

## COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

April 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM

LOCATION: AC 303

**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, Ron Oxford  
**Invited Guest:** Jonathan Eldridge

I. **Agenda: Approved** (Muller/Finlayson)

II. **Minutes (March 26): Approved** (Finlayson/Muller)

III. **Public Requests:** None

IV. **Officers' Reports**

a. **President:**

- i. In regards to a prior request by Paul Cheney about testing, Coulson met with Cari Torres and representatives of SAS. All reaffirmed that it is not the responsibility of SAS to handle make up testing, and spoke of possible solutions to support faculty, but it appears to be a workload matter and that asking classified staff to enforce academic rigor and/or proctor exams would be inappropriate. In Math, an in-house solution with a shared document/testing schedule, allowing students to drop in to other classes to take tests with those classes, has been successful. Senate will step back from this issue for now, as this is not a 10+1 matter.
- ii. President Coulson and VP King will attend ASCCC plenary next week; King will run the Senate meeting. Pres Coulson will attend via Zoom.

b. **Vice President:**

- i. VP King exchanged emails with UPM (Gregg, Patrick, Marco) about Sabbatical Committee. Patrick responded that the committee should choose a chair and that language will need to be added to the CBA.
- ii. Working with Ron Oxford on a resolution regarding OER and Low Cost Textbooks.

iii. **Summits:**

1. [Spring Plenary](#), April 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa. Scholarships available.
2. [Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education](#), April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim. Scholarships available.
3. [Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era](#): In-person COM watch-party workshop on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> at Canada College
5. [Advancing Open Education Together: An Intersegmental OER Summit](#), May 15<sup>th</sup> at UC Irvine.
6. [GAAD Accessibility Workshop](#), May 21<sup>st</sup> online

iv. **Webinars**

1. Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm: [Twenty-Five Years After: CA Community Colleges' Inroads in the Education of Undocumented Students](#)
2. [Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm: Introduction to Constructing and Remixing Textbooks with LibreTexts](#)

- v. PGS update: committee self-reflection form will be going out. Individuals will also have the opportunity to respond if they are not comfortable making public comments within their committee groups.

V. **Invited Guest:** President Eldridge spoke at length and without taking questions or comments from Senators on the following points:

- a. **Response to Senate Materials:** President Eldridge addressed the Senate and read a formal response to the Senate's response to his memo regarding the Resolution on restoring PRAC's functioning.
- b. **Sabbatical Committee:**
  - i. Expressed hope that the Sabbatical Committee can provide flexibility and support faculty applicants.
  - ii. Suggested a Flex activity to assist faculty with the application process.
- c. **Clarifications and Responses to Past Minutes**
  - i. Eresa Puch will move forward with bookstore related work as per the task force's recommendation.
  - ii. Follett will remain next year (relocating to Deedy Hall)
- d. **PRAC and Related Concerns in Faculty Public Comments and other Senate Discussion.** President Eldridge addressed items in a prior public comment as well as past Senate discussions and committee meeting reports from past Senate minutes.
  - i. Stated that PRAC's role has always included hearing from managers and prioritizing requests and this has not changed.
  - ii. In response to a public comment made at a prior Senate meeting, Eldridge will follow up with the concerned faculty member regarding what is routed to PRAC.
  - iii. Stated that he has clearly outlined his decisions and decision-making process in a memo posted on the PRAC website, and that he has communicated this multiple times.
  - iv. Disputed characterization of PRAC processes:
    1. Stated that program review processes have defined structures and have always been routed through GRIT and PRAC.
    2. Stated that concerns about transparency are unclear, noting that recommendations and outcomes are documented annually in memos.
  - v. Addressed additional concerns:
    1. Stated that PRAC has not received line-by-line budgets during his involvement in the committee.
    2. Noted that the one-page Program Review update, suggested in Senate discussions about a new PR template, was already part of prior Program Review materials.
    3. Quoted Senate minutes referring to how "low morale" on PRAC had led the PR Coordinators to come directly to Senate. Eldridge indicated uncertainty about what this vague statement might refer to.
- e. **Plan 2030: President Eldridge** expressed that he was confused by Senate minutes that reported Senators' statements in March, that they had not heard anything about Plan 2030 implementation in any of the groups/departments/programs/committees they were involved in.
- f. **Response to Board Considerations of the Resolution**
  - i. President Eldridge stated that:
    1. The Board supports engaging the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) for more guidance/clarification.
    2. The proposal to pause PRAC guideline revisions shall stand so that further revisions be determined by PRAC, not the Senate.
  - ii. In response to the Senate's request for written rationale from the Board:
    1. Stated that the relevant Board policy requiring written rationale as a response to a resolution applies only to 10+1 matters.
    2. Stated that replacing a PRAC co-chair is an administrative decision and does not fall under 10+1. Therefore, the resolution does not trigger this requirement for written rationale.
  - iii. President Eldridge stated his position on the following regarding collegial consultation of Senate and PRAC:
    1. Collegial consultation applied to the original design of processes, not necessarily to ongoing operational decisions.
    2. Discussion and response can still occur, but not through the formal written rationale mechanism.

iv. On PRAC co-chair dynamics:

1. Stated that co-chairs should consult with one another.
2. Reported reviewing email communications between co-chairs, describing them as demonstrating ongoing collaboration and genuine dialogue rather than exclusion of any one party, as described in the Memo and Resolution.
3. Reaffirmed that more dialogue and communication are the appropriate path forward.
4. Stated that the Senate's role is not to supervise or adjudicate PRAC's internal functioning.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Curriculum (Gina Cullen): reviewed mandatory revisions, emails were effective. New ADTs were discussed.
- b. PR working group (Logan Wood): very close to finalizing new template to bring to next chairs meeting. Can bring to Senate next week, with feedback from chairs, for more feedback from Senate.

VII. **PRAC Update:** President Coulson has been communicating with faculty on PRAC, everyone decided to try, had a proposed to agenda, was going back and forth with the co-chair (who didn't see a need to give time for individual comments, and hopes that there will be a meeting next week. There is one empty faculty seat on PRAC.

- a. Senators discussed President Eldridge's comments about Program Review and the one-page midterm update. The Senate reiterated the desire to *improve* that update so that it functions and is helpful, because this has not previously been the case. Senators voiced their right to review and revise documents and processes, and their responsibility to make adjustments rather than point to written policies. Flexibility and a culture of planning should include the ability to listen to those at the forefront of the work, and to pivot accordingly.
- b. Senators wondered if, as previously believed, PRAC forms part of the process for institutional budget development. This would put PRAC within Senate's purview.

VIII. **Sabbatical:** VP King will follow up with union regarding questions about process that are not limited to the presence or lack of a chair.

IX. **FSA/discipline/ETUM lists:** President Coulson was pulled into a meeting about matters that appear to be negotiated and outside of 10+1. Updated lists will take more time to be completed, according to Mia Robertshaw.

X. **Flex hours for hiring committees:** President Coulson has reached out to Beth Patel to learn more about this. Another update should be forthcoming.

XI. **Senate Elections:** Positions up for election: Maria Coulson, Dave King, Kyle Beattie, Gina Cullen, Ian Sethre, Rebecca Beal, Ron Oxford (5 FT, 2 PT). Candidates must be nominated or self-nominate. Nominations call will be due mid-April.

XII. **Resolutions** — deferred.

XIII. **Everything else** — deferred.

XIV. **Adjourned:** 2:00.