

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

August 27, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45PM

LOCATION: DDH 241

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

Senators Absent: None

Invited Guests: Jon Horinek

- I. **Agenda:** Approved (Wood/Muller)
- II. **Minutes from 5/14:** Amended and Approved (Muller/Perrone)
- III. **New Senator Appointed:** Dave Patterson appointed by unanimous assent.
- IV. **Officers' Reports:**
 - a. President Coulson: reported on Summer Senate activities and concerns:
 - i. After hearing from faculty and discovering her own concerns, met with incoming UPM president Tim Wat, who shared and elaborated on CBA encroachments in the job description for the Dean of Arts and Humanities. A joint memo was sent to HR on July 6 outlining these concerns, and further discussion with administration/HR has not yet occurred. President Coulson noted that, unrelated to the subject matter of the meeting, she was looking forward to Senate sharing a more collaborative partnership with the Faculty union, including a member serving on both Union Executive Council and Senate, as well as an open invitation for the UPM president to have agenda time at Senate meetings.
 - ii. Screening committees — 9 screening committees opened needing faculty after Spring graduation. Many of the positions were classified or non-instructional, making it acceptable to forego faculty participation, but HR was informed that earlier Spring notification would result in more reliable faculty presence on screening committees over the Summer or Fall. There are 3 current FT faculty searches for Library, English, and Math.
 - iii. The approval for specialty courses, which are courses that require specific and specialized knowledge/training and thus bypass general ETUM lists, are moving to the purview of the Curriculum Committee, where they were once housed under UDWC. These courses and the rules to be followed have been covered by MOUs in the past, many of which are expired and need updating.
 - iv. ASCCC will conduct a Collegiality In Action (CIA) visit at COM September 11th. There is a survey they want attendees to fill out that will be forwarded to Senators. It is anonymous. COM's AS Flex session on 10+1 was postponed 10+1; we haven't had a 10+1 visit from ASCCC in some time. President Coulson has contacted Area B representative Mark Edward Osea the AO from Mendocino College, and Eric Wada (Biology/ Folsom College). They will attend the Senate meeting next week and have requested that Senators share with them some scenarios that happened, give their advice and interpretation of the issues COM is facing, with the intended outcome of allowing Senators be clear and empowered to advocate for 10+1 and Senate purview. The survey seems to imply that the meeting on September 11th is solely about PGS, and the Senate has shared on many occasions we are concerned about the waning respect of the 10+1 purview of the Senate
 - b. VP: Gina Cullen
 - i. Reiterated that concerns regarding Academic Senate and Senate Purview are not about specific people, but rather Title V (Ed Code) and California state law, or 10+1. She was recently asked by

a faculty member of PRAC about what can be done to let faculty know how to support the Senate in its state-mandated role.

- ii. Climate Justice Institute [Just Transition: Academic Academy for Climate Justice and Action Tickets, Friday, October 23-Saturday, October 24 • 9 AM-12 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- iii. ASCCC is looking for committee members: [Volunteer to Serve form](#).

iv. Upcoming Webinars

- 1. **September 29**, Preparing for the Unexpected: Emergency Continuity Planning for Online Courses [Preparing for the Unexpected: Emergency Continuity Planning for Online Courses | ASCCC](#)
October 29, AI Syllabus Statements: Building Transparency, Trust, and Shared Responsibility [AI Syllabus Statements: Building Transparency, Trust, and Shared Responsibility | ASCCC](#)
November 9, Beyond Compliance: Building Sustainable, Regular, and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Through Faculty Leadership and Professional Development [Beyond Compliance: Building Sustainable, Regular, and Substantive Interaction \(RSI\) Through Faculty Leadership and Professional Development | ASCCC](#)
- 2. **ADA Title II: What Educators Need to Know Series**
- 3. **Sept. 18, 2026 • Noon–1 p.m.** — ADA Title II Update: What Faculty Need to Know — [Register](#) (**Recommended by Sara Malmquist-West**)
- 4. **Oct. 7, 2026 • 9–10 a.m.** — From Compliance to Culture: Reframing Accessibility through UDL — [Register](#)

II. Committee reports

- a. PRAC (Maria Coulson): Over the summer, President Eldridge requested a meeting with PRAC cochair, as well as classified and faculty senate presidents, to discuss concerns about the faculty leadership of PRAC related to personality and process. That meeting occurred the Friday of Flex Week. Attendees were: Jonathan Eldridge, Meg Pasquel, Dana Emerson, Maria Coulson, Sally Wong, and Luna Finlayson. Though Eldridge did not give specifics about the concerns he had received, he did say they had come from all constituents represented on PRAC, and that they included: 1. A rumor that faculty was meeting without anyone else from PRAC (note: this did not occur). 2. A complaint that meetings should have been in person (note: VP Emerson changed the meetings to Zoom). And 3) the fact that HUM101 had been mentioned in a PRAC meeting (it came up as part of the English Chair's presentation about needs in that department). Many PRAC members, both classified and faculty, have come to Cochair Pasquel and President Coulson personally to ask how they can help and thank them for their continued efforts to restore PRAC's functionality. However, Eldridge informed them that PRAC members were afraid to go directly to Professor Pasquel and President Coulson to share concerns about leadership because of "retribution." The meeting left the members of PRAC in attendance confused because the narrative was in conflict with conversations and interactions between all the faculty and classified professionals.
- b. Cochair Pasquel shared a plan for PRAC for the fall semester in her absence that she and President Coulson worked on over the summer.
- c. Professor Pasquel is on Sabbatical; a new PRAC Faculty Cochair will be sought. Two faculty PRAC seats also need to be filled. Senators considered what to do if no faculty member is willing to serve in the Cochair role. No immediate answers were forthcoming.
- d. Curriculum (Gina Cullen) – CourseDog implementation is underway, as is an updated mandatory revision list.
- e. Equivalency committee – The ad-hoc committee, will consist of Maria Coulson, Gina Cullen, LyRyan Russel, Dave King, and Alex Jones. Rebecca Beal will replace Dave King while he is gone on Sabbatical.

- f. A grade change petition has reached the level of the Academic Senate and a College Petitions Committee has been formed to review the situation.

III. AP/BPs

- a. 4101 Independent Study – Edited and approved (Muller/Wood). Small change clarified when contracts must be submitted, to solve the problem of requests coming in at the end of the semester.
- b. 4100 Catalog Rights — deferred for more discussion.
- c. 5012 International Students -- Approved with edits (Perrone/Beal). Required changes were made due to Trump administration F1 visa requirement updates (4 years maximum to complete a degree. Timeline was indefinite in the past. There is a high cost and no guarantee to apply to extend. This impacts a small percentage of ESL SS. Also updated: new requirements for placement. International students must be deemed ready for college level English via TOEFL, Pearson, or a holistic review by the College (not COM's CELSA).

IV. New and Future Business:

- a. New building (CSS) AC and ventilation issues (smell in downstairs classrooms),
- b. Kentfield fire and COM power outage occurred Wednesday night with no emergency alerts
- c. Sabbatical Committee members have not yet heard about committee duties, timelines, or ways to plan, evaluate, and revise a process which, last year, was disappointing to both the committee and some applicants. Applications are due October 1. A prior Sabbatical committee appointee stated that in the past, the committee met at least 4 times in Fall to evaluate applications and support faculty applicants with revisions.

Comments, concerns, or questions regarding Academic Senate Minutes
may be directed to the Academic Senate Secretary, Caitlin Rolston:

CRolston@marin.edu