



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: LRC 250 COMMUNITY ROOM

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 Bailey – CCI Chair	Teresa Nguyen – ELL/ESL/GED
Amanda Best – Arts	Diana Roachat – Classified Senate (<i>non-voting</i>)
Pete Bouzar – Mathematics & Engineering	Teresa Roston – Cosmetology
Dawn Brooks – Performing Arts	Jason Sheley – Liberal Arts & Culture (ANTH, GEOG, PHIL)
Annamaria Crescimanno – Vice President Biological Sciences	Matt Shimazu – Physical Sciences
Tiffany Dilello (Comm Studies) – Part-time Faculty At-large	Herman Singh – Social Sciences (ECON, PSCI, SOC, ETHS)
Laura Duvall – Psychology	Justin Smith – President History & Education
Kate Green (Chemistry) – IPD Chair	Julie Terrazas – Library
Leilani Johnson – Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics	Tammie Tran – World Languages (SIGN, INTR, SPAN, VIET)
Damien Jordan – Vice President Counseling & EOPS	Aleksandra Uchlik – Business, Accounting, Computer Science
John Kasabian – Auto Tech, Digital Arts, Drafting	Michelle Veyette (English PT) – Distance Education Coordinator (<i>non-voting</i>)
Heather Kelley – Communication Studies	Ethan Widjaja – ASGWC (<i>non-voting</i>)
Theresa Lavarini - English	VACANT – Criminal Justice
Phuong Nguyen – Nursing/Health Professions	

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to order – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- B. Welcome Guests
President Smith welcomed new members to the Academic Senate: Ethan Widjaja, ASGWC Student Body President, Diana Roachat, Classified Senate President, and returning Senator Sheley.
- C. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes
 1. Agenda – September 8, 2026. **MOTION** by Senator Best to approve the agenda. Seconded by Senator T. Nguyen.
Hearing no objections, the motion passed.
 2. Minutes – [May 26, 2026](#). **MOTION** by Senator Best to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by VP Jordan.
Hearing no objections, the motion passed.
- D. Announcements, Congratulations, and Appreciation

1. Invitation to attend the ASCCC Fall Plenary, Nov 5-7, 2026, in Redwood City. Submit your [CAR](#) to the AS Office by September 11 to qualify for pre-paid registration.
 2. Academic Senate group photo will be taken at the next meeting.
President Smith informed Senators that they are to meet outside the LRC building, near the Native Garden, at 1 pm at the next Senate meeting.
- 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 VP Jordan to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Senator Sheley. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

	FACULTY	DISCIPLINE	COMMITTEE	POSITION	TERM
SEARCH COMMITTEES					
1	Justin Smith	History	Faculty Hiring Search Committee – Political Science (Temporary 1-year Full-time Faculty contract)	(3) Full-time In-discipline Faculty Members	Summer 2026 - Emergency consent by AS President
2	Jennifer Bailly	Economics			
3	James Almy	Physical Sciences	Faculty Hiring Search Committee – Geology (Temporary 1-semester Full-time Faculty contract)	Full-time In-discipline Faculty Member	Fall 2026 - Emergency Consent by AS President on 8/27/26
4	Jeanette Adame	History	Search Committee: Associate Dean of Equity & Special Programs	(2) Full-time Faculty Members	Fall 2026
5	Yvonne Portillo	Counseling			
6	Mike McCarthy	Criminal Justice	Search Committee: Criminal Justice Training Center Coordinator	(2) Full-time Faculty Members	Fall 2026
TENURE REVIEW COMMITTEES					
7	Heather Kelley	Communication Studies	Tenure Review Committee for: Melissa Navarro, Communication Studies	In-discipline faculty member	2026-30
8	Leilani Johnson	Kinesiology		Out-of-discipline faculty member	
9	Rachel Wegter	Communication Studies		Search Committee rep	
10	Julie Terrazas	Librarian	Tenure Review Committee for: Joyce Nguy, Political Science	In-discipline faculty member (FSA in PSCI)	2026-30
11	Doreen Fioretto	Education		Out-of-discipline faculty member	
12	Herman Singh	Economics		Search Committee rep	
13	Jeanette Adame	History	Tenure Review Committee for: Jose Gutierrez, Ethnic Studies (Chicano Studies)	In-discipline faculty member	2026-30
14	Veronica Pizano	Spanish		Out-of-discipline faculty member	
15	Ruth Calcanas	Ethnic Studies		Search Committee rep	
16	James Almy	Physical Sciences	Tenure Review Committee for: Zaid Eltwail, Engineering & Physics	In-discipline faculty member	2026-30
17	Doreen Fioretto	Education		Out-of-discipline faculty member	
18	Gita Alemansour	Math/Engineering		Search Committee rep	
19	Damien Jordan	Counseling	Tenure Review Committee for: Chad Ponciano, Counseling	In-discipline faculty member, Y4	2026-27
20	Justin Smith	History		Out-of-discipline faculty member (Replaced Derrick Watkins (retired))	2026-28

