



## OFFICIAL MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, respectfully acknowledged that MiraCosta College is on the traditional territory of the Luiseño/Payómkawichum people. Today, the meeting place at MiraCosta College and its surrounding areas is still home to the six federally recognized bands of the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Pechanga, Rincon, Soboba Luiseño/Payómkawichum people. It is also important to acknowledge that this land remains the shared space among Kumeyaay and Ipai peoples. In addition, we pay respect to elders both present and past, the respected keepers of history, culture, wisdom, and knowledge. The meeting was called to order at **9:00am**.

### II. Remote Member Attendance

Description: *Academic Senate will consider remote participation of members under the provisions of AB2449, if any.*

No members of the Academic Senate requested remote participation under the provisions of AB2449.

### III. Roll Call

**Members present:** Robin Allyn, Daniel Ante-Contreras, Angela Beltran-Aguilar, Erica Duran, Shawn Firouzian, Julie Graboi, Jim Julius, Done Love, curry mitchell, Brian Page, Hossein Ravanbaksh, Leila Safaralian (President), Alexis Tucker Sade

**Members absent:** Sunny Cooke (ex-officio), Nate Scharf, Krista Warren

**Others present:** Eduardo Aguilar, Carl Banks, Theresa Bolaños, Julie Cord, Scott Fallstrom, Ruth Gay, Trisha Hoste, Stacey Hull, Jeff Ihara, Shannon Na, Valeria Pineda, Jim Sullivan, Cynthia Vasquez Gonzeles, Rick White

### IV. 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. To efficiently manage the business of the committee, the committee chair may limit the amount of time.*

Alexis offered congratulations to all students who participated in Omni this week.

### V. Changes to Agenda Order – Time certainties were noted.

### VI. Consent Calendar

#### A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2024

#### B. Equivalencies – Ihara [Time certain 9:15am]

Description: *Approve one equivalency each for Business, Noncredit ESL, and Dance.*

**Consent Calendar item B. Equivalencies was pulled from the agenda for discussion.**

**Consent Calendar, item A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2024, was approved by unanimous consent.**

The Dance equivalency did not make it to the Equivalency Committee (EC) and so it will not be discussed.

It was noted that the years of experience calculation is not based on 2050 hours per year but it is 1200 for noncredit ESL so 13,000 would be equivalent to 10 years of experience

**MSU (Beltran-Aguilar / Firouzian)** to approve the noncredit ESL equivalency as presented.

The initial concern was there was not any information from HR. The EC voted to approve the Vasquez noncredit ESL request provided HR gave confirmation about the hours. They used 525 hours per year for equivalency; however, the number is closer to 1,200. It cannot be confirmed that 13,400 hours documented in the verification of employment are instructionally related hours. The calculation was presuming the hours were for instruction as 2 hours for every 1 LHE to be the number of hours required. If some hours were based on instructional support or administrative, the calculation may not apply and is the only concern. Under the new criteria it passed at the last meeting, with a combination

of experience hours and coursework. The forms are being completed based on the old format. The chair of noncredit ESL signed off on it and the EC approved it pending hours equivalency. There is confirmation the hours were computed correctly.

**MSP (Julius / Grabo) [Angela Beltran, Candy Owens, Shawn Firouzian, and Alexis Tucker Sade, abstained]** to approve the action of the EC for denying this request for the Business equivalency.

This request was denied by the department chair and the EC. Upon review, the applicant does not have 24 units of graduate level business courses. These are public sector issues and not private issues. Higher ed law is different than business law.

It was asked why this came to AS since it was not approved by the EC. This equivalency request came to the EC because the applicant is a current administrator on an interim appointment and needs it to establish an FSA. This is something that's supposed to happen at the time of their hire, but in this case they're doing it retroactively. The current Business chair and incoming chair both agree that the coursework is not up to the required standard.

The only time that this has happened is with a dean who had acceptable coursework for equivalency, but a DC was blocking the process because they would not support having the dean teach in the department, as might have to happen if they got the FSA. The DC could validate their non-action because of the "DC letter of support" that had been a part of the equivalency request process. If the DC doesn't support it, it's a no-go. That was when it was decided that in such situations (administrator needing the FSA), the DC must do their part to provide input on the coursework/experience being used to claim equivalency for minimum quals. This was one of the changes that was made to the AP, but for this particular case it became a non-issue when the DC retired, and the new chair facilitated the request. This current case is different because there is a chance that no FSA can be established due to failure to meet minimum quals in any of the disciplines taught at the college.

## VII. Reports

### A. Academic Senate President – *Safaralian*

Academic Senate President, Leila Safaralian, thanked all regular attendees in Zoom. She recognized Joe Chirra who received the 2024 part-time faculty of the year statewide award.

Raymond Clark, who recently passed away, was recognized and remembered. August 25<sup>th</sup> will be a celebration of his life.

Thao Ha sent an invitation to faculty to attend the Light the Fire Institute this summer. There are four spots left to fill.

The ASG 24-25 election results were shared.

The last AS newsletter of this year was released by Jim Julius yesterday.

As her term comes to an end, Safaralian expressed her deepest appreciation to each and every one as an invaluable asset. She urged continued dedication to teaching and learning. AS will continue to thrive and achieve great success and she extends her full support to Curry Mitchell as the new incoming AS President. Together let us continue to foster the culture of collaboration, innovation, and student-centered excellence.

### B. College Superintendent/President

VPI, Denée Pescarmona, reported on behalf of Superintendent/President, Sunny Cooke. She thanked everyone for their service and looks forward to seeing everyone at next Friday's commencement.

### C. Classified Senate

CS Vice President, Carl Banks, talked about and thanked Safaralian noted that they started as partners and ended as friends.

The Classified Senate is working through committee appointments and will have a meeting this summer to reimagine the CS.

### D. Associate Student Government – *Pineda*

ASG representative, Valeria Pineda, noted the last ASG meeting will be held at the CLC on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The commencement speech and ceremonies are getting closer. She is so grateful to have this position on the AS and aspires to grow to have perspective. To be involved with such amazing faculty in this space is inspiring and fills her with energy and knows of many others who are grateful for these faculty.

## VIII. New Business

### A. Academic Calendar 2025-26 – Stacey Hull

Description: AAC has forwarded the proposed 2025-2026 Academic Calendar to Academic Senate for approval. This is a first read.

It was noted that December 24<sup>th</sup> is a working day on this calendar. Classified constituents have to work on that day. Senate recommends that AAC revisit the calendar and bring back one to the next meeting in August that shows December 24<sup>th</sup> as a local holiday and the Thursday before the Friday of Spring Break as a working day. The CS is also working with the District to create an MOU to fix this situation moving forward. The District determines the holidays and not AS.

AAC has had many thoughtful conversations around 12/24 starting with the development of the last academic year calendar. They do not decide what dates the holidays fall on. This change will impact all groups outside of faculty. It was also noted that May 18<sup>th</sup> is a regular teaching day at the start of finals week. They needed to make up a day.

### B. AP4010 Academic Calendar – Stacey Hull

Description: Updates to include a classified senate representative as a resource member of the taskforce and removal of operating principle of Veteran's Day being observed on the federal holiday as our current practice includes asking veteran students for feedback on which of the pre-approved days from the Chancellor's Office they would prefer to observe the holiday.

This AP will come back at the next AS meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Under operating principles, the procedures reached out to the Veteran's to decide what day they would like Veteran's Day to be observed and so this was removed from the AP.

### C. AP5530 Student Rights and Grievances – Stacey Hull

Description: Update to the conflict resolution section related to resolving any issue with a faculty member. Part B now includes "department chair or department faculty designee" as some programs do not have a department chair.

This AP will come back at the next AS meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>. A small modification was made understanding that not all departments have a department chair. Students should contact a department chair or designee if the department does not have a department chair.

More clarification was suggested such as adding department chair or... When a department chair exists they should go to that department chair but if they have only one chair for multiple disciplines, they can go to the faculty member in that discipline.

Hull will bring this back to the committee. They can have those conversations again. It was further asked if there is a process for when the issue is with the faculty member who is also the chair.

## IX. Information / Discussion

### A. Full-time Faculty Hire Evaluation Prioritization: Timeline and Areas of Consideration – Stacey Hull

Description: The Fall 2024 timeline for full-time faculty hire plan prioritization and areas of consideration for evaluation and prioritizing full-time faculty hire requests will be presented.

Removed items from areas of consideration that no longer existed. Also combined questions that were repetitive to make the process more streamlined.

### B. Syllabus checklist Updates – Stacey Hull

Description: AAC Chair, Stacey Hull, will present updated to the syllabus checklist.

Updated the syllabus checklist. Previous iterations bolded and italicized required syllabus information and they had to look for that, so the workgroup reorganized the worklist into sections.

### C. Calendar Taskforce Final Recommendation – curry mitchell

Description: Members of the Calendar Taskforce will share their final recommendation for making changes to MiraCosta's Academic Calendar. This recommendation with all supporting information will be published on [The MiraCosta Calendar Project website](#) following the Senate meeting.

The calendar taskforce has reached a unanimous recommendation. The full rationale will be sent out on Monday. The work has been as comprehensive as could be with research with Title 5, other calendars, outreach in surveys, attending department meetings, reaching out to different operational divisions such as facilities and student services. They presented models to students and town halls and to ASG. There is no perfect configuration of an academic calendar. It is important to know that some decisions exceed the scope of this taskforce such as the number of Flex days. Because of that, they will not share a graphical view of the calendar at this time. There is an approval process with the key governance groups: AAC, Admin, ASG, CS, DIE, CCC, FA, MCC AAFC, PDP. The

recommendation is to offer a compressed calendar of 16 instructional weeks and a total of 176 days, eliminating finals week. Visit the three models on the [MCC Calendar Project website](#).

The college will continue to participate in the Flexible calendar. It is recommended that PDP use next fall for inquiry to assess where faculty are and their needs. An example would be to reduce the length of Flex week and move the days throughout the term with independent flex days. Intersessions are status quo for the summer 8-week program. Since we don't know Flex days, the Office of Instruction will determine the length of classes. It was also noted that AAC designs the public facing calendar. A new display will be recommended.

This will come back to AS next year. There is a commitment from Mitchell and Pescarmona that we see this recommendation through the governance process.

**D. Legislative Liaison Updates – Scott Fallstrom**

Description: *Since the last legislative liaison update, Sacramento has been quite busy. Scott Fallstrom will bring forward a group of bills that impact the college, as well as mentioning their status and if any are currently supported by faculty groups across the state. NOTE: these are for information only, as required, so only factual information can be presented. Opinions or personal preferences cannot be discussed.*

For a comprehensive look at the Legislative Updates, visit this [LINK](#) provided by Scott Fallstrom. He also noted that his term is over and if anyone is interested in taking on this role, let him know.

**E. Noncredit Presentation – Noncredit Faculty**

Description: *The Academic Senate theme for the month of May is noncredit. Faculty from Continuing Education (noncredit programs) will return for a second session and discussion with the Academic Senate body regarding a variety of courses and programs offered, the diversity of the student population served, and the successes and challenges of teaching in Continuing Education.*

Thanks were given to Erica Duran who could not be here at the last meeting but is here today.

For the full discussion, visit the Noncredit Discussion at this [LINK](#).

Senators expressed thanks to faculty at the CLC and to counselors. Also offered that if you have not visited the CLC, please do.

The CLC graduation will take place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm. They would love full-time faculty to attend.

**X. Senator Reports**

The Senators acknowledged and thanked Safaralian for her term as the Academic Senate President.

**XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:16am.**