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OFFICIAL MINUTES

Key Terms used: (M) motion, (S) second,
(U) unanimous, (P) passed, (ASP) Academic Senate President

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:15am by Senate President, Sullivan.

II. Roll Call

Present: Afifa Zaman (VP), Robin Allyn (Coordinating Officer), Dr. Lennor Johnson (Ex-Officio), Kristine Arquero, Sean Davis, Jorge Guerrero, Shawn Firouzian, Polo Mariscal, Ghada Osman, Alexis Tucker Sade, Julie Graboi, Sarah Gross, Brian Page, Katrina Tamura, Krista Warren-Yagubyan and Jim Sullivan.

Others Present: Jennifer Streagle (CS VP), Eric Snortum, Aaron Reingold (Dir. of ASG Legislative Affairs), Denee Pescarmona, Rick White, Steve Isachsen, and curry mitchell.

III. Persons Wishing to Address the Senate

Members of the public shall have an opportunity to address the committee either before or during the committee's consideration of each item of business to be discussed at regular or special committee meetings, including closed session items. In addition, with limited exceptions, the committee will provide an opportunity at regular meetings to address the committee on any other item of interest which is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Academic Senate. In order to efficiently manage the business of the committee, the committee chair may limit the amount of time.

Senator Warren welcomed everyone to the Fall semester. She spoke on a public comment that happened at the board meeting the evening before that called attention to the collegiality and partnership – standing together as a unified faculty and it was the first time she had witnessed this. She noted that the Academic Associate Faculty alongside the Faculty Assembly gave welcoming comments together and emphasized the unified front and strength that was felt by the experience.

IV. Changes to Agenda Order

V. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2026

Item A was pulled by ASP, Sullivan. The meeting minutes were not included with the agenda. Item will be brought back on the next agenda.

B. Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2026

Item B was pulled by CO, Allyn for a friendly amendment. The vote to approve this item was missed after it was pulled. Item B will be brought back on the next agenda.

C. Approve the AF Emeritus Recommendation for Denise Stillingner

Item C was pulled by ASP, Sullivan. A process is needed with Associate Faculty Union before this Item will be seen on a future agenda.

- D. Approve the revised Academic Senate Composition and Calendar for 2026-27
- E. Ratify Faculty Committee Assignments 2026-27

A motion was made to approve Items D and E. **MS [Tucker Sade/Davis], Unanimously Approved. [15 Senators voted].**

VI. Reports

- A. College Superintendent/President – Dr. Johnson [5 minutes]

Dr. Johnson expressed admiration for the campus community's commitment, particularly noting the Senators' attendance on a Friday afternoon. He noted plans to meet with Academic Senate members and leadership over the coming months to discuss supports and needs. Kudos given for the amazing work teachers do every single day and asked for everyone to give one word on how they would describe what MiraCosta College means to them.

VII. Information / Discussion

- A. Caring Campus - Kimberly Holmes [15 minutes]

Description: *The MiraCosta College's Caring Campus initiative is a college-wide effort focused on fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment. The Committee is looking for a faculty representative to join this meaningful work and will share more about its mission and vision for the 2026-27 academic year.*

Holmes introduced herself to the Academic Senate and introduced the Caring Campus as a seventeen member official subcommittee of the Classified Senate, while highlighting some of the committee's accomplishments since launching last Fall. In coming to the Academic Senate, one of the goals was to recruit at least one faculty representative before the end of the academic year and Senator Sean Davis volunteered to serve as the faculty representative. A presentation was shared that provided some overview of the committee's Behavioral Commitments (Actions), and discussed in length an approach that is also practiced in the MLB, which is the ten-foot rule; a behavior in which the committee is encouraging through its own membership while on campus to "acknowledge someone," especially a student who is within ten feet of you. Other commitments included wearing official nametags, identifying ones' position on campus and making oneself available for questions to students and community while on campus. A final highlight was the committee's implementation of a Recognition Form that may be submitted by any group on campus [students, staff, faculty or administrators] to notify a colleague that they were caught doing something caring – a practice rooted in acknowledgement for the work that is being done by everyone. A digital version and/or physical card may be used and will be directly routed / given to the employee.

- B. Senate Discussion on the Chancellor's Office AI Framework Memorandum - Sullivan [30 minutes] Description: *The Academic Senate will discuss the Chancellor's AI Framework memo with this guiding question in mind: How can MiraCosta's faculty respond to this memo on the level of disciplines / departments, Academic Senate Subcommittees, the Academic Senate, and College Governance committees?*

The discussion focused on the AI Framework Memo from the Chancellor's office and potential ways to respond. Proposed strategies included referring the memo relevant subcommittees for input, soliciting feedback from specific disciplines and departments based on impacts and needs related to their fields, and sharing senators interpretations and perspectives on the memo. Senators discussed the need to perform an assessment on current AI practices within the college and noted the high utilization between AI systems and AI substitutions as a point to discuss – emphasizing where the gaps are in learning that are causing students to turn to AI. A question on how the institution would solve this, with faculty voice being represented, and through meaningful groundwork, rooted in the 10+1, how will faculty ensure that students demonstrate authentic knowledge and skills not merely

an ability to utilize AI well within learning? There were concerns with AI and Universal Design Learning (UDL), how faculty are policing students, how students critical thinking skills are being judged. Others pointed out that AI implementation will vary by each department and in certain fields it will be highly relevant and guidance will be needed, while others may not need or want it integrated at all. Senators discussed the idea of equity in AI, ensuring that the tools we adopt are ethical and vetted for equity and social justice, also being mindful of students information that may be uploaded in AI tools. Senators noted an uneasiness around the Memo's language of protection and preservation especially around things like critical thinking. The goal of educators is to advance critical thinking while maintaining the human learning community at the center. We do not have a clear institutional message that combines these two great works together for clarity for students and faculty. The idea that consistency around AI integration has to mean identical classroom policies is not what any of us are advocating for, but rather that we are not leaving our students guessing on what may be acceptable. Senators acknowledged that faculty should and do clearly communicate course and assignment level expectations, and have a clear policy in their syllabus. Senators shared that they are to be cautious pioneers of new things, to try and challenge things, to hold interesting and in-depth conversations and the fact that MiraCosta is a leading academic institution in this space – not just with regards to what students output is but the Academic Senate should be discussing what the future of humanity output is and to keep an exploratory attitude. Continuous innovation – a request was made to allow faculty to have safer spaces where they can share wild ideas and openly share and review results; an example: if AI is not good for student learning, what is the evidence? This idea of Assessment integrity not fear penalty or judgement with regards to AI exploration within instruction. Senators asked for professional development, a repository of assignments, options with how we are assessing knowledge and skills in a context of AI use. Another angle was data efficiency and workforce readiness, the use of labor market data of specific disciplines to determine what students need to be familiar with. Some industries need students competent in prompt engineering and developed skills with AI agents – Senators will connect with our experts in the Career Center [Molly Ash, Ben Gamboa]. Senators invited discipline experts from the online space to engage, CSIT Chair, Steve Isachsen and professor Rick White. The memo captured human judgement, faculty authority, equity, privacy, and accessibility well, but cautioned that guidance like this often turns into mandated and universal policies. One way to protect faculty from that is to engage with urgency and match the speed at which AI is moving into the workforce. Isachsen endorses the idea that MiraCosta lead on this issue and encourage each department to engage on this issue; both full-time and associate faculty together and in conversations with their students as to what it means and how they will approach this with clarity. The alternative may be that a policy will be forced upon academic institutions like ours if not. He outlined CSIT's four-step engagement process: 1) THINK FOR YOURSELF, 2) PARTNER WITH AI, 3) VERIFY, 4) SYNTHESIZE. A process that is implemented across the department, an example of engaging and welcomed more to join. Rick White added three artifacts that can be viewed [HERE](#) and further mentioned that he worked directly with the Chancellor's office on the idea of human-centered AI, which only a small group was focused on – equity was at the center of the argument that won over the mass because with AI technology, a very quick turn to techno-feudalism can be reached, where you have haves and have-nots, people who are capable of competing in the new workforce and people that are incapable. CSIT is building a metabolism within the college's culture – to help everyone identify what beliefs, values and goals we want to put forward while using AI tools. There is a need for AI sovereignty, and so there is a thought around building a system internally that

is open source, and would allow us to reflect our own culture and values that's federated. This format would give us the ability to have access to wonderful tools and let each one of our departments grow in a way that's reflective of their genius. Reingold shared five points with regards to AI implementation; 1) Cultural Attitudes within schools/departments vary significantly [Humanities majors are very skeptical, STEM majors are more adoptive], requested a student survey to get a pulse on the thoughts of the student body 2) Basic Education for AI training, not everyone is coming in with the same experience with AI Tools. Highlighting that Reddit is a more reliable source than Chat GPT because students know that a person is behind it. Better tools are needed to monitor AI use. Students are worried about being caught/ falsely accused. He affirmed that the memo from the Chancellor's office is vague. Reingold raises a valid concern with regards to standards and alignment with other transfer institutions. Our local-decision making policies could hinder course acceptance by other institutions and is advocating for a more standardized policy. CS VP Streagle added that while this discussion is centered on faculty and students, classified professionals will be impacted by any decision -making too, and wants to ensure that classified professionals are invited into the spaces where AI policy development occurs. Dr. Johnson affirmed that all decisions need to be aligned with labor market data, and that faculty are the experts.

VIII. Reports

A. Classified Senate – *Streagle*

The Classified Senate just finalized their Strategic Planning Retreat at the end of July and the e-board is preparing for their first meeting of the year, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 1:00pm online.

B. Associate Student Government

IX. Action Item. First Read (no vote)

A. Two Options for Constituent List Design

Description: *The Senate will review and discuss two approaches to structuring constituent list: 1) alphabetical by last name, and 2) organized in discipline / role clusters*

Several models of the constituent list were presented and the manner in which Senators could communicate with the faculty at-large could be approached. The Academic Senate selected the format of rotating the responsibility among all Senators each month to take the lead with sending out communications and being available for Q&A. This will come back for action on the next Senate agenda.

X. Reports

A. Senate Leadership – *Allyn* ([access report](#))

XI. Meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.