21	Doreen Fioretto	Education	Tenure Review Committee for: Michael McCarthy , Criminal Justice	Out-of-discipline faculty member <i>(Replaced Natalie Dalton, Nursing)</i>	2026-28
22	Jeanette Adame	History	Tenure Review Committee for: Samantha Harris , Ethnic Studies	In-discipline faculty member	2026-29
23	Ruth Calcanas	Ethnic Studies		Search Committee rep	
EVALUATION PANELS – of temporary full-time faculty contracts					
24	Phuong Nguyen	Nursing	Evaluation Panel for: Veronica Gschweng, Nursing <i>(Temporary 1-year Full-time Faculty contract – replaced Ju-An Broyles (retired) using general funds)</i>	(2) Tenured Faculty Member	2026-27
25	Amy Thach	Nursing			
26	Phuong Nguyen	Nursing	Evaluation Panel for: Victoria Nelson, Nursing <i>(2nd Year Temporary Full-time Faculty contract funded by Samueli Grant)</i>	Tenured Faculty Member <i>(Replaced Ju-An Broyles (retired))</i>	2026-27
27	Amy Rangel	Nursing		Tenured Faculty Members	
28	Amy Thach	Nursing	Evaluation Panel for: Jessica Chavez, Nursing <i>(2nd Year Temporary Full-time Faculty contract funded by Samueli Grant)</i>	Tenured Faculty Member <i>(Sub for Natalie Dalton)</i>	2026-27
29	Berlynn Ching	Nursing		Tenured Faculty Member	
30	Diep Pham	Nursing	Evaluation Panel for: Claudia Ureno, Nursing <i>(2nd Year Temporary Full-time Faculty contract funded by Samueli Grant)</i>	(2) Tenured Faculty Members	2026-27
31	Barbara Miyadi	Nursing			
32	Jennifer Bailly	Economics	Evaluation Panel for: Ken Callahan, Political Science <i>(Temporary, 1-year Full-time Faculty contract - replaced Joel Powell (resigned) using general funds)</i>	(2) Tenured Faculty Members	2026-27
33	Justin Smith	History			
34	Heather Antunez	Counseling	Evaluation Panel for: Maria Tran, Counseling Nursing <i>(Temporary, Full-time Faculty contract – Sp2026-F2026 using categorical funds)</i>	(2) Tenured Faculty Members	Fall 2026
35	Nancy Nguyen	Counseling			
36	James Almy	Physical Sciences	Evaluation Panel for: Paul McBurnett, Geology <i>(Temporary, Fall 2026 Full-time Faculty contract – replaced B. Benneman using general funds)</i>	(2) Tenured Faculty Members	2026-27
37	Travis Vail	Biology			
COMMITTEES					
38	Michelle Ohm	Art	IPD	Part-time Faculty At-Large	Sub Fall 2026
39	Michelle Ohm	Art	Professional Development Advisory Committee	Part-time Faculty At-Large	2026-27
40	Gita Alemansour	Mathematics	Academic Petitions Review Advisory Group	Full-time Faculty At-Large	2026-27
41	Sabrina Nguyen	Counseling – PT	CCI	Part-Time Faculty At-Large	2025-28
42	Samantha Harris	Ethnic Studies	DEAC	Social Sciences	2025-28

