



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: LRC 250 COMMUNITY ROOM

Guests may attend on Zoom: <https://ccd-edu.zoom.us/j/83068916663> | Meeting ID: 830 6891 6663
Meeting documents are also available in the [AS SharePoint](#) (CCCD login required)

Mission: The Golden West College Academic Senate’s mission is to serve its faculty, promote the best interests of higher education, and to represent the faculty in campus, district, and state-level senate charges by carrying out the primary functions as delineated in the CA Code of Regulations, Title 5, section 53200, which includes both academic and professional matters, and consulting collegially with the local campus and district governing boards. For additional information on the Academic Senate and its mission, please visit the [Academic Senate for California Community Colleges](#).

Vision: The GWC Academic Senate represents all faculty in the shared governance process. We are deeply committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for faculty to express their diverse viewpoints and concerns while maintaining focus on curricular and professional activities. Our campus culture serves to express the collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our faculty invest in their work. The GWC Academic Senate will continue to focus on promoting excellence, access, opportunity, and inclusion on our campus and in our programs.

Please note: All GWC Academic Senate meetings are subject to audio and/or video recording at the Academic Senate’s discretion to maintain a record of the proceedings. Agendas and minutes will be archived in [the Academic Senate’s SharePoint](#).

ACADEMIC SENATE ROLL CALL	
Bold = Executive Board ■ Strikethrough = absent ■ Italics = Zoom ■ Zoom guest = not counted towards quorum	
Jennifer Bailly – CCI Chair	Noah Levin – Liberal Arts & Culture (ANTH, GEOG, GLST, PHIL)
Christy Banales – Classified Senate (<i>non-voting</i>)	Phuong Nguyen – Nursing/Health Professions
Krissy Barone – Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics	Teresa Nguyen – ELL/ESL/GED
Amanda Best – Arts	Teresa Roston – Cosmetology
Pete Bouzar – Mathematics & Engineering	Tiffany Ruggeri Delillo (Comm Studies) – Part-time Faculty At-large
Dawn Brooks – Performing Arts	Matthew Shimazu – Physical Sciences
Annamaria Crescimanno – Vice President Biological Sciences	Herman Singh – Social Sciences (ECON, PSCI, SOC, ETHS)
Laura Duvall – Psychology	Justin Smith – President History & Education
Sharon Fabian – ASGWC (<i>non-voting</i>)	Julie Terrazas – Library
Kate Green (Chemistry) – IPD Chair	Tammie Tran – World Languages (SIGN, INTR, SPAN, VIET)
Damien Jordan – Vice President Counseling & EOPS	Aleksandra Uchlik – Business, Account, Computer Science
John Kasabian – Auto Tech, Digital Arts, Drafting	Michelle Veyette (English PT) – Distance Education Coordinator (<i>non-voting</i>)
Heather Kelley – Communication Studies	Derrick Watkins – Criminal Justice
Theresa Lavarini – English	

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to order – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
- B. Welcome Guests
 - 1. Gisela Verduzco, Dean of Counseling (1:10 pm)
 - 2. Lauren Davis Sosenko, Dean of Institutional Research and Dual Enrollment, and C.J. Bishop, Senior Research Analyst (1:20 pm)
- C. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes
 - 1. Agenda – May 12, 2026. **MOTION** by VP Jordan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Senator Best. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.
 - 2. Minutes – [April 28, 2026](#). VP Jordan informed that the approval of the minutes will be postponed until after Unfinished Business item C-2 is discussed due to a discrepancy in the minutes and the EBoard’s proposed verbiage for the amendment to the Bylaws.
- D. Announcements, Congratulations, and Appreciation

1. Congratulations to Kate Green, Professor of Chemistry, on being named a 2026 Orange County Teacher of the Year by the Orange County Department of Education.
 2. Reminder – May 26, the Academic Senate will meet in the MPR. Lunch will be provided.
 3. Senator Brooks invited attendance of the Music department’s concert performance of Carmina Burana by the GWC Chamber Singers and Symphonic Band with the Long Beach CC Orchestra and Choir on May 20 at 7:30 pm in the Mainstage Theater.
 4. Dean Sosenko commended A&R and the Dual Enrollment team for processing 3,677 concurrent enrollment forms for Summer 2026 and thanked the deans and chairs for adding sections to help meet student demand.
- E. Opportunity for Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker) - Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Academic Senate on any item that has been described in this notice, before or during consideration of the item. We ask that you keep your comments to three minutes. Thank you.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Appointment of faculty members to the following committees and terms:
MOTION by Senator Best to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Senator Kasabian. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

