

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:47 PM

LOCATION: DH SS 241

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

Senators Absent: Cara Kreit

Invited Guests: None

- I. **Agenda:** Approved (Patterson/Nelson)
- II. **Minutes from 9/17:** Approved as amended (Perrone/Finlayson)
- III. **Public Requests:** None
- IV. **Officers' Reports:**
 - a. **President Coulson:**
 - i. GRC needs faculty. Wendy Boelke (Biology) cannot continue due to a scheduling conflict. Blaze Woodlief is on it, and Dave King will return in the Spring. The inclination is to meet the last Thursday of the month, 2–3 PM, via Zoom.
 - ii. Equivalency Committee on Math will meet next week. Gina Cullen, Alex Jones, and Maria Coulson volunteered.
 - iii. Biology department: a wet lab at IVC would mean courses could be taught there, which was met with enthusiasm. The department also wants to grant credit for the AP Biology exam. These shifts in department culture could be transformative for the department and for students.
 - iv. Foundation Board meeting: new group of people, matching \$10 million, and a new branding firm. The branding is excellent and speaks to the juxtaposition of wealth and need in Marin County.
 - b. **Acting VP Cullen:**
 - i. Gina Cullen and Maria Coulson will meet with President Eldridge on Monday to follow up on the CIA visit. Senators discussed what approach to take in addressing both the CIA visit and PGS plan revisions.
 - ii. **We Saved You a Seat at the Table—Join a Committee!**
We're committed to broad, inclusive representation. Encourage your colleagues—especially those from underserved groups—to get involved. Submit your [Volunteer to Serve form](#).
 - iii. **Work-Based Learning in the California Community Colleges 2026 Update**
The 2026 update highlights faculty's role in connecting curriculum and instruction to real-world skills and career opportunities. Explore more of the [updated resource on the ASCCC webpage](#).
 - iv. VP Emerson wants an ad hoc committee for the Title 5 changes to CORs and sent the proposal to Gina and Tim Wat. PGS and Curriculum Committee will be overseeing the required changes. Tim Wat identified a few 10+1 and funding issues in the work, but collaborative exchange was an example of a path forward for Senate, Union, and Administration working together collegially.
- V. **Committees:**
 - a. **Department Chairs:** In her role as AS President, Maria emailed all chairs to recommend faculty for seats on EPC. There are 7 seats but only one faculty member on it.
 - b. **PRAC:** Email discussions about meeting modality continued, and when the committee met in person, President Coulson raised question of meeting time and mode. The charge and responsibilities of PRAC were read, and Coulson identified that on page 13 of the charge it is stated: if members can't make a meeting, they should teleconference. The committee also wanted

to be sensitive to classified members who have a stop hour. PRAC landed on meeting via Zoom during Fall and sent out a survey with options; Mondays at 2 looks like the preferred option.

- i. The committee needs to put together a rubric and template.
- ii. PRAC needs another faculty member.
- iii. Still seeking a faculty Co-Chair.

- c. **Sabbatical (Luna Finlayson):** Will meet next Tuesday. UPM Reps will be Shaquam Edwards and Carl Freschl, Senate Reps Luna Finlayson and Caitlin Rolston, Administrators Grace Yuan, Alina Varona, and Dana Emerson acting for SMN Dean until an interim is hired.

VI. **Program Review:** Facilitators Sara Malmquist-West, Alex Jones, Logan Wood, and Wendy Boelke are working with Art, Math, and Business to test the new template as they run through the PR process. They are scheduling 4 meetings with each department group doing PR: 2 in October, another in November, and another in Spring after GRIT and PRAC give feedback.

- a. First meeting covers the first two sections: tell the story of your department and its connection to the mission of the college. It's not just about data. What are you doing well, and what do you need support in? Notable achievements, including innovative ideas and teaching.
- b. Sections 3–4 are data: Access and Curriculum.
- c. The third meeting looks at SLO outcomes, aided by PRIE, along with effectiveness and student feedback.
- d. Before Meeting 4, PR goes to GRIT and PRAC for feedback. Curriculum could take a look in Spring. Departments add the feedback to the last section (Section 7), reflect and address it, and put it into their four-year goals.
- e. One-year plan: every year the program should do a one-year annual update to reflect on its four-year goals. The deans already do an annual update, so this formalizes a path for faculty feedback to be sought and included.
- f. Logistics: departments will fill it out in a Word doc, bypassing formatting difficulties and saving for their own archives. PR coordinators will upload it into Insights.
- g. PR facilitators meet on Fridays and will meet with departments as needed.
- h. PR facilitators will provide GRIT and PRAC a prompt. In addition, the hope is that PR facilitators will be sitting on those committees (PRAC, GRIT, Curriculum), and they can help answer questions about intent and content of the PR because they will have been involved in writing and reviewing the documents.

VII. **DE request to leave Senate purview:** Last week Gina, Maria, Cari Torres, Stacey Winkler, and Stephanie Canon met to discuss the intersections and needs related to technology, DE, TPC, and instructional equipment needs, which need reshuffling. DE is a subcommittee of the Senate; policy and curriculum belong to AS. How much a POCR reviewer gets paid isn't Senate purview, and the DE Coordinator handles that. Gina and Maria wanted to take the ask seriously and think it through, so Senators continued their discussion from last week, landing on keeping DE as a Senate subcommittee. However, some other solutions were proposed

- a. Ideas included making Stacey Winkler and Ephantus Mogere voting members even though they are not faculty, or simply adding faculty seats to make it easier to achieve quorum at an in-person meeting. As of now, quorum can't be reached on campus and Zoom meetings for Brown Act committees require public disclosure of location.
- b. The Senate selects the chair of a Senate subcommittee, and the Senate needs control over units.
- c. The DE committee will be agendized next week to look at membership and charge and consider changes that will allow it to remain under Senate purview, but also increase functionality.

VIII. **Adjourned:** 2:02 PM

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