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)

- Call for Nominations – DCC BP/AP Subcommittee: Fall 2026 | Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays from 1-2:30 pm on Zoom
President Smith reported that he is currently attending the DCC BP/AP Subcommittee meetings in place of Senator Levin, who is on sabbatical leave during Fall 2026. He noted that the Academic Senate is seeking one full-time faculty member to serve in this position.
- Call for Nominations for vacant terms beginning in Fall 2026 (see below)

The initial call was open for ten days (concluded September 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 linked above to access the nomination forms.

- **Academic Senate** | Term: three years
 - Criminal Justice | 2026-29
 - Ethnic Studies | 2026-2029 (*new position*)
- **Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI)** | Term: three years
 - Art | 2026-29
 - ELL/ESL/GED | 2026-29
 - Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics | 2025-28
 - Mathematics & Engineering | 2026-29
- **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
 - Social Sciences | 2024-27
- **College Technology Committee**
 - DEAC rep | 2025-27
- **DEIA Committee**
 - English, ELL, ESL | 2026-28

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

- A. ASGWC Report - Ethan Widjaja, ASGWC Student Body President
 Student Body President Widjaja introduced himself and provided updates on ASGWC activities. The Executive Council is developing a council project for the 2026–27 year, and several committees are moving forward with delegate ratifications. Ethan also attended his first Board of Trustees meeting and reported that ASGWC will attend a conference in October.

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

- A. Faculty Prioritization – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President
 VP Crescimanno discussed the accelerated timeline for Program Review and Faculty Prioritization. Faculty Requests are due September 25, with the Senate’s norming session on October 6 (special meeting).
- Access to Faculty Requests is currently scheduled for October 12, one day before the October 13 Q&A; efforts will be made to obtain the requests sooner. Remind Department Chairs of the timeline. ORPIE is offering Program Review workshops.
 - VP Crescimanno discussed data concerns involving courses with multiple instructors assigned to a single CRN, particularly non-cross-listed courses. Faculty were advised to review the raw max seat data when verifying full-time/part-time faculty ratios to ensure that instructors are accurately counted.
 - The Faculty Prioritization Work Group will reconvene later this semester to review the process and incorporate Senate feedback.
1. [Amendment to the AS Bylaws](#), Article 1: Structure and Composition, Section 3-H-ii: Membership of the Academic Senate/Additional Senate Members – Justin Smith, AS President
 VP Crescimanno and President Smith presented a first reading on the revised Bylaws language proposing that the CCI and IPD Chairs will be non-voting members of the Academic Senate, unless they also serve as Senators. If they are Senators, they may cast one vote representing their academic area. The proposed language will be shared with the faculty for feedback and brought back at the next meeting for a vote.
 2. [Honors Program Update](#) – Damien Jordan, AS Vice President
 VP Jordan reported on the Task Force’s priorities and timeline for the Fall 2027 Honors Program launch, including honors contracts and transcript notation, faculty training and COR review, CCI course submissions, compensation, outreach, and Honors Society and grading processes. The pilot currently includes 20 faculty participants. The Task Force is also identifying interim instructional and counseling contacts and exploring transfer partnerships with universities. An update will be provided to the Academic Senate following further discussion.
 3. P2P RSI Update – Justin Smith, AS President
 President Smith provided an overview of Peer-to-Peer RSI. Suggestions from CCD and TFU will be reviewed by DEAC, followed by further development of the application. A small internal pilot group may be established to test

the process and ensure operations are functioning effectively. Further updates will be provided as the work progresses.

