



February 5th, 2026

Thursdays, 2:10pm-4:00pm

Join us in person: 4-301

Join us on zoom:

<https://smccd.zoom.us/j/83240130908>

Academic Senate: “the organization whose primary function, as the representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the administration of the college and to the Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters” (CA CCR Title 5).

Voting Members

<p>Executive Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President: Cassidy Ryan [votes in ties]• Vice President: Jessica Truglio• Secretary: Christopher Collins• Treasurer: Tony Viertel• Past President: Vacant (does not vote) <p>Senators</p> <p>ASLT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vincent Kang <p>BEPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynsey Hemstreet• Jill Rizzo <p>Counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suzanne Poma• Kenny Gonzalez• Rocio Aguilar-Pedroza <p>CTE Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacant	<p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucia Lachmayr• Janice Sapigao <p>KAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amber Steele <p>SPWD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christine Herndon <p>SSCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Manbachi• Kathy Zarur• Jennifer Merrill <p>STEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rick Hough• Jing Folsom• Vacant <p>SESP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucy Jovel <p>Part-Time Faculty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacant• Vacant• Vacant
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Voting members: 20
Simple majority: 11
2/3: 12

Non-voting Members

<p>Governance Committee Chairs</p> <p>AFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Song (not present) <p>ASSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Oo <p>Curriculum Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rick Hough	<p>PD/CTTL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucia Lachmayr <p>Professional Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soledad McCarthy <p>OER Liasson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurie Buchholz
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1.0 Opening Procedures and Welcome

1.1 Senate Networking

Presenter: N/A

Time: 10 minutes

Notes:

1.2 Call to Order/Establish Quorum

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: The meeting was called to order by President Ryan at 2:17 PM.

1.3 Adoption of

Agenda

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Curriculum Chair/Senator Hough, seconded by Treasurer Viertel, and adopted unanimously by the committee.

1.4 Adoption of Minutes

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: A motion to approve the January 19th minutes was made by Curriculum Chair/Senator Hough, seconded by Senator Lachmayr, and approved by all committee members.

1.5 Adoption of Consent Agenda

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 5 minutes

Notes: The consent agenda was adopted unanimously by the committee.

LA Division Evaluation Committee

Luciana Castro

Jarrod Feiner

Michael Cross

ASLT Division Evaluation Committee

Pia Walawalker

Andrea Fuentes

Christopher Collins

BEPP Division Evaluation Committee

Regina Mitchell

Ronda Wimmer

Tony Viertel

STEM FT Physics Screening Committee: Update

Previous: Evan Leach

Emilie Hein

Denise Hum

New: Rick Hough

Emilie Hein

Denise Hum

COUN: Director of PSP-

Kim Davalos

Melanie Espinueva-Aure

COUN FT Dual-E/MC Counselor (High school emphasis):

Suzanne Poma

Michael Stult

COUN Division Evaluation Committee -

Evaluee: Melissa Matthews
Evaluator: Jessica Truglio

Evaluee: Lorraine De Mello
Evaluator: Joyce Lee

Evaluee: Suzanne Poma
Evaluator: Jacquie Escobar

1.6 Public Comment

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 10 minutes

Notes:

- Dean Ayotte shared information from Career Services, noting opportunities for student hiring and internships. She encouraged anyone looking to hire students to use the [Job Speaker platform](#), direct employers to the [College Job Board](#), engage with divisions for centralized job postings, and advise students to email their resumes for posting.
- Instructional Designer Andrea Fuentes in CTTL, thanked faculty for their patience during a period of short staffing due to a vacant full-time faculty position. She reported that with Terri Hannon's unexpected departure the CTTL has had to scale back on SLO assessments, workshops, and general support services. She encouraged folks to still ask for support.
- Treasurer Viertel raised concerns about the worsening parking lot conditions, specifically noting that there are fewer lights than before, creating safety concerns.
- Senator Manbachi announced an upcoming gallery event scheduled for Saturday from 4:00–6:00 PM, noting that Kathy has been working diligently on the installation.
- Senator Merrill reported on a Psychology Department and Workforce Development initiative connected to student success and career exploration, highlighting the upcoming “Psyched for Success: Career Exploration” event. The event, hosted by Career Services and the Psychology Program, will bring together multiple psychology professionals to engage with students about career pathways, professional experiences, and areas of expertise. The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Building 6, Room 6-202, and is intended to support student engagement, networking, and career development within the psychology discipline.
- Senator Zarur reported on the [guest-curated art exhibition](#), *to arrive is never to arrive*, featuring artists Javier Roberto Carlos, Lorena Molina, and Sanaz Safanasab. She explained that the exhibition centers on themes of migration, displacement, community, and agency, highlighting acts of reclamation and empowerment rather than narratives of victimhood or salvation. The works explore how individuals and communities regain control over their stories, images, and spaces amid political and social rupture. She announced that the exhibition will include two receptions for the same exhibit: a

