

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

October 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 12:47 PM

LOCATION: DDH SS 241

Emergency Zoom Link (due to illness):

<https://marin-edu.zoom.us/j/84221921332>

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

Senators Absent: Dave Patterson

Invited Guests: Steve Carerra, Ingrid Kelly

- I. **Agenda:** Approved (Muller/Finlayson)
- II. **Minutes from 9/24:** Approved (Finlayson/Perrone)
- III. **Officers' Reports:**
 - a. **President:**
 - i. A class has been without an instructor since September 4th. 70 students are impacted, and it is a required transfer course. Students have expressed concern. To be continued.
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **PLC (Invited Guest: Steve Carerra):** Gave an update on Flex activities. PLC has sent an email updating faculty on their obligations and hours completed. Flex Week of Fall 2026 had the most sessions ever recorded, but there were scheduling conflicts. The committee would like to offer sessions throughout the semester and be more intentional about what is presented, with sessions that are more collaborative than lecture-based. Regarding faculty inquiries into what is and is not considered for Flex credit, Carerra says he hopes we can value conversations we have as colleagues beyond formal sessions. The committee also wants to discuss AI, the use of the PLDC, and Plan 2030. It hopes to bring speakers to present in PLDC and is considering funding; the budget is \$20k this year. The committee meets every other week, and the chairs meet every week.
 - i. The committee chair determines what qualifies for Flex credit.
 - ii. A speaker is lined up to support faculty with Title II accessibility requirements and the Title 5 changes.
 - iii. PLC does not pay faculty to present or participate in PDLC activities; that is a union matter.
 - iv. Senators suggested PLC attend a Chairs meeting for input from departments.
 - b. **DEC (Invited Guest: Ingrid Kelly, DEC Chair and DE Coordinator):** Explained what DEC does and what it is requesting. DEC functions as a working group: rubric crosswalks for POCR, peer mentoring, and compliance with required training. Meetings are usually monthly but often lack quorum; it is a small committee, and Brown Act requirements are inhibiting the work currently. DEC would like to become an advisory group. Anything curriculum-related would go to Curriculum, and Board Policies to the Academic Senate.
 - i. POCR standards are changing, which will be a significant lift affecting many faculty.
 - ii. DEC rarely votes on items; at most, a vote would be to forward something to the Senate.
 - iii. Senators raised concern that the committee needs specific people, and that it remain under Senate control.
 - iv. A possible model: an advisory group that meets regularly, and an Brown Act-covered Senate subcommittee that is ad hoc and convenes when something needs approval or forwarding to the Senate. To be considered: additional voting members (non faculty if needed). The Senate would need to revise DEC's charge. Regular reports to the Senate would be beneficial in this process. Will investigate legality further.
 - c. **ASEC/Equivalency (Maria Coulson):** The committee functions with a quorum of 3 of 5 members, and President Coulson commended her colleagues' thoughtful, fair, and unbiased evaluations of minimum qualifications.
 - i. For Math, approved 1 of 3 applications (appeal window is open).
 - ii. Library: 1 did not meet minimum qualifications in the discipline.
 - iii. Ethnic Studies: 1 which was not approved (appeal window is open).

- iv. Following the Ethnic Studies review, VP Emerson requested a meeting with Senate President Coulson to discuss the ASEC process in the case of a specific dire need for an instructor. President Coulson declined, citing the appearance of undue influence, and noted the applicant's right to appeal. Equivalency must be grounded in documented minimum qualifications; if COM were audited and problems found, students could lose credit.

V. **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