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. [Academic Areas of Discipline FTES](#) – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President
VP Crescimanno reviewed the updated FTES and discipline spreadsheet. Ethnic Studies now meets the FTES threshold for representation on the Academic Senate and its standing committees, and a call will be issued for Ethnic Studies representation. All other discipline representations remain unchanged, with a correction noted for the Music Department Chair listing.
 - a. Call for Academic Senator representing Ethnic Studies
Senator Best clarified that Senate representation does not determine departmental or divisional organization. VP Crescimanno added that Ethnic Studies remains within Social Sciences for administrative purposes while having separate Senate representation. Dean Brooks noted that Global Studies was retired through the Program Review process, and the faculty member associated with the area has retired.
 2. Faculty Governance & Leadership Series – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President
VP Crescimanno thanked IPD and the Office of Instruction for supporting development of the Faculty Governance & Leadership Series, which will include 13 full-time and 7 part-time faculty participants, with all full-time applicants accommodated and a part-time waitlist. The program will cover Academic Senate fundamentals, Senate purview, union responsibilities, and faculty prioritization, with the goal of strengthening faculty participation in shared governance and leadership. President Smith thanked VP Crescimanno and the development team and welcomed the participating faculty.
 3. [Academic Senate Goals](#) – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith reviewed the Academic Senate's goals for the 2026–27 academic year and highlighted key priorities and areas of focus. **MOTION** by Senator Terrazas to approve the Academic Senate goals as presented. Seconded by VP Jordan. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.
 4. Best Practice Workgroup (Committees, Constituencies) - Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith proposed establishing a Best Practices Workgroup to examine how Senators interact with their constituencies, represent their areas, participate in committees, and report committee activities back to the Senate and their constituents. The Workgroup would also explore ways to improve communication and reporting practices, including periodic committee updates to the Senate. Faculty interested in participating were invited to contact President Smith.
 5. [Syllabus Checklist update](#) – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith reviewed corrections to the Syllabus Checklist. A copy will be provided to CCD, and the Senate will distribute the revised checklist to faculty. The [online link](#) will also be updated.
- B. Other Agenda Requests

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

In response to a question from the student representative, VP Crescimanno clarified that the Standing Discussion Items are recurring topics that provide an opportunity for Senators to raise concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback. She reviewed the 10+1 and the role and responsibilities of the Academic Senate.

- 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
- Budget Council: President Smith reported on recent Budget Council discussions, including the District's adopted budget, which was approved by the Board of Trustees the previous week. He noted that \$680,000 in District funding has been allocated to support a 2% annual increase in FTES, with Golden West College working toward a specific funding target.
 - Program Review and Budget: President Smith provided a preliminary update regarding how Program Review and Faculty Prioritization requests will be incorporated into the budget process; however, he stated that he will provide a clearer and more detailed update at the next Senate meeting.

