. **Conferences & Learning Communities**
 1. [Spring Plenary](#), April 9th-11th in Santa Rosa. Scholarships available.
 2. [Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education](#), April 12th-14th in Anaheim. Scholarships available.
 3. [Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era:](#) In-person COM watch-party workshop on Friday, April 17th 8:45am-3:00pm.
 - a. AI as philosophy, not just policy
 - b. Using AI to automate compliance tasks
 - c. Centering wellness and storytelling
 - d. Teaching human values
 4. [CTE Regional Meeting](#), April 18th at Canada College
 5. [Advancing Open Education Together: An Intersegmental OER Summit](#), May 15th at UC Irvine.
 6. [GAAD Accessibility Workshop](#), May 21st online
 - iv. **Webinars**
 1. [Thursday, April 2nd, 12:00pm: Into the LibreVerse! Getting Started with LibreTexts](#)
 2. Monday, April 6th, 1:00pm: [Twenty-Five Years After: CA Community Colleges' Inroads in the Education of Undocumented Students](#)
 3. [Wednesday, April 15th, 12:00pm: Introduction to Constructing and Remixing Textbooks with LibreTexts](#)
 - v. **Accreditation / ACCJC Participation Concern:**
 1. Faculty roles in upcoming ACCJC-related meeting were selected by administration without clear Senate consultation.

2. College of Marin's accreditation liaison officer was not invited by administration to a statewide accreditation update meeting for the second year in a row.
3. Senators raised concerns regarding the lack of consultation with Senate, since faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes is #7 in the 10+1 under Title 5.

V. Committee Reports

- a. None

VI. PRAC / Program Review: Responding to President Eldridge and Next Steps

a. Board and Administrative Response

- i. The Senate resolution on PRAC was presented by Senator King and received negatively by administration at the Board meeting.
- ii. President Coulson, VP King, and President Eldridge met on Friday.
 1. Public statements by administration mentioned a lack of response to emails from Senate leadership; President Coulson disputed this and requested documentation of emails without responses. She has not yet received any.
 2. Administration spoke at length before allowing Senate response.
 3. The Senate has concerns regarding tone and framing of communication toward Senate leadership.
 4. Ongoing issues with PRAC and other aspects of 10+1 as well as possible paths forward were discussed.
- iii. President Eldridge wrote a response to the Senate.

b. Senators discussed the following concerns:

- i. Reliance on the PGS structure should not be used as a justification for limiting Senate authority since the PGS Plan is subordinate to Title 5.
- ii. Consultation with individuals outside current faculty (e.g., retired faculty) is inappropriate and does not constitute collegial consultation.
- iii. There is a persisting pattern of top-down decision-making without collegial consultation.

c. PRAC Process Concerns

- i. Recent PRAC meeting occurred without faculty quorum. Senators wonder how this is possible.
- ii. Concerns raised regarding:
 1. Lack of clear scheduling coordination
 2. Ongoing communication gaps
 3. Treatment of faculty co-chair
 4. Strong faculty support expressed by PRAC members for Senate leadership in PRAC matters

d. Strategic Discussion

- i. Senators discussed two parallel approaches:
 1. Continue engaging in PRAC process to meet accreditation expectations.
 2. Strengthen Senate role through formal written resolutions.
- ii. Resolutions Strategy:
 1. Written resolutions ensure formal communication to Board.
 2. If recommendations are not accepted, Board must provide written rationale.
 3. Viewed as a mechanism to counter lack of transparency.
- iii. Additional points:
 1. Administration needs training on 10+1 and collegial consultation.
 2. Senate hopes to bring in external guidance (ASCCC).

e. Response to President Eldridge Memo

- i. After much discussion, Senators concluded that, in response to the administration's suggestions:
 1. The Senate supports seeking external guidance and consultation.
 2. The Senate supports and agrees with maintaining existing PRAC request evaluation rubric.
 3. The Senate is opposed to replacing Senate leadership roles within PRAC.
- ii. Unresolved questions:

1. The Senate's priority is to improve PRAC process and model a cooperative attitude and collegial collaboration consultation to Board.
2. It is not clear to the Senate whether or not the Board has responded to the resolution via Jonathan Eldridge as a designee. This was not formally indicated.

VII. Professional Learning and FSPC: Update from Steve Carrera

a. Planning for Flex Week / Convocation:

- a. Focus on AI in higher education, equity, and cultural shifts in teaching and learning.
- b. Input requested from Senate on themes and speakers. Any faculty who would like to conduct a flex activity should email Carrera.

b. Upcoming Events:

- a. Employee Appreciation Luncheon (May 20)
- b. Equity and Mental Health Symposium at IVC Campus (April 29-30; COM is expecting 500+ participants)

c. PLDC Learning Center Initiatives:

- a. Proposed budget to support:
 - i. Certification-style training programs
 - ii. Keynote speakers
 - iii. Department-specific flex opportunities

d. Data and Tracking: Carrera is working on a dashboard to track flex participation and trends, in order to improve alignment between faculty interest and PL programming.

e. Additional Items:

- a. GRC to distribute committee self-evaluation forms — VP King requested that PDLC complete one.
- b. Senators asked for more information about and possible increase in flex credit offered for faculty participation in hiring committees, especially when some positions require more commitment than others.

f. Facilities and Safety Update:

- a. Carrera reported that there is currently a problem with standing water in men's locker room at IVC.
- b. A huge and concerning crack has been visible in the IVC pool floor for two years (identified July 2024; no update provided).
- c. Students, community members, and faculty need much clearer communication regarding safety concerns such as the above.

VIII. Sabbatical Committee: Deferred

IX. Plenary (ASCCC Resolutions Packet): Deferred

X. Resolution: Processes for Program Review (#9): Deferred

XI. APs / BPs: None

XII. Individual Reports: None

XIII. Future Business:

PGS discussion

GRC and Senate collaboration

XIV. Adjournment: 2:03 PM