

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:47 PM

LOCATION: DH SS 241

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

Senators Absent: None

Invited Guests: Dr. April Beech

- I. **Agenda:** Approved (Perrone/Muller)
- II. **Minutes from 9/10:** Approved (Muller/Perrone)
- III. **Officers:**
 - a. **President**
 - i. Thanked Senators for attending the ASCCC Collegiality in Action (CIA) visit on September 11.
 - ii. President Eldridge has contacted President Coulson about beginning work on the PGS plan. President Coulson will consult with the Senate before responding on next steps.
 - iii. Attended the BOG meeting and the Board of Trustees meeting, and reported on the Senate's visit with Mark Edward Osea and Eric Wada. Dr. Eldridge reported on the CIA visit.
 - iv. Met with DE representatives (see agenda item below).
 - v. Consulted with Area B Representative Mark Edward Osea and Eric Wada following the CIA visit.
 - b. **Vice President**
 - i. **ADA Title II: What Faculty Need to Know**
Friday, September 18, 12:00-1:00 pm. This webinar will provide a practical overview of the updated requirements. Participants will receive clear guidance, examples from fellow faculty members, and practical steps they can begin taking now. Beyond compliance, this work is about equity and ensuring that every student can fully participate and succeed. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
 - ii. Corresponded with Trustee Trainor following the CIA visit regarding the Senate's recent resolution and its role in communicating Senate concerns. She thanked Trustee Trainor for understanding the gravity of the situation that had led to the resolution read before the Board.
- IV. **Committees**
 - a. **PRAC (Luna Finlayson):** The next PRAC meeting was scheduled in person, but members expressed concern about in person only meetings only. The Senate recommends that PRAC membership be polled on meeting time and location; the committee previously met Tuesdays at 2:00 PM on Zoom.
- V. **ASCCC Collegiality in Action (CIA) Visit — Discussion:**
 - a. Senators discussed the CIA visit, which included an overview of 10+1 and discussion of scenarios and concerns related to shared governance and campus climate.
 - b. Senators discussed President Eldridge's request to move forward on the PGS plan. Senators raised concerns about the conditions for productive collaboration and discussed options, including bringing in an outside facilitator to guide the PGS process. Discussion to continue.
- VI. **Minimum Qualifications — Nursing Clinical Faculty (Dr. April Beech):**
 - a. The Chancellor's Office sets statewide minimum qualifications; colleges may add local qualifications to job postings. In 2018, a BSN was added as a local qualification for clinical positions.
 - b. Current local minimum qualifications: BSN, two years of experience, and one year of full-time work within the last five years.
 - c. Recruiting clinical instructors has become difficult because clinical nursing pays more than teaching. Working nurses whom the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) would approve have not qualified at COM because they lack a bachelor's degree, and specialty courses lack enough faculty qualified to instruct in clinical facilities.
 - d. The Nursing department has requested removing the BSN requirement to expand the pool of potential clinical teaching assistants. SRJC and other area community colleges have adopted this model. The position title will change from "clinical instructor" to "clinical teaching assistant."
 - e. The Board of Registered Nurses evaluates qualifications directly, including supervisor interviews, evaluations, and work history; COM cannot hire candidates the BoRN does not approve.

- f. Motion to approve changes (Perrone/Cullen). Approved; no nays, no abstentions. President Coulson will notify HR.
- VII. **Distance Education:** The Senate was asked for its opinion on removing DE from Academic Senate purview. Senators opposed the change, affirming that DE must remain under Senate purview.
- VIII. **Adjourned:** 2:00 pm.

Comments, concerns, or questions regarding Academic Senate Minutes may be directed to the Academic Senate Secretary, Caitlin Rolston: CRolston@marin.edu