- Single District Transcript - President Smith reported on discussions regarding the proposed Single District Transcript/local degree concept, which would allow students to graduate from one college while completing coursework across multiple colleges within the District. He noted that Orange Coast College's CCI had indicated it would reject the local degree proposal and shared that he is seeking clarification regarding the origin and requirements of the proposal, including whether it is a District or Title 5 matter. He will provide additional information as it becomes available.
 - Health Plans and District Budget: President Smith and CFE representatives reported that discussions regarding employee health benefits and District fiscal matters remain ongoing. Senators encouraged faculty to participate in upcoming Board of Trustees meetings and other appropriate avenues of public engagement, including the October 21 board meeting. The Senate also discussed potential impacts of labor-related developments on students and instruction and shared examples of bargaining and benefits negotiations at other community colleges as resources for consideration.
 - DEAC and Academic Senate Bylaws: President Smith reported on a recent meeting regarding DEAC, noting that some provisions were developed under different circumstances, including during the COVID-19 period, and that changes in RSI, accreditation, and other current priorities warrant a broader review of the bylaws. He indicated that a group may be convened to review the bylaws and identify provisions that may need updating.
- B. AS Vice Presidents' Reports – Damien Jordan (no report) and Annamaria Crescimanno (no report)
- C. Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI) – Jennifer Bailly, Chair (absent)
- D. Institute for Professional Development (IPD) – Kate Green, Chair
- Chair Green reminded faculty that eligible full-time faculty and part-time faculty teaching at least 7.5 LHE may receive up to \$3,000 for conference or travel expenses. She emphasized the importance of accurately entering conference and travel dates on CARs and ensuring they correspond with conference dates and travel documentation to avoid reimbursement delays. She also reviewed District travel requirements regarding the use of the next available flight, hotel rates and upgrades, and personal mileage or travel points.
 - Peer nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards are open to full-time and part-time faculty. Nominations are due September 9.
- E. Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) – Michelle Veyette, DE Coordinator
- Coordinator Veyette reported that the first DEAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, following a schedule adjustment due to the holiday. The committee anticipates continuing its work on Peer 2 Peer (P2P) review process, defining GWC's online Canvas training, and POCR.
 - Senators discussed practices for dropping students from online courses based on initial participation or completion of coursework. The discussion highlighted varying practices among faculty, the need to balance timely enrollment of students from waitlists with providing students a reasonable opportunity to participate, and considerations for students who may have work or other obligations. Senators discussed the potential development of clearer guidance or best practices regarding initial course participation, communication with students, and timelines for drops.
- F. Union Update – Theresa Lavarini, CFE Executive Director
- Senator Lavarini provided the following report on behalf of CFE:
- 1) "Please read Rob's email regarding the topics we are sunshining for negotiations: you will want to review the topics and add any others you would like—ideally—for us to tackle. Our top priorities continue to be lab pay equity and preserving pass-through COLA.
 - 2) We need faculty to commit to attending BOT meetings for one hour: our office manager Maria Pimental sends out a sign-sheet. We encourage faculty to address the BOT during public comment, as well as email them letters. They need to hear from us!
 - 3) During the last two board meetings, Trustee Phu Nguyen expressed fear and concern that the budget forecast in three years is dire and that we need to restructure our current compensation model. Specifically, he is advocating eliminating pay-through COLA. He cited that only 10% of districts use the pay-through model and wants us to join the majority. He seems oblivious to being manipulated by the conservative budget forecasts that we all have seen, when every budget shows a shortfall and has ever since I have been here. This is despite the fact that reserves continue to grow, just as our dual enrollment and general demand continue to increase. We REALLY need to educate the BOT on this matter, and we also need to find a new trustee to represent the Garden Grove area. Finding a Vietnamese educator to run against him in 2028 is imperative, as Trustee Nguyen has shown himself to be a mouthpiece for the Chancellor, who just received a 14% raise and is making \$400K a year after pushing through the health care benefits changes without any negotiations. CFE will be joining the classified union in filing an Unfair Labor Charge against the District for that action, as well.
 - 4) The current Chancellor has shown himself to be prone to breaking the collective bargaining agreement: both the academic calendar and the health benefits REQUIRE negotiations. Furthermore, tenured faculty are being terminated without due process, requiring a great deal of expense in time and money to argue legally. If the District wants everyone to do their part to keep costs down, the Chancellor should explore keeping costs down by handling HR

matters by following the CBA and perhaps explore how to downsize District, which takes a huge chunk of change but produces no revenue.”

The ASGWC representative emphasized the importance of faculty and student representatives participating in Board of Trustees meetings and public comment opportunities. Ethan reported that student representatives had been advised that if ASGWC submitted a written Board report, they would not be expected to attend the Board meetings.

- G. Special Reports (as requested by Academic Senate)
- H. Information Item – [Student Services 2026-27 \[PowerPoint\]](#) – Faculty are welcome to share with their students
 - Senator Kelley announced the first CCD meeting is at 3pm in LRC 250 immediately following today’s AS meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Move to Adjourn. Thank You! – Senate President
President Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm. He reminded the Senators that at the next meeting, they will meet outside the LRC building at 1pm for the group photo.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Senate Scholarship Fund Balance: Endowed balance: \$7,417.81. *Donations may be submitted online: [Foundation donation link](#) with a note indicating funds are for the Academic Senate Scholarship Fund.*
- 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)*