ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
MEETING LOCATION: LRC 250 COMMUNITY ROOM
Guests may attend on Zoom: https://cccd-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**	*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, ES)
Laura Duvall – Psychology	**Justin Smith – President | History & Education**
Sharon Fabian – ASGWC *(non-voting)*	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 (MGMT, MKTG)
John Kasabian – Auto Tech, Digital Arts, Drafting	Michelle Veyette (English PT) – Distance Education Coordinator *(non-voting)*
Heather Kelley – Communication Studies	Derrick Watkins – Criminal Justice
Theresa Lavarini – English	VACANT – Classified Senate *(non-voting)*
Noah Levin – Liberal Arts & Culture (ANTH, GEOG, GLST, PHIL)	VACANT – Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics
Phuong Nguyen – Nursing/Health Professions	

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to order – Justin Smith, AS President
   President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
B. Welcome Guests
   1. Welcome back, Senators Kelley and Watkins. Welcome, new Senators Roston and Singh.
   2. Michelle Veyette, Distance Education Coordinator (1:10 pm)
C. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes
   MOTION by Senator Bouzar to approve the agenda and minutes as presented. Seconded by Senator Duvall. Hearing no objection, the motion passed.
   1. Agenda – February 10, 2026
   2. Minutes – December 9, 2025
D. Announcements, Congratulations, and Appreciation
   Dean Brooks announced that, due to Dean Miranda's retirement, the Distance Education department now reports to her and has relocated to the first floor of the LASS building. The Social Services department reports to Dean Johnson.

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:
MOTION by VP Jordan to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Senator Lavarini. Hearing no objection, the motion passed.

	FACULTY	DISCIPLINE	COMMITTEE	POSITION	TERM
1	**Teresa Roston**	Cosmetology	Academic Senate	Cosmetology	2023-26
2	**Herman Singh**	Economics	Academic Senate	Social Sciences	2025-28
3	**Cat Ponsford**	Cosmetology	CCI	Part-time Faculty At-Large	2025-28
4	**Cristian Racataian**	Computer Science	DEAC	Business, Accounting, Computer Science	Spring 2026

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 description, meeting information, and to submit your nomination. (PATHWAY: GWC Homepage > Quick Links > Academic Senate > Committees – Vacancies & Nominations)

President Smith announced the call for nomination for AS Vice President for a two-year term of 2026-28. Interested faculty may submit their nomination using the link provided in the Senate Office email announcement. He announced that a call for committee membership whose terms end this semester will open soon for the upcoming new term.

A. Call for Academic Senate and standing committees | current terms
A call for nominations for campus committees will be distributed next week for terms beginning in Fall 2026. Vacancies will remain open until filled. 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
    - Vice President | 2026-28
    - Classified Senate | 2025-27
    - Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics | 2024-27
- Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI) | Term: three years
    - Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics | 2025-28
    - Mathematics & Engineering | 2026-29
- Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) | Term: three years unless otherwise specified
    - Criminal Justice | 2024-27
    - Social Sciences | 2025-28
- 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
    - Nursing/Health Professions | 2025-28
    - Social Sciences | 2024-27

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

A. ASGWC Report – Sharon Fabian, ASGWC President
Ms. Fabian reported on ASGWC events, activities, and updates: [ASGWC Report](#)
B. RSI/POCR Update – Michelle Veyette, DE Coordinator (1:10 pm)
Coordinator Veyette reported that GWC achieved initial local POCR certification with the CVC on Monday.
- Three courses currently hold the Quality Review badge, with updated status pending.

- Certification allows GWC to badge additional online courses and increases exposure on the CVC Exchange, potentially boosting enrollment, supporting part-time faculty, and highlighting the college's commitment to rigorous RSI best practices.
- Following October feedback, GWC submitted a new random sample with compiled RSI evidence for accreditor review.
- A peer review pilot provided faculty the opportunity to share questions and identify needed support, including sample RSI statements and additional training. These supports will be discussed this semester in collaboration with Senate.
- An RSI workshop is also planned for Spring Summit in partnership with CIL to provide resources and guidance.
- RSI office hours are scheduled for March, with additional RSI and POCR training opportunities planned for April and May. Dates are still being finalized but will be announced at Spring Summit. Faculty can expect a follow-up from Erin Craig soon with an overview and registration details. More information to come.
- President Randall reported a second batch of emails won't be confirmed until the exit interview with the team on February 24; official updates are expected in June. A 1.5-hour meeting with key personnel (including Michelle Veyette and Justin Smith) will provide preliminary insight, but no formal decisions will be issued for several months.

