Approved
10-07-2026

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE – ACADEMIC SENATE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
September 16, 2026
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Saddleback College, AGB 106

Senate Officers:	
Frank Gonzalez, President	Present
Dan Walsh, Past President	Present
Erica Vogel, President-Elect	Present
Michelle Gustafson, Vice President	Present
Carolyn Seaman, Recorder	Present
School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design	**(5)**
Taylor Hartmann	Absent
Blake Stephens	Present
School of Business and Industry	**(4)**
Don Bowman	Present
Jane Medling	Present
Taylor Brooks	Present
Chris Condron, Alt	Absent
Division of Counseling Services and Special Programs	**(5)**
Casey Eyman	Present
Hollis Casey	Present
Kolin Williams	Present
Mike Long	Present
Division of Extended Learning	**(1)**
Stacy Eldred	Present
Jill Ibbotson, Alt	Present
School of Health & Wellness	**(3)**
Angel Hernandez	Present
Kate Magsino	Present
Nahid Meshkin	Present
School of Humanities and Social Sciences	**(8)**
Brenda Plascencia-Carrizosa	Absent
Carolina Hernandez-Bachman	Present
Caroline Gee	Present
Emily Blumenthal	Present
Jake Williams	Present
Jennifer Hedgecock	Present
Lawrence Lan	Present
Megan Martin	Present
Division of Instructional Support and Teaching Innovations	**(1)**
Alicia Zach	Absent
Carolyn Seaman, Alt	Present
Division of Kinesiology & Athletics	**(2)**
Brandee Craig	Absent
Jennifer Rohles	Present
School of Science, Technology Engineering and Math	**(7)**
David Giordano	Present
Kat Shaw	Present
Michele Rousseau	Present
Morgan Barrows	Present
Ronald Anderson	Present
Sam Abbas	Present
Sumaya McCleave	Present
Part-Time Faculty Representatives	**(9)**
Taylor Hartmann, AMPD	Present
Afshin Hariri, BI *Left early -illness*	Present
EvaMarie Rodriguez-Morris, EL	Present
Wonderful Nancy Allah, HSS	Present
Noushin Seddighzadeh, STEM	Present
Shared Governance Group Representative	
Violeta Zahrae, Classified Senate President,	Present
Allison Camelot, Faculty Assoc.	Present
CSEA	Absent
ASG	Absent
Guests:	

Saddleback College

Saddleback College Academic Senate Minutes

Regular Meeting
Date: September 16, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Location: Saddleback College, MCS 309

1. Call to Order

Frank Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

2. Introduce and Welcome Guests & Senators

Frank asked guests and new senators to introduce themselves. Guests included: Deanna Scherger, Faculty Association President; Christian Alvarado, Dean of Enrollment Services; Kari Irwin, Dean of Workforce Program Innovation & Partnerships.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Blake Stephens moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with correction that Stacy Eldred was present at the last meeting. Wonderful Nancy seconded. The Academic Senate unanimously approved the adoption of the minutes with corrections.

5. Public Comments

None.

6. President's Report

Frank shared that the members of the constituency leadership meeting with President Cordova are looking at some action steps for the different goals and Frank stressed the need of a commitment from the college and admiration for AI help and support for faculty. Funds are allocated to each school and area for PD centered around AI. The English department has already utilized some of these funds to support faculty, so talk to your dean if your area is interested.
Frank also shared that President Cordova has asked that you add your suggestions to the We Hear You suggestion box. She will be holding listening sessions based on submissions and the first one will be this Thursday.

7. Constituency Group Reports

1. Faculty Association: Deanna Scherger, new FA president, wanted to introduce herself in person and loves coming to Saddleback since she started as a PT faculty member at this college. She shared that she will be meeting with our new administrators to advocate for faculty, so let her or your rep know if you need anything. There are still spaces on the rep council if interested. Deanna also shared some upcoming events, which you can find more information for on FA website:
    - Friday, 9/18, 12pm-2pm: Payroll workshop via Zoom
    - Thursday, 9/24, 4pm-6pm: FA Coffee Hour via Zoom and at Coffee Bean in Irvine

   Deanna wanted to remind us that the work FA is doing for the contract is the foundation of the union and faculty can also invest in the contract by understanding how important our BOT elections are. Area 4 is up for election. FA appreciates folks coming out to support candidates who support faculty. FA will need support in spring semester for the negotiations. Although we have an amazing negotiations team, the only thing that moves the needle is pressure the board members feel whenever faculty show up to the BOT meetings.
   Question: Who is the FA supporting in the upcoming election? Gila Jones.
2. Student Government: None.
3. Classified Senate: Vee Zahrae shared that they will have more information after their first meeting next week.
4. California School Employees Association: None.