Community Opening Reception on February 7 from 4:00–6:00 p.m., followed by a Campus Reception on February 11 from 12:00–1:00 p.m., both to be held in Building 1, Room 1-121.

- Senator Kang shared information about the “[The State of Water](#)” travel exhibition, on display through March 16, along with a series of related events being held in the library.
- President Ryan announced that the salon, shop, and spa are open. She noted that barbering is accepting paying clients, the salon is open for daytime models, and the shop is open for evening models. She emphasized the importance of community participation in finding models to support student success and shared a positive testimonial from Lucia, who recently received a facial.

2.0 New Senate Business.

2.1 Senate Dues Update

[Procedure](#) | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: Cassidy Ryan, Tony VierTEL

Time: 20 minutes

Notes: The Senate discussed next steps for the use and collection of Senate dues and agreed to form a workgroup to develop allocation options and a funding structure to bring back to the divisions for faculty feedback. The proposals will return to the Senate for a formal vote in late February. A motion to approve the formation of the workgroup was made by President Ryan and seconded by Vice President Truglio. The motion was unanimously approved. The workgroup members are Treasurer VierTEL, Professor Leventhal, Vice President Truglio, Professional Personnel Liaison McCarthy, and Senator Lachmayr.

2.2 CTE update

[Procedure](#) | [Information](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Action](#)

Presenters: Cassidy Ryan, Dean Ayotte

Time: 10 minutes

Notes: The CTE Liaison announced their decision to step down, which led to the cancellation of CTE Day. Despite this, Perkins applications still require review. SPWD Dean Ayotte shared that they are actively working to determine how best to support high school students and are considering the development of a sustainability-focused career fair in collaboration with CTE faculty. Funds that had previously been allocated for CTE Day will be redirected to support the proposed career fair and select Middle College events. As additional details emerge, prospective participants will be contacted.

2.3 Faculty Screening Guidelines

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 10 mins

Notes: President Ryan introduced the edits for review for the District Academic Senate faculty screening guidelines and discussed concerns related to screening, equivalency, and hiring practices for full-time faculty positions. Senators will share the revised guidelines with their divisions and provide feedback at the following Academic Senate meeting.

Senate discussion focused on the role of Human Resources in vetting applications, the lack of clarity around the equivalency process, and inconsistencies in committee training and participation. Senators raised concerns about reliance on applicant self-reporting of minimum qualifications, unclear triggers for equivalency review, burdensome timelines, and fairness in the screening process. The need for greater transparency, consistency, and improved training was emphasized throughout the discussion.

Key Areas for Improvement Identified:

- Improved training for screening committee members
- Clarification of expectations and participants at unconscious bias training
- Increased transparency regarding what triggers equivalency review
- Clear communication of expected time commitments and hours
- A stronger role for Human Resources in vetting application materials

2.4 By-Laws Revision Group

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenters: President Ryan

Time: 10 mins

Notes: President Ryan stated that a workgroup is needed to review and revise the current bylaws, noting that the last review occurred four years ago. President Ryan made a motion to establish the bylaws review workgroup. The motion was seconded by Professional Personnel representative McCarthy. The motion carried, approving the formation of a workgroup consisting of President Ryan, Vice President Truglio, Secretary Collins, Senator Jovel, and a Professional Personnel McCarthy.