	FACULTY	DISCIPLINE	COMMITTEE	POSITION	TERM
1	Amy Jennings	Psychology	PDAC	IPD designee	2026-28
2	Brian Thill	English	IPD	English – Sub for Keisha Cosand, Fall 2026 Sabbatical Leave	Fall 2026
3	Jason Sheley	Philosophy	Academic Senate	Liberal Arts & Culture – Sub for Noah Levin, Fall 2026 Sabbatical Leave	Fall 2026
4	Michelle Dinger	Communication Studies (PT)	DEAC	Part-time Faculty At-Large	2026-28

III. NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Full and Part-Time Faculty members are encouraged to nominate themselves.
 Visit the [Academic Senate’s Faculty Service Opportunities webpage](#) to view committee openings, review committee descriptions, meeting information, and to submit your nomination. (PATHWAY: GWC Homepage > Quick Links > Academic Senate > Committees – Vacancies & Nominations)

- A. Call for Nominations – DCC BP/AP Subcommittee: Fall 2026 | Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays from 1-2 pm on Zoom
 President Smith reported that a pro-tem appointment is needed to serve on the DCC BP/AP Subcommittee during Senator Levin’s sabbatical leave in Fall 2026. Interested Senators may contact the Senate office.
- B. Call for Nominations – Faculty Coordinators [MOUs](#) | [Nomination Form](#) (open until filled)
- Nursing Assistant Director
 - Umoja Coordinator
- C. Call for Nominations for vacant terms beginning in Fall 2026.
 The initial call is open for ten days (concluded March 4). After that period, positions will stay open until filled, with nominations submitted by noon on the Friday before a Senate meeting will be included on the agenda for committee appointment. Refer to the committee vacancies and nomination spreadsheet to access the nomination forms.
- **Academic Senate** | Term: three years
 - Criminal Justice | 2026-29
 - **Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI)** | Term: three years
 - Art | 2026-29
 - Communication Studies | 2026-29
 - ELL/ESL/GED | 2026-29
 - Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics | 2025-28
 - Mathematics & Engineering | 2026-29
 - Part-time Faculty At-Large | 2025-28
 - **Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC)** | Term: three years unless otherwise specified
 - Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, & Drafting | 2024-27
 - Communication Studies | 2024-27
 - Criminal Justice | 2024-27
 - Psychology | 2026-29
 - **Institute for Professional Development (IPD)** | Term: three years unless otherwise specified
 - Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, Drafting | 2024-27
 - Criminal Justice | 2025-28
 - Library | 2024-27

- **College Technology Committee**
 - DEAC rep | 2025-27
- **Professional Development Advisory Committee**
 - Part-time Faculty At-Large | 2026-27
- **DEIA Committee**
 - English, ELL, ESL | 2026-28

IV. GUEST REPORTS & UPDATES *(max 5 minutes per item; 5-10 minutes total)*

A. ASGWC Report – Sharon Fabian, ASGWC President

Ask Sharon: movie night and casino night.

B. [Technology update](#) – Gisela Verduzco, Dean of Counseling (1:10 pm)

Dean Verduzco presented a technology update on the transition from Starfish to Slate for student communication and early alert functions. She highlighted Slate’s expanded capabilities, including streamlined MAP processing, automated student outreach, form consolidation, event registration management, and early alert support for nursing students. She noted that the Dynamic Forms contract will not be renewed after June 30, and that the transition to Slate will reduce the use of multiple platforms, improve efficiency, and lower annual costs from approximately \$120,000 for Starfish to \$50,000 for Slate.

V. UNFINISHED DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5-10 minutes per item; 10-15 minutes total)*

A. Honors Program update – Damien Jordan, AS Vice President

1. [Honors Program Structure TF Recommendations](#)

VP Jordan provided an update on the Honors Program Task Force, noting continued progress toward final recommendations for approval. Key revisions include changing the certification requirement from a 3.0 GPA to a grade of B or higher in each honors course and allowing flexibility in student research presentations (symposium, paper, or poster format). The group also discussed potential “honors with distinction” recognition tied to service learning, volunteerism, leadership, and broader work-based learning opportunities.