8. Representational Area / ATEP / PT Faculty Reports

Mike Long shared that the Transfer Center is hosting their Fall Transfer Fair in the Quad on Wednesday, 10/7, from 10am-1pm. Faculty can show support by wearing alumni gear. There will be Cal States, UCs, private, out of state and international schools represented. This is the biggest fair for students who are applying for fall deadlines.
EvaMarie shared that the PT committee of the ASCCC is hosting a series of TedTalks for PT faculty across the state, but they are open to everyone. The 10/29 TedTalk is all about how PT faculty are part of 10+1. The November talk will be about online teaching, and December talk will be about DEIA. The group is working on the possibility of a PT Institute and regional meetings. The first PT Caucus will be held on 11/10 and an email from the state will be coming soon with more information.

9. Adoption of Consent Calendar Items

Blake Stephens motioned to adopt the Consent Calendar items. Dan Walsh seconded. The Academic Senate voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Calendar items.

10. Old Business

1. **Approval of Faculty to Serve on Committees**
   Discussion/Action

Morgan Barrows motioned to approve Faculty to Serve on Committees. Taylor Brooks seconded. The Academic Senate voted unanimously to approve the Faculty to Serve on Committees.

2. **Curriculum Update**
   Information/Update
   Presenter: June Millovich

   June was not present, but Jennifer Rohles shared that new course proposals, SLO assessments, and the TOP to CIP codes transition are all due 9/18.

3. **Board Policy and Administrative Regulation Advisory Council (BPARC) Update**
   Information/Update/Action
   Continued discussions on relevant BPs and ARs. Next BPARC meeting is Friday, October 2, 2026
   Presenter: Dan Walsh

   Nothing new to add yet. Changes to the Counseling AR are 99% complete and will be forwarded to Counseling. If Dan doesn't get changes by Friday, it will be going with the current language.

   Reach out to Dan or Frank if you want a revision even if not on cycle, as things can be revised off cycle.

4. **Full-Time Faculty Hiring Prioritization**
   Information/Update
   Submission review process, upcoming meeting, scoring, and finalized list.
   Presenter: Erica Vogel

Erica shared that no faculty reps have submitted any questions yet. Tuesday, 9/22, is the voting meeting and she will be able to share who is ranked at the top of list once that is done.

Frank is meeting with President Cordova on 9/29 to have list to District by 10/1 and will be able to share results of that meeting at the next Senate meeting. Theare are no guarantees for how many positions will be hired.

Wonderful Nancy asked who should decide if the position is internal or external because we have so many PT faculty that have been here for many years. Most of the positions should be internal. Deanna Scherger answered that any time a position flies, it has to be open to as many candidates as possible. There are legal reasons that they must be open to all. During the last negotiation cycle, District got rid of courtesy interviews because of the blind application process that is now in place. District thought courtesy interviews were a

form of inequality. We were one of the last schools to do courtesy interviews. The idea is that whoever is the most qualified based on the blind applications gets the position.

5. **Faculty Professional Development Funding**
   Information/Discussion/Action
   Increased PD funding budget and discussion on increasing request maximum.
   Presenters: Frank Gonzalez and Christie Smead

Frank shared his presentation outlining the three different options that are feasible with this year's budget for faculty PD funding. Frank stressed that these options were just his opening thoughts about where we realistically are with the numbers and after he will open it up for discussion today where everyone can share their opinions. He also shared that PD is important to FT and PT faculty and wanted to remind faculty that PD funding covers a wide number of things that are not just expensive conferences. There are realistic budgetary constraints and as much as we want to give everyone what they want, we have $120,000 + $30,000 (for CTE faculty). If the $30,000 doesn't get taken by CTE faculty, it can then be used by non-CTE faculty for CTE related PD, so not as cut and dry as a straight $150,000. The goal is to optimize PD funds without overspending. It becomes unfair for individuals who want PD towards the end of the year. Academic Senate does not have a say on how that money is dispersed. The Faculty Development Funding committee is the body that decides which faculty get funding and for what. Currently, the amount is $900 for PT faculty and $1700 for FT faculty, but two years ago the amounts were $900 for PT faculty and $1800 for FT faculty. There is no perfect answer to this because of budgetary constraints and we never know how many people are going to apply for funding each year. Frank's options include:

Option 1. Amount same for all faculty: not every request is for the max amount of funding and there are plenty of requests for smaller amounts for non-conference PD. $1500 for every faculty might ensure that we do not overspend, but $2000 would almost guarantee that we run out of money. This isn't a great option as FT faculty are contractually obligated to stay current in their field where PT faculty are not contractually obligated. PD is about improving a faculty member's teaching and if it is proportional to how many students faculty touch, FT faculty teaches almost three times the amount as PT faculty since not many PT faculty are at the 10 LHE amount.

Option 2. Amount dependent on LHE assigned: using 15 LHE is an easy guideline, but the average FT member teaches 18 ½ LHE. This seems like an amazing plan and fair, but the amount of administrative complexity to track the eligibility adds a lot of work to Christie and the professional development administrator.

Question: would that mean if it is linked to LHE, it would possibly make less funds available for PT faculty than they have now? Yes, a sizable amount of PT faculty would have a lot less than the current $900.

Option 3. Increase amounts while keeping similar to current proportionality: this would be $1000 for PT faculty and $2000 for FT faculty, which is also the current IVC model. This will almost guarantee that we will not overspend. This is the best option in Frank's opinion. If we increased to $1100 for PT faculty and $2200 for FT faculty, we may run out of funds if a flood of faculty apply at the beginning and middle of the year. On the pro side, running out of funds would demonstrate a need for PD funds, but on the con side it would cut out funds for people at the end of the year.

Question: how close have we been to running out? Last year we had a surplus, but the year before we were close to running out. Sometimes, the idea of running out is a little hazy because it can be backfilled with other CTE/Perkins/Workforce money. Last time we ran out was 2017 or 2018.

Question: if we do have a surplus year, could you redistribute to other faculty? That would require someone to look at all past applications and amounts.

Question: when we apply for Senate funds, are we supposed to put on the form that we are CTE or do we go directly to Kari? How are those funds being distributed? These are usually conversations between the dean and the strong workforce office to decide if faculty can use CTE funds. Dan shared that CTE funds fall out of prevue of Academic Senate and deans all do it differently. If you think it's CTE related, it's a personal conversation with each dean.

Jane M. shared that faculty in certain areas don't like filling out the Senate funding forms and would rather email Kari's office to see if there are funds available there. If it can be funded by CTE, try that first.

Taylor B. shared that as a courtesy to Academic Senate, CTE programs can use Perkins funds, but the faculty member has to ask Kari if there are funds available and she provides the funds to the CTE program as a group this way the individual faculty don't have to fill out the forms. Auto has more PD hours to complete than other faculty, close to 55 hours of PD. It takes a lot more planning to do this for a group. CTE funding is a gift, but you must get it preapproved and preplanned, but easier than getting reimbursed.

Jennifer R. shared that this is much more complicated than the three options presented, no disrespect to Frank's reasoning, but we won't be able to find a solution today. She suggests having a group look at the numbers to decide what the right amounts should be. How do we work on getting more money for PD each year? Frank shared that it is dependent on a CRC request with the same ranking process as other CRC requests. Jennifer suggested going with the same proportionality this year for now, but there needs to be a group to look at the details.

Question: who funds the Great Teachers seminar? Kim d'Arcy had funds for the event last year, it wasn't Academic Senate.

Wonderful Nancy shared that Tram said that if we can show her the budget needs to be increased, we need to show her that more funding is needed. We are not following the morals of the college. Why are we discriminating against types of faculty? There must be a solution.

EvaMarie shared that statewide, what PT faculty gets at Saddleback is more than peers at other colleges receive and the process for application of funds is easier. There is no easy solution, but she believes we can find a solution to benefit the most people and the PD opportunities will trickle down to benefiting the college and students.

Question: when we don't spend all the money does it get rolled over? No, the funds go back into college general funds.

Blake suggested we push to roll funds over to the next year, this may help find a balance between FT and PT funds.

Blake Stephens motioned to increase PD funding to $2000 for FT faculty and $1000 for PT faculty and to attempt to get surplus funds rolled over to following years. Sam Abbas seconded.

Discussion:

Question: can PD funds be used for competitions? Can you explain? This would be for something like music competitions. Funds are for faculty, not students.

Emily B. shared that HSS senators sent out a survey to their school to see which option their constituents preferred. There were 31 participants: 7 PT faculty and 24 FT faculty. The results were exactly split in favor of working towards equal funding now or in the future and maintaining current models. She wanted to highlight a comment from the survey results from a PT faculty that reducing FT funding is not an equitable solution, and that the District should address the funding resources for all faculty. An additional solution in the survey was to slowly work towards equal funding over time.

Erica asked if we should put together stories about funding, such as who didn't apply and why, what type of faculty applied, screenshots of money spent, etc. so that all the data is ready for next year when we need to apply for additional CRC funds. The data Frank used couldn't see if people were PT or FT faculty without looking at each individual application. Erica suggested maybe that information should be included in future data.

Faculty in favor of increasing PD funding to $2000 for FT faculty and $1000 for PT faculty and to attempt to get surplus funds rolled over to following years:

Yays:
Blake Stephens

Taylor Brooks
Jane Medling
Casey Eyman
Hollis Casey
Kolin Williams
Mike Long
Stacy Eldred
Jennifer Rohles
Kat Shaw
Ronald Anderson
Michele Rousseau
Morgan Barrows
Sam Abbas
Sumaya McCleave
EvaMarie Rodriguez-Morris
Angeline Hernandez
Kate Magsino
Nahid Meshkin
Jake Williams
Jennifer Hedgecock
Megan Martin
Frank Gonzalez
Dan Walsh
Erica Vogel
Michelle Gustafson
Carolyn Seaman

Nos:
Emily Blumenthal
Caroline Gee
Lawrence Lan
David Giordano
Carolina Hernandez-Bachman
Wonderful Nancy

Abstentions:
Don Bowman

The Academic Senate approved by majority vote to increase PD funding to $2000 for FT faculty and $1000 for PT faculty and to attempt to get surplus funds rolled over to the following years.

6. **New Dean of Students**
   Information/Discussion

The new Dean of Students will discuss her role and responsibilities including faculty participation on Student Conduct Hearings.
Presenter: Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez

Elaine Lipz Gonzalez started in her role at Saddleback in July and came to Senate to ask for partnership with faculty and to share opportunities for faculty to participate in student conduct hearings. As the conduct officer, her role is all about helping students and faculty connect to resources. The goal for student conduct is for students to continue making progress on their academic goals and to make improvements on their behavior. Disciplinary student hearing panels are not routine but an opportunity for students to receive due process. Panels consist of one administrator and two faculty members, but a student can ask for a student rep to substitute for a faculty member. Elaine is looking for faculty members to serve on the panels to agree on and impose sanctions that are appropriate. Frank shared that he just served on one recently and faculty can reach out to him about the experience and if faculty have questions. There are four faculty currently serving on the panels, three in this room now, and Frank would love to have others serve. They really need faculty list to be bigger so please report back and find others in your area or any other faculty you feel would be good for the panels. It is up to Senate to keep a running list of those faculty, so contact Frank and he will connect them to Elaine's office, put their name forward for approval and add them to the list. Elaine's office is located next to International Students Center on the 1st floor of CC in the back to the left.

Morgan shared she had to submit her first Title IX report recently and wanted to thank Elaine's office. The process was very smooth and she was kept in the loop as a faculty member. She was very happy that the process worked well. It was an unfortunate situation, but the communication and remediation were good. Elaine was happy the process was a positive one, and she shares the gratitude with Dr. LaBounty and Valerie Romero as the process is collaborative in nature.

Question: are any of the disciplinary hearings online given the amount of online students we have? They have only had two hearings since Elaine has been here so far and both were in person. They do their very best to preserve the in-person modality as best they can as meetings with students in person are valuable to make connections. Grade grievances are not overseen by Dean of Students, but if students are not sure how to follow process, they can reach out to Valerie Romero, and she will help them navigate the process. Dr. LaBounty shared that they will do rare online hearings for students who may have been considered volatile.

7. **25-26 Committee Survey Results**
   Information/Discussion
   Presenters: Academic Senate Executive Team

   Tabled.