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. RSI from AS and post accreditation – Justin Smith, AS President
      President Smith reported that RSI work continues on two fronts: accreditation (Feb 24 meeting) and ongoing peer-reviewed processes.
      - A semester-by-semester peer review system is being organized with Michelle Veyette, DEAC, President Randall, and the AS EBoard to ensure consistent oversight. This approach aims to be manageable while keeping GWC prepared and aligned for accreditation. More details will be shared before February 24 and at the next AS meeting.
      - President Smith noted that accreditation requires oversight, not judgment on teaching. The peer review process will be reasonable and manageable, with more details expected soon. The idea is to develop a structured, mid-semester peer review model similar to approaches used at Coastline where colleagues review courses for RSI compliance. The process would likely be coordinated through DEAC to ensure consistency and support.
      - Senator Lavarini noted that RSI peer review is a sensitive issue. While there is a shared goal of maintaining rigorous, high-quality online instruction, there are union concerns about faculty pushback, protecting academic freedom, and respecting course privacy. The challenge is to balance appropriate oversight with supportive collaboration, learning from Coastline's experience while ensuring faculty feel respected and protected.
      - President Randall thanked President Smith and the AS for their collaboration and expressed appreciation to CFE for their partnership. She emphasized that the shared goal is to support high-quality online courses, which requires a group effort across the institution.
      - Senator Duvall shared that, after consulting with Michelle Veyette, she began using a hidden Canvas module to document weekly RSI activities. This approach helps track instructional engagement without overloading the gradebook and ensures clear documentation in case of accreditation or peer review. She found the method highly effective and helpful.
   2. Call for Nominations: Academic Senate Vice President | Term: 2026-28
   3. AS Goals review – Justin Smith, AS President
      President Smith reported on the status of the Academic Senate goals and upcoming work for the semester.
   4. Faculty Prioritization Work Group Update – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President *(Tabled to the next meeting due to VP Crescimanno's absence.)*
   5. Canvas Header Update – Damien Jordan, AS Vice President
      VP Jordan reported that the Canvas header pilot has exceeded expectations, with over 65 faculty participating. Feedback and adaptations will be compiled for sharing, with a potential Flex Day presentation in the fall. There is also interest in aligning courses with POCR standards and expanding CVC listings, particularly for high-demand AB111 courses to leverage GWC's favorable academic calendar and boost enrollment statewide.
      - Ms. Fabian, ASGWC, stated that she found the template clear and useful, providing easy access to essential course and program information, especially helpful for new students navigating online classes.
      - Senator Brooks shared that she found the Canvas header easy to use and helpful, with minimal burden, leading her to adopt it across all her courses.

- Senator Bouzar addressed moving the Canvas header from a pilot to a standardized tool for all faculty, noting that partial adoption can be confusing for students. The Senate may consider discussing and recommending full implementation after reviewing how different disciplines are using it.

6. ASCCC Area D Meeting - Friday, March 13 at GWC MPR (Zoom option) from 9 am – 3 pm – Julie Terrazas, Academic Senator
    Senator Terrazas announced that the GWC AS will host the ASCCC Area D meeting on campus on Friday, March 13, in the MPR from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and invited all Senators and faculty to attend. The Senate Office will send an invitation with a registration link. Breakfast and lunch are provided for in-person attendees.

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 reported that Board meetings are shifting to once a month on a trial basis, starting with the upcoming meeting on the 18th. The change aims to make meetings more efficient, though some agenda items, like student field trips or classified hires, may bypass full board approval. Historically, such items were rarely denied. Additional details will be shared in the next communication. He noted having raised questions about who makes decisions regarding Board processes and the role of CFE and faculty and learned that these decisions are made entirely by the Board without faculty input. President Smith suggested bringing the issue back for further discussion.
    - Senator Lavarini reported CFE's concerns that reducing Board meetings to once per month may limit faculty and public input, increase administrative control, reduce transparency, and prioritize efficiency over student-centered decision-making. The union plans to issue a statement addressing these concerns.
    - Senator Bouzar expressed concern that Senate Presidents have no opportunity to question or discuss Board-approved funding decisions. While activity reports are helpful, meetings should allow faculty input on agenda items, especially funding, and efficiency should not limit meaningful discussion.
    - Senator Levin noted that recent efficiency-related changes to Board and administrative policies were approved through the DCC BP/AP Subcommittee. Although these changes streamline processes, concerns remain about the pace of implementation and their impact on shared governance and instructional priorities.
    - President Randall voiced strong support for efficiency measures, citing burdensome reporting and deadlines. She stated that reducing Board meetings to one per month is reasonable if the meeting is substantive, emphasizing quality over quantity and recommending study sessions for deeper discussion and Senate engagement.

B. AS Vice Presidents' Reports – Damien Jordan and Annamaria Crescimanno (N/A)
    - VP Jordan reported that he plans to reconvene the Honors Task Force to assess interest, review potential processes and models, and ensure the approach aligns with previous discussions. Updates will be shared with the AS once available.

C. Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI) – Jennifer Bailly, Chair (N/A)

D. Institute for Professional Development (IPD) – Kate Green, Chair
    - Chair Green reported that IPD is still accepting conference applications, including many local AI-focused options for those with limited travel budgets. She noted that alternative methods projects may be completed in lieu of conferences, count toward the academic year (fall–spring), and are not offered in summer. Additional details will be shared via email, and she will be available on Flex Day for questions. She also reminded faculty that IPD funds department meetings and encouraged those meeting on Flex Day to apply for catering and materials/symposium funding.
    - President Smith congratulated Chair Green on being named GWC Teacher of the Year.

E. Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) – Michelle Veyette, DE Coordinator (No additional report)

F. Union Update – Theresa Lavarini, GWC CFE Executive Director
    Senator Lavarini reported:
    - "CFE is creating an AI Taskforce to better understand how AI is changing the working conditions for our members.
    - GWC's CFE Director Theresa Lavarini will be leading the taskforce; please email her at tlavarini@gwc.cccd.edu if you have an interest in meeting via Zoom this spring.
    - The primary goal of the taskforce is to discern how we can best support our faculty in the rapidly changing educational environment.

- In our first meeting, we will discuss creating a survey to send to our members, including crafting the questions to better grasp how AI is helping and/or hindering our work as educators.
- CFE Elections will be occurring soon. We have had a vacancy for VP spot representing pt-faculty for a few semesters. If you know pt-faculty who teach at least 7.5 LHE and are union members or who may wish to join the union, please encourage them to nominate themselves. CFE represents both part-time and full-time faculty, so having the pt-faculty perspective is very important to us. Feel free to have them to contact Theresa Lavarini for more details".

G. Special Reports (as requested by Academic Senate)
H. Information Item

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. Move to Adjourn. Thank You! – Senate President
President Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Senate Scholarship Fund Balance: Endowed balance: $7,417. Recommended 2025-26 scholarship: $370 *(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*)