He clarified that concurrent enrollment students may enroll in honors courses, but honors transfer benefits are primarily intended for transfer students, with limited applicability at institutions such as UCLA, underscoring the need for clear student messaging. He also noted that UC Irvine will remove Biological Sciences and Psychology from its TAG program beginning Fall 2027, and indicated that the upcoming Honors Program and HTCC participation may help expand transfer pathways and student opportunities.

2. [Honors Program To Do](#)

VP Jordan provided an overview of remaining tasks needed to support the launch of the Honors Program, including development of faculty and student participation expectations, coordinator roles, faculty training, stipends, website and Canvas infrastructure, student onboarding processes, and marketing efforts. He noted plans to promote the program through outreach events with high schools, campus presentations, and student services channels. Based on the scope of work still required, the committee recommended delaying the program launch from Spring 2027 to Fall 2027 to allow adequate time for planning, training, and program development.

3. [Honors Pilot Program Faculty Interest](#)

VP Jordan shared a list of 20 faculty members interested in participating in the Honors Program pilot, representing a broad range of disciplines, including mathematics, social sciences, arts and humanities, and public speaking. He noted that the pilot group will help test program implementation and discussed prioritizing certain high-demand courses, such as public speaking, calculus, statistics, and sociology, for early curriculum approval through CCI to support future honors course offerings.

B. [AS Resolution – Catalog Rights for Dual Enrollment Students](#), 2nd reading – Damien Jordan, AS Vice President

VP Jordan reported that the resolution is being held for continued review to ensure it clears CCI and that all related recommendations move forward together. He noted that no vote has taken place yet and that the item remains in second reading, pending completion of the review process.

C. Faculty Prioritization – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President

1. Ratings: [Faculty Request Form, 3rd Reading](#) | [Updated Rubric Changes](#)

VP Crescimanno reported updates to the Faculty Prioritization process following feedback from the last Senate meeting. The workgroup revised the Faculty Request form by removing Title V/accreditation criteria and adjusting the rubric and scoring accordingly. The Q&A section was modified to allow faculty flexibility in how they use their time, rather than a fixed presentation/Q&A split. A new rubric component was also added for a “wildcard/miscellaneous” question, using a five-level scale from minimal to critical contribution, with scoring guidance specifying zero points when no relevant response is provided.

MOTION by VP Crescimanno to approve the Faculty Request Form and updated Rubric as presented. Seconded by VP Jordan. The votes were counted as (20) Ayes: Bailly, Barone, Best, Bouzar, Crescimanno, Duvall, Green, Jordan, Kasabian, Kelley, Lavarini, Levin, Roston, Ruggeri Dilello, Shimazu, Singh, Smith, Terrazas, Tran. (0) Nays. (1) Abstention: Uchlik. The motion passed.

2. [Amendment to the AS Bylaws](#), Article 1: Structure and Composition, Section 3-H-ii: Membership of the Academic Senate/Additional Senate Members

Senator Levin raised concerns regarding the current Bylaws language on the voting status of Academic Senate Standing Committee Chairs (IPD and CCI), which states that if a chair is also a Senator, they would have one vote representing their respective standing committee's voice. He recommended revising this language so that, when a chairperson is also serving as a Senator, their vote should be as the Senator's voice representing their respective academic area, rather than being tied to committee leadership. Senator Kasabian echoed concerns, stating that the current Bylaws create redundant chairperson voting and unnecessary complexity.

President Smith convened a task force of Senators to revise the Bylaws in response to concerns raised, with the revised language to be brought back for continued discussion at the next meeting. The proposed amendment will follow established Bylaws approval procedures, with a final vote anticipated in the Fall.

VI. NEW DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5 minutes per item; 5-10 minutes total)*

- A. Role of AS in addressing systemic inequity and institutional barriers as it pertains to academic and professional matters - Acknowledgement * Accountability * Action
 1. [Program Review Organizational Annual Plan 2026](#) – Lauren Davis Sosenko, Dean of Institutional Research and Dual Enrollment (1:20 pm)
Dean Sosenko presented a list of proposed authors for Program Review, noting that certain areas were combined, including Math with Engineering and Astronomy with Physics. Senator Best requested that Art and Photography also be combined. Additional requests for adjustments may be submitted to Dean Sosenko.
 2. [AI Task Force Recommendations](#) – Noah Levin, Academic Senator
Senator Levin reported on the AI Task Force recommendations. **MOTION** by VP Crescimanno to approve the AI Task Force Recommendations as presented and the continuation of the AI Task Force. Seconded by Senator Duvall. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.
- B. Other Agenda Requests

VII. STANDING DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5 minutes)*

- A. Program Review
- B. AI (Artificial Intelligence)
- C. 10 + 1

VIII. REPORTS & UPDATES *(max 3 minutes per report; total time 15 minutes (@ 2:45 pm)*

Electronic copies of written reports are due to the Senate Office by Thursday at 5:00 pm the week preceding the meeting for which the report is attached to the agenda.

- A. AS President's Report – Justin Smith
 - President Smith reminded that the Senate's final meeting will be held in the MPR and consist of the distribution of awards, followed by regular Senate business.
 - He informed that the discussion on part-time faculty office hours is on hold until negotiations.
 - The recent cybersecurity incident involving Canvas resulted in a ransom payment, but the full extent of the breach has not been fully determined.
 - The Single District Transcript is organized by colleges, not by classes. This will eventually be revised but will require funding. Single District Transcripts will be available in Fall 2026.
- B. AS Vice Presidents' Reports – Damien Jordan and Annamaria Crescimanno (no reports)
- C. Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI) – Jennifer Bailly, Chair
 - Chair Bailly noted that CCI is working on catalog language revisions, which will be brought back to their next meeting. CCI is finalizing the handbook and its policy and procedures. Emails were sent to Department Chairs and CCI representatives regarding local degrees impacted by CCN.
- D. Institute for Professional Development (IPD) – Kate Green, Chair
 - Chair Green congratulated Hailey White (English) on receiving the Academic Senate Award for Teaching Excellence (aka: Part-time Faculty Teacher of the Year).
 - Faculty were encouraged to submit their applications by the final IPD agenda deadline of May 15 for summer and early September conferences and salary advancement credits projects, noting that it is easier to adjust approved plans than to start the process late.
- E. Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) – Michelle Veyette, DE Coordinator

- Coordinator Veyette recommended the Online Teaching Conference taking place on June 23-25 in Anaheim. Faculty may apply for IPD conference funding.
 - She referred the faculty to review the VPI’s recent email regarding best practices to involve working past the Canvas shutdown. She recommended against relocating their virtual classroom should this ever happen again.
 - The Canvas Header was updated, which will make it easier to customize.
 - RSI Zero module on Canvas is now available via Commons. Search “Veyette” – there is a basic version and a design plus.
- F. Union Update – Theresa Lavarini, CFE Executive Director
- Senator Lavarini encouraged the faculty to complete the survey from CFE regarding Union Priorities.
 - Trustee Liz Parker will be visiting CFE.
 - Trustee Moreno is not returning in the Fall. Sergio Contreras is a possible replacement. She highlighted that Mr. Contreras attended GWC and OCC and credited the Puente program with supporting his success. He earned his AA and Master’s in Public Administration and expressed strong support for community colleges. He is also known in Westminster, Huntington Beach, and Garden Grove. Ms. Fabian, ASGWC President, expressed her endorsement of Mr. Contreras.
- G. Special Reports (as requested by Academic Senate)
- [DCC Technology Subcommittee Report by Shawn Taylor](#)
- H. Information Item

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Move to Adjourn. Thank You! – Senate President
President Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:22 pm.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Senate Scholarship Fund Balance: Endowed balance: \$7,417. Recommended 2025-26 scholarship: \$500 (*Contact the Foundation Office to submit donations*)
- B. Senate Sympathy and Salutations Fund – (*Senators may contact the Foundation Office to submit donations*)
- C. 10+1 Senate Purview
1. Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines (*rely primarily*)
 2. Degree and certificate requirements (*rely primarily*)
 3. Grading policies (*mutually agree*)
 4. Educational program development (*rely primarily*)
 5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success (*rely primarily*)
 6. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles (*mutually agree*)
 7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports (*rely primarily*)
 8. Policies for faculty professional development activities (*rely primarily*)
 9. Processes for program review (*rely primarily*)
 10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development (*mutually agree*)
 11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate (*mutually agree*)