

## COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

April 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM

LOCATION: AC 303 and  
Hyatt Regency Wine Country  
170 Railroad Street  
Santa Rosa, CA, US 95401

**Senators Present:** Maria Coulson, Gina Cullen, Luna Finlayson, Alex Jones, Dave King, Cara Kreit, Kevin Muller, Ron Oxford, Caitlin Rolston

**Senators Absent:** Rebecca Beal, Kyle Beattie, Kristin Perrone, LyRyan Russell (arrived late), Ian Sethre, Logan Wood

- I. **Agenda: Approved** (Coulson/Oxford)
- II. **Minutes (April 2):** Edited and Approved (Cullen/Coulson) by roll call vote: Ayes — Coulson, Cullen, Finlayson, Jones, King, Kreit, Muller, Rolston; Abstains — Oxford; Absent — Beal, Beattie, Perrone, Russell, Sethre, Wood.
- III. **Public Requests:** None
- IV. **Officers' Reports**
  - a. **President:**
    - i. **Equivalency (EQ) Process:** President Coulson met with HR regarding the equivalency process. She noted that the EQ committee is effectively made responsible for hiring decisions because of the current process of emergency hiring, wherein a potential faculty member is sought out and found by a chair before their qualifications can be evaluated; however, the EQ committee does not evaluate the candidate's qualifications other than their education and possession of the minimum degree(s). The Senate's position is that responsibility for hiring and selecting should rest with the discipline/area, not the EQ committee, and that the current process is problematic. This is an ongoing concern.
    - ii. **HR Visit to Senate:** President Coulson followed up with HR about why a representative attended the prior Senate meeting. It appears that the FSA/discipline list discussion prompted curiosity about what was said at Senate on this topic.
  - b. **Vice President:**
    - i. **Senate Elections:** Elections are coming up. Nomination email will go out Friday 4/10. Five full-time seats and two part-time seats are up for election. Unfilled seats can always be filled by appointment.
    - ii. **Sabbatical Committee:** VP King exchanged emails with UPM President regarding the Sabbatical Committee, asking whether the Senate wants the chair to be faculty. Senators agreed that the chair should be faculty. The Senate also requested that VP King communicate to UPM the need for administrative accountability for timelines, process, and communication.
    - iii. **PlayLab AI:** Opportunity for faculty interested in AI development. Contact Dave King or Ron Oxford for more information.
    - iv. **ASCCC New/Newly Elected Leaders Institute:** April 30–May 1 (Thursday–Friday). Funding may be available to cover attendance.
    - v. **PGS Self-Evaluation:** The committee self-reflection form has gone out. Individual reflection is also an option. PGS chairs should be informing committee members.
- V. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **PRAC (Luna Finlayson):** A PRAC meeting was held. President Coulson had to leave early. VP Emerson requested to record the meeting; no one objected, and the recording proceeded. VP Emerson brought up the issue of committee membership, noting that many members had served beyond two years. Committee members understand that this was being mentioned as a problem. Committee members expressed concern about the phrasing of this point, and questioned the implication that term limits should apply, when they are not standard practice on any committee at COM. 2-year term appointments allow membership to turn over as interests and availability shift, and repeat terms allow the possibility of continuity. During the meeting, PRAC discussed adding meetings to the calendar. The administrative co-chair was reminded that the committee has made an effort not to overlap with The Campus Policing and Public Safety Advisory Council meetings.
- VI. **ASCCC Resolutions Packet:** The distributed packet includes resolutions on dual enrollment, noncredit pathways to credit, several on AI and distance education, a few on Senate governance, one on math pedagogy, and one on

accessibility and UDL. Senators were encouraged to review the packet and email VP King with any strong positions, as the vote takes place on Saturday.

## **VII. PRAC and Program Review**

### **a. PRAC:**

- i. Due to ongoing scheduling conflicts, President Coulson expressed a desire to appoint a designee to represent her at PRAC meetings. Action: Approved by consensus. Meg Pasquel will be designated Co-Chair of PRAC going forward. President Coulson will remain on PRAC as a voting member. Coulson confirmed she would watch recorded sessions if voting occurred after she needed to leave for her afternoon class, and would not miss votes under the current schedule.
- ii. The Senate has questions regarding the Board's response to the Resolution on restoring PRAC's functioning. The Senate noted that President Eldridge appeared to possess information about the Board's position that the Senate does not have direct access to, and expressed uncertainty about what reflects the Board's stance versus his own. Eldridge had verbally conveyed to President Coulson and VP King that he had asked the Board whether they approved of the requests in the Resolution, and was told that they did not.

### **b. Program Review Template (Alex Jones / Logan Wood):**

- i. A draft was circulated of the updated PR template. Progress is going well; chairs have reviewed it, responded positively, and want to continue working with facilitators. The working group will continue to edit and add to the Professional Development section, consulting with PLC, as well as on Section 6 (student feedback). Senators were asked to review the draft and provide feedback before the next meeting. One more check-in with chairs and coordinators is planned. Over the summer, the template will be transferred into Insights as a fillable form. The longer-term vision is to complete the full program review and then do an annual one-pager update each year, rather than waiting for the four-year cycle, in order to capture and track data on an ongoing basis.
- ii. **Senate Discussion — PR Facilitator Committee Structure:** The group discussed how to structure PR facilitator work. One suggestion was that the PR facilitators be acting members of relevant committees, to support departments more specifically in those areas (e.g., a curriculum liaison for CC-related sections, a GRIT liaison for data sections). On committees, members sometimes spend considerable time interpreting PRs, an issue that could potentially be avoided by committee support from the beginning. Proposed: four to five section-specific facilitators. Concerns raised included scheduling feasibility and potential gaps in coverage. Alternatives discussed: a smaller set (e.g., just one GRIT and one Curriculum person), case-by-case assignment depending on department needs, or rotating facilitators by semester depending on which programs are going through review. Some department chairs had mentioned the value of outside-discipline eyes on their work. Senators also noted that learning from failure is not necessarily a bad thing, although there is also the issue of incomplete or late PRs with no consequences. A question arose about whether a standing committee would trigger the Brown Act (DEC and Curriculum are subject to it); the current working group structure does not. The Senate considered a potential bench of individuals assigned as needed, rather than a standing committee. The Senate also revisited the idea of Senate purview regarding Program Review — overseeing the process from start and finish, so that Senate may advocate for resource allocation later, based on program review outcomes. Senator Jones suggested trying a standing committee structure for the first year and adjusting from there. The facilitators may also stay on for now as working group, with just two members. To be continued.
- iii. The template will be distributed as a Word document so that departments can complete without concern about autosave issues, later copy/paste into the form.
- iv. The working group meets on the 17th; feedback is requested before then.

**VIII. Consent Agenda:** Resolution Affirming Resolutions was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. No action taken.

**IX. Adjourned:** 2:00 PM

For more information about COM Academic Senate Minutes, contact Senate Secretary Caitlin Rolston, [crolston@marin.edu](mailto:crolston@marin.edu)