2.5 SEED Senate Participation

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenters: Roger Perez

Time: 10 mins

Notes: Program Service Coordinator Perez discussed the work of the SEEED Committee and emphasized that equity-related activities on campus require broad participation. It was noted that there are currently two faculty positions that need to be filled, including a Tri-Chair position representing faculty, as well as a representative from the Academic Senate. The committee also includes an administrator and a classified professional. The faculty positions are currently vacant. The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 2:10–3:50 p.m. in the Multicultural Center and focuses on examining issues that impact the campus community.

President Ryan nominated Secretary Collins to serve in an interim capacity to bridge the gap through Spring 2026 until the bylaws are updated. The nomination was seconded by the Vice President and approved by the Senate.

2.6 Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Updates

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenters: Laurie Buchholz

Time: 20 mins

Notes: OER Liaison Buchholz requested that the item be postponed until February 19. The Senate agreed to postpone the matter to the February 19 meeting.

3.0 Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Committee Reports

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenter: Curriculum, IEC tri-chair, FTEFAC, SPARC, Professional Personnel, CTE

Time: 10 minutes

Notes:

- Curriculum Committee Chair Hough reported that it successfully completed its recent meeting and is preparing training for the next CPR group. Ongoing business is expected to be completed in the fall, and members were encouraged to submit any additional items for the spring agenda.
- Treasurer Viertel said the IEC will welcome new cohorts and continue to support those going through program review.
- President Ryan noted that SPARC will be reducing the number of meetings to once a month with meetings to occur on the second Thursday of the month.
- Professional Personnel representative McCarthy reported that end-of-year employee celebration activities are being coordinated through the President's Cabinet, with opportunities for shared input. An update was also provided regarding the upcoming

CIPHER and Middle College collaboration scheduled for Thursday, April 9. Nominations were announced for the Regina Stanback Stroud Award for President Ryan, and colleagues were invited to submit kind words and reflections based on their experiences. It was also noted that the Myers Award selection process is approaching, and that one faculty member from the previous five years must be selected. A committee will be formed to support this selection process.

3.2 Campus Reports

Procedure | Information | Discussion | Action

Presenter: ASSC Student Rep, CTTL, AFT Reps, OER

Time: 10 minutes

Notes:

- William Oo reported on recent and upcoming student engagement activities, noting a successful Welcome Week and increased collaboration this month in honor of Black History. Several events were highlighted, including a Black Student Luncheon, an Afrofuturism program, the CIPHER Black History Mobile Museum, and a field trip to the Black Panther Party Museum scheduled for Friday, February 20. A vendor fair organized by BSU associate students is also upcoming. William shared that the District Student Council met to discuss goals, including creating a more engaging district-wide student mixer and expanding leadership and networking opportunities for students. It was also noted that campuses participated in a walkout and rally at noon. Additionally, a student organizer from California Youth Unite will coordinate a walkout on February 27 at 1:00 p.m. for both college and high school students, with a reminder to prioritize safety.
- Senator Lachmayr from the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning (CTTL) reported that the team is currently significantly short-staffed and shared that this has been a difficult period. Faculty were encouraged to continue reaching out for support, with the understanding that response times may be slower. Bi-weekly notifications will be sent, and faculty were encouraged to sign up to present for Flex Day. Attendees were also asked to plan to attend in person and register in advance for food.
- OER Liaison Buchholz announced a save-the-date for Open Education Week, noting that the district has invited a guest speaker and that further details will be shared as the event approaches.

4.0 Announcement and Closing Procedures

4.1. Final Announcements

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 5 minutes

Notes: President Ryan shared Dr. Carter's idea of an Innovation Center in Building 2 using Measure H fund. It was noted that faculty input and approval will be important as these plans move forward, and a presentation is scheduled for February 19 to provide additional details. President Ryan also updated the April Academic Senate meeting date to Thursday, April 23,

instead of the usually scheduled SPARC meeting. Lastly, President Ryan mentioned that faculty elections will be held across all divisions and an elections committee will be formed soon.

4.2. Motion to Adjourn

Presenter: President Ryan

Time: 1 minute

Notes: Next meeting is February 19th . If you would like to request an item be put on the agenda (Consent, discussion, action or information) please submit your request for the next meeting by February 10th by 12:00pm. You can request an agenda item [here](#).

Academic and Professional Matters, AB 1725 “10 + 1”

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
2. Degree and certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
6. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities
9. Processes for program review
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
11. Other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate