



Saddleback College Academic Senate Minutes

Regular Meeting

Date: August 19, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM–4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

2. Introduce and Welcome Guests & Senators

Guests included Allison Camelot, Faculty Association; Kim d’Arcy, Dean of ISTI; Jenny Rodriguez, Faculty Center; Heidi Ochoa, for BLOOM.; June Milovich, Curriculum; Elissa Saulcedo, English. Several new and new-old/returning senators introduced themselves including: Don Bowman, Accounting; Hollis Casey, Counseling; Afshin Hariri, Business; Caroline Gee, Psychology; Carolina Hernandez-Bachman, English; Ronald Anderson, Math; Angeline Hernandez, Nursing; Taylor Hartman, Communications; Lawrence Lan, HSS.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Sam Abbas moved to adopt the agenda. Wonderful Nancy seconded. The Academic Senate unanimously approved the adoption of the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2026

Don Bowman moved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Taylor Brooks seconded. The Academic Senate unanimously approved the adoption of the minutes.

5. Public Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

None.

6. President's Report

Frank Gonzalez shared that the large conference room (309) in the new math and computer science building was booked for all AS meetings the second it was on the calendar. However, a power outage messed up the large screen system. Senate meetings will be in AGB until the system is fixed. He will keep senators updated, but be sure to check agendas for current meeting location. Frank is super excited for this year. He shared that when he was first elected back in 2024, Mike stopped and asked him about his goals as president, which he only had one: to screw up as little as possible. With Dan's guidance and a new appreciation for the chaos and madness that is being AS President, Frank is ready to tackle the job. To answer Mike's question, Frank's goals as president will be to try to represent and be a strong voice for faculty as best as possible and increase communication.

7. Constituency Group Reports

1. Faculty Association: Allison Camelot shared that her and Caroline Gee will be taking turns giving FA updates to Senate. This year is going to be a busy one for FA. There will be BOD Trustees' election. Three seats are open with four people running. FA interviewed candidates for Area 4 over summer as Terri Rydell will not be running again. FA decided to support Gila Jones who is currently on the Capo USD Board and wants to move on be elected to SOCCCD Board. They are faculty friendly and have an open-door policy. Before election, FA will need help with text banking, making donations to the PAC, mailers, door hanging, canvassing, etc. More information can be found on the website, the QR code that was provided at the Flex Week meeting, or you can email Allison with any questions. Area 4 consists of San Juan Capistrano, Rancho Santa Margarita, Coto De Caza, San Clemente, and Rancho Mission Viejo. You can also help by giving recommendations or information to anyone you know looking to vote in those areas. FA is also in the process of negotiations this year.
2. Student Government: None.
3. Classified Senate: Vee Zahrae, President, shared a little bit about herself since she is new to the position. She has worked at Saddleback for 10 years in Financial Aid and is excited about her new role. Updates included that IVC and Saddleback Classified had a retreat to align goals and plan to the district's Inspire 2035 and to plan the 26-27 classified professional development days. They will be meeting with President Cordova to also help align with college goals.
4. California School Employees Association: None.

8. Representational Area / ATEP / PT Faculty Reports

Frank shared that he had moved this section up from the end of the agenda because it always seemed like people would like to share their area reports at the beginning of the meeting in the public comments area or were unsure where the appropriate place was to share their updates.

Dan reminded group that senators are not considered public, so you can't make area reports in the public comment section of the agenda. It is good to think about this area of the agenda as being the senator's public comments section.

Erica wanted to extend a special welcome to all the newly hired faculty members who are also new senators.

9. One-Sheet Review and Approval

Dan noticed that the decision-making process language in the one-sheet needs to change because we are a voting committee and do not make decisions by consensus. There also needs to be information about results that end in a tie. Frank will bring this back for review after working on correct language and wording for this part of the one-sheet.

10. Adoption of Consent Calendar Items

The first Curriculum meeting isn't until next week so the first consent calendar items will appear at next AS meeting. Only limited items go through Curriculum during summer.

Please double check to make sure that all schools and divisions have correct number of reps for Curriculum Committee to make quorum. Without quorum, we cannot pass Curriculum through the process.

11. Old Business

1. Approval of Faculty to Serve on Committees

Discussion/Action

Taylor Brooks motioned to approve Faculty to Serve on the Committees. Don Bowman seconded. The Academic Senate voted unanimously to adopt Faculty to Serve on Committees.

Christie informed group that the list was current as of 1:45pm today. Frank reminded everyone to submit their name for Senate on form because Senate needs to approve before you are official.

178 2. **Board Policy and Administrative Regulation Advisory Council (BPARC) Update**

179 *Information/Update/Action*

180 Next BPARC meeting Friday, August 28, 2026

181 Presenter: Dan Walsh

182 Sadly, Dan had no updates. First meeting will be at the end of the month. Dan will see if
183 anything is urgent so he can get specific areas' feedback since there was a little
184 breakdown of communication on how some areas were getting the information. If we hear
185 from Dan about specific BPs/ARs, then he needs feedback, but if we don't hear any
186 updates then everything is groovy. Lack of response from senators means that Dan thinks
187 you are ok with whatever the BP language states.

188
189 3. **Curriculum Update**

190 *Information/Action*

191 Please note that in the event it is necessary for operational or state mandates,
192 minor curriculum actions may take place during the summer and have the
193 Curriculum Committee formally ratify at their first meeting in the fall.

194 Presenter: June Millovich

195 June informed group that she is chair of Curriculum while Michelle Duffy is on leave this
196 semester if you need anything. September 18 is the deadline for new course or new
197 program initiations for Spring 28. Initiations for Fall 28 start date proposals will be due in
198 January.

199
200 4. **Full-Time Faculty Hiring Prioritization**

201 *Information/Update*

202 Information on number of submissions and upcoming committee meeting dates.

203 Presenter: Erica Vogel

204 Erica shared that they received 27 applications. FHP reps will meet on first of September to
205 evaluate applications and then one more time to vote on ranking. Reps can't vote for their
206 own areas.

207 Question: Is the FHP rep for an entire school or a department?

208 Answer: One rep and one dean per school, not individual department, regardless of size.

209 Larger areas seem to be at a disadvantage here, but this is the way the process has been in
210 place.

211
212 5. **ADA Compliance and Title II**

213 *Information/Update/Discussion*

214 Presentation

215 Presenters: Kim D'Arcy and Jennie Rodriguez

Kim d'Arcy shared information and status on the college's digital accessibility compliance. Federal government pushed back deadline to April 2027. Anything digital needs to be accessible. In late spring Kim's team hosted the Creating Accessible Courses class where faculty received stipends to attend. They also held several workshops to facilitate support on course accessibility. The OOI Sharepoint site has all the Title II resources, remediation bots, and recordings. Kim's team also added a summer cohort of the CAC course. There is also a workgroup facilitating timelines and support resources to provide to faculty and staff. Kim reminded AS that the district is responsible for liability for Title II. Title II applies to all district employees and digital content, not just faculty and courses. Kim's team has brought in new tools such as Allyant, TidyUp, UDOIT to help with all types of content, especially tricky pdfs. Allyant takes a couple of weeks to get back material. ISTI division is also hiring project specialists to help with materials. Currently, the college is at the stage of working on remediation and triage and there are many PD opportunities to support faculty and to remediate content, but faculty must do the work to remediate content. Jenny Rodriguez from the Faculty Center shared different sessions and support opportunities that will be offered in fall for faculty. The Title II Sharepoint has all recordings and presentations from Flex week if you were unable to attend. The tool, TidyUp is great at cleaning up unused material, so you don't waste your time cleaning up old content you are not using. Jenny shared the Accessibility Tool Belt page which will help you learn about the remediation tools available and which to use for specific needs and she plans to make this a go-to page.

Kim shared that we are so far ahead of the game that Rio Hondo and Pasadena colleges are coming to Saddleback to learn about what we are doing.

Frank gave kudos to Kim and team for getting us up to speed since last January when we were all frantically trying to meet the last deadline.

Don shared that he took the CAC course over summer. He was overwhelmed but learned a lot and highly recommended the course. Jennifer thinks Playlab is great for organizing Canvas pages and cleaning up content. Jenny reminded everyone to review all AI suggestions.

Wonderful Nancy asked when they are offering next class because current class is already full. Kim answered that the new cohorts will come in spring.

12. New Business

1. AI

Information/Discussion

Updates from over the summer including a new memorandum, AI in Teaching and Learning: Building Local Frameworks, jointly issued by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers. Presenters: Frank Gonzalez and Kim D'Arcy

Frank shared that he thought the two middle paragraphs of the letter from the Chancellor's Office stood out in that we're all doing this work together, that decisions will not come from up high and that colleges are able to do something else other than the recommendations given.

Kim shared that the AI workgroup has been in existence for about 1 ½ years and they have already incorporated things that are highlighted in the memo such as working in a collegial manner and using the HUMANS framework any time you adopt AI on campus. The workgroup has developed staff and student guidelines based off the HUMANS framework. The memo also stated that districts need to develop BPs and ARs which the workgroup is working on now. Other issues that are being considered are what agentic AI means for RSI in online courses and the need for hands- on PD. There will be pilots of Copyleaks (works like Turnitin) and GPTZero (now bought by Grammarly), so interested faculty should join the pilots to see how they work. The Grammarly GPTZero is very expensive, so college won't pick up the tool unless faculty like how they work and find them useful. For the college to pick up any tool, they have to avoid redundancy, consider the cost, and how much the faculty will use it.

Question: What does RSI stand for?

Answer: Regular and substantive interaction. This is an issue when using agentic agents in your courses and how RSI is measured.

Question: How do faculty express interest in pilot?

Answer: In a couple of weeks an email will go out with how to join group.

Question: Any more discussion about testing centers for academic integrity?

Answer: Kim is not aware of the status of this issue. Dan thinks there is a disconnect from what faculty want and what the district thinks is important.

Question: How do we get the word to the district and admin that this is necessary?

Answer: Kim encourages Frank to bring issue to admin as important. Past president of college was not interested as much in academic integrity piece of AI. Frank has brought this issue to President Cordova, and she understands that this is an important issue for faculty and they have reworked AI goals to include Academic Integrity. English department was told to back off conversations because they were moving too fast and admin was already working on it or that it would be better to wait. Frank reminded group that it takes a while for this work to get done at the college level, but that there are many different

departments interested in this work and Frank would like to connect with the different groups that are interested in beginning this work.

Question: When will GPTZero be available?

Answer: Timeline is for fall pilot or might be extended until spring, but Kim's team is working as fast as possible to get it to faculty.

2. **BLOOM Program**

Information/Update

Information about the program and new faculty lead.

Presenter: Heidi Ochoa

Heidi shared an overview of the BLOOM program and process to participate in which full time, tenured faculty can apply for the mentor position, and the BLOOM group and district will recruit the mentee to match with the faculty member. Both mentor and mentee get paid \$1200. The first three cohorts of the last three years were very successful with 40-60% of mentees acquiring PT positions after the program. Mentor role consists of inviting mentee to come to one of their courses and meet with the mentee for 30 minutes weekly or 1 hour every other week to help coach on how to apply for positions and what it takes to be a CC faculty member. The mentee shadows mentor and attends a committee meeting of their choice, creates and delivers two 20-minute lectures in mentor's class (online or in-person) which they will then receive feedback. Mentees also attend training from BLOOM group on college-wide aspects of the position such as the interview process, resume building, governance groups, and how to participate in committees. One modification of the program this year includes that BLOOM group recognized that not all teaching programs require a master's degree, so now you can apply for the program without a master's if you are in such a program.

Mentors need to apply by September 9th with their name, class schedule and reasons why they are interested in BLOOM. The group will work on recruiting candidates at local colleges after knowing which mentors will be participating. Mentors will be invited to participate at the end of fall semester and work with the mentees will start in spring semester. Heidi will send website to Christie to share and an email went out last week with Bloom website that has more information.

Question: Where can we find mentor application?

Answer: Last page of the presentation

Question: Why are PT faculty excluded?

Answer: Heidi was not sure how that decision was made but will find out the answer and send it to Frank to share.

Question: If we have a mentee in mind, can we request to work with them specifically?

Answer: You can request a mentee, but the vetting process is competitive. Still have them apply in case there are more mentors that would be interested in taking on a mentee.

Question: Is the mentee application the same as the mentor?

Answer: It is a different process. The mentee process won't start until group knows who wants to be mentors. The mentee recruitment happens at the district and coordinator level. Mentors can recruit if they have connections with their interested programs/ colleges.

3. Senate Primer/Role of Senators

Information

Presenters: Academic Senate Executive Team

Dan gave an overview of Senate, history of AB 1725, and defined the faculty's role in shared governance, the Brown Act, and 10 +1. He shared what kind of information is appropriate to disseminate at Senate and what is best to share at other committees.

Question: Is the hiring policy a concrete example of 10+1 or can you give an example of an aspect of the hiring process that is 10+1?

Answer: The committee makeup or how many administrators can be on the committee. We had an example of this when admin kept trying to get more administrators on hiring committees and AS and FA had to push back on that in the past.

Question: Do you recommend senators send out the minutes or notes we take here to the rest of our department?

Answer: Yes, please share notes with your areas.

Question: How can issues be brought to AS?

Answer: There are two ways – informal and formal. The informal process would be to send Frank an email, and he will let you know if you can present. The formal process involves having 2 senators ask for the issue to be agendized. The formal process is rare but allows for dissenting voices to be heard.

Question: What is the ideal contribution of senators?

Answer: We are a good group right now because multiple people will chime in on discussion and ask questions. Ideally, we want multiple people to take notes for their areas, paying attention to the agenda, asking questions, and sharing information back to areas. Senators need to pay attention to what is going on and give voice to faculty. Senate, CC, and BPARC are where many of the decisions that affect faculty are made.

4. Senate Goals

Information/Discussion

The Executive Team would like to establish measurable goals for this year's

363 Academic Senate.

364 Presenters: Academic Senate Executive Team

365 PIE and CC approved having college committee goals on their one-sheets that tie to the
366 Inspire 2035 goals. AS is not a college committee, but AS exec team wanted to explore
367 having goals. Frank shared the goals the exec team brainstormed just as a launching point.
368 The team wanted to bring to the larger group to see if creating and having goals for AS was
369 something the larger group was interested in pursuing.

370 Wonderful Nancy brought up the issue of having the exec team create the goals because at
371 the state Senate conference this summer they advised that we should include one PT and
372 one student voice and we don't have that in the input of the AS goals here.

373 Frank stated that we do have PT input here at AS and we have a student ASG
374 representative.

375 Wonderful Nancy clarified that she was talking about having a PT and student rep during
376 exec meetings.

377 Frank explained that those reps are not included at the exec team meetings because
378 sometimes confidential information is shared, but we can bring in PT rep and student rep
379 for certain issues. Also, the larger AS meeting is the time for PT and student representation
380 feedback.

381 Erica suggested that it sounded like two different conversations were being discussed: one
382 was to change the structure of exec, but this particular agenda item was specifically for
383 feedback on pursuing the development of goals.

384 Other feedback from senators about AS goals included:

- 385 • They seem like a natural extension of what we do here in AS.
- 386 • Having them is a good idea.
- 387 • We need to think about what the purpose is of having a goal, are we going to
388 measure them, report out on them, make changes based on them? But have no
389 problem with having goals.
- 390 • They are a good launching point, and a way to bring us together and be on the same
391 page to move forward instead of moving forward in a fractured way.
- 392 • They offer flexibility.
- 393 • Want to see a way to mentor people up and be inclusive so they take leadership
394 roles. What can we do to engage in different ways of communication with this group
395 that would capture what people are thinking and feeling more than what is being
396 said out loud.

397 Erica added that when exec was talking about the goals, it was thinking about what we
398 would like to see from AS and wanted a larger discussion to include how to make the
399 changes in a measurable way.

Frank wrapped up the conversation by asking if anyone was against having AS goals. No one was opposed to developing goals for Academic Senate. Frank asked everyone to think about any goals they would like to see and brainstorm with their areas between now and the 9/2 meeting.

5. Budget Report

Information/Discussion

Academic Senate operating budget including Professional Development funding.

Presenters: Frank Gonzalez and Christie Smead

Due to time constraints, Frank suggested tabling items 12.5 and 12.6. Taylor moved to table items 12.5 and 12.6. Morgan Barrows seconded. The Academic Senate unanimously approved to table items 12.5 and 12.6.

6. Faculty Professional Development Funding

Information/Discussion/Action

Increased PD funding budget and discussion on increasing request maximum.

Presenters: Frank Gonzalez and Christie Smead

Tabled.

13. Committee Reports

1. Executive

None.

2. College/Senate Committees

None, but Brenda had a question from CRTL: what would be a helpful way to get culturally responsive information, research, and resources to schools and depts? Let Brenda know once you think about it. It will help the work CRTL is doing this semester with the CRTL Toolkit.

Erica said she was interested in equity in relation to AI. It seems that students that are not getting caught and are good at using AI tools seem to be more from the upper socioeconomic levels.

14. Adjournment

Frank Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 3:58pm.

Handouts and items available on the Academic Senate SharePoint site

4 - Minutes Draft from May 06, 2026

9 - One-Sheet Review and Approval

- 436 10. Adoption of CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS
- 437 11.1 - Approval of Faculty to Sit on Committees
- 438 11.2 - Board Policy and Administrative Regulation Advisory Council (BPARC) Update
- 439 11.3 Curriculum Update
- 440 11.4 - Full-Time Faculty Hiring Prioritization
- 441 11.5 - ADA Compliance and Title II
- 442 12.1 - AI - Updates from over the summer including a new memorandum, AI in Teaching
- 443 and Learning: Building Local Frameworks, jointly issued by the California Community
- 444 Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges,
- 445 and the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers.
- 446 12.2 - BLOOM Program
- 447 12.3 - Senate Primer/Role of Senators
- 448 12.4 - Senate Goals The Executive Team would like to establish measurable goals for this
- 449 year's Academic Senate.
- 450 12.5 - Budget Report Academic Senate operating budget including Professional
- 451 Development funding.
- 452 12.6 - 6.Faculty Professional Development Funding Increased PD funding budget and
- 453 discussion on increasing request maximum.