8. **FLEX Week and FLEX Hours Reporting**
   Information/Discussion
   Presenters: Dan Walsh and Christie Smead

Dan reminded faculty to report FLEX week hours. Don't report hours for activities that you did not attend. Michelle R. asked if they could make the form available during FLEX week so we can report as we attend? Dan explained that it is kind of limited to the software they are using and it makes it hard to catch duplications if released too early.

9. **Parental Rights of Dependent Children**
   Information/Discussion
   Dual enrollment, CCAP programs, and FERPA
   Presenters: Dan Walsh and Christian Alvarado, Dean of Enrollment Services

Dan shared a little background on topic: last spring, he went through dual enrollment at OCC as a parent and was surprised at all the information about the rights of parents they provided. Apparently, there are a lot of helicopter parents out there. He thought faculty at Saddleback would benefit from having that kind of documentation and support.

Christian Alvarado shared presentation about FERPA and how faculty can respond to the parents of children in their courses. We have an AR that specifically states who can receive information about a student. Parents do not have access to student information for dual enrollment students. Saddleback records belong to the student – this can be confusing to parents since they are used to having access to records from their child's high school. The key message for faculty is that faculty should only be communicating with the student and not to disclose information to the parents of the student. Even if the student has a FERPA authorization form on record, faculty are still not required to speak to parents. Refer parents to Christian's area and they can give them information on the process and rights. Christian's office is working on a template to help faculty respond to students and provide guidance and sources of where this information comes from to help support faculty trying to protect student privacy.

Dan wanted to remind faculty that you can't even talk about the student to their parent to even confirm that the student is in the class. Students may want to keep certain information private from parents and you never know their reasons.

Kari Irwin is hiring a Director of Dual Enrollment to help with efforts of communication between high schools, parents, faculty and administration. Saddleback already has good communication/language with high school campus dual enrollment courses but will be ramping up language for the courses on Saddleback campus.

Frank reminded group that the presentation and information from Christian Alvarado is located on Academic Senate SharePoint. If you have any input, please let Frank or Dan know.

Question: would you recommend that we put something in our syllabus to state upfront that we won't meet with parents? Is that better than parents being surprised by the policy? Christian recommends that you put it on syllabus because sometimes parents don't understand. Giving contact information to Christian's office is good so they can explain the rights further even if the parents filled out the FERPA form. Erica added that the level of participation in a child's school life is shocking, so parents may need that messaging about what is expected now that children are in college-level courses.

Question: do we know which student is dual enrollment? Only if they are k-8 grade because that needs instructor permission.

Question: will there be a new form for the parental release form that we have used in the past? Christian's office uses an e-form for FERPA authorization that students need to complete. Currently there is not a mechanism in Banner for faculty to know if there is already one on file. Faculty can contact Christian's office to see if a student in your class has one.

Don B. shared that he gets emails from 4-year institutions asking to verify grades. Should he still be completing this process? Christian suggested faculty remove themselves from that situation and refer student to A&R office.

Vee Z. shared that even when students have a FERPA on file, she still likes to have students on the phone so that she can verify that the student wants her to talk with their parents. This can soften the blow for the parents and give staff another chance to explain what a FERPA authorization is and what rights it gives.

Don B. shared that he receives sports progress reports that he fills out online, but he can see grades from other classes filled out on the form already, is that violating FERPA? This could be gray area because as faculty you are an authorized official, but you don't need to see other course grades.

10. **Academic Calendar 2028-29**
    Information/Discussion/Action
    2nd review of the 2028-29 Academic Calendar initially shared at the 4/15/26 Senate meeting.
    Presenter: Dan Walsh

Dan shared that this is the second review of calendar. Maureen Smith, chair of calendar committee, is on leave this semester, so last semester the committee did lots of work to get this done. He wanted to remind group that there is not as much wiggle room in the calendar as you would expect.

Question: does the calendar show instruction going through to May 31st? No, that is summer school, there are no classes after commencement until summer.

Question: is the PD day during the semester still a thing? That was brought forward to IVC, but CSEA leadership took a little offense without having discussions with them first. Increasing classified PD is becoming a conversation at the constituent leadership group, so colleges are paying attention to that.

Michelle R. shared that the holidays that run on the weekends are set on Fridays which are a day that most faculty don't work anyway, and asked why aren't they moved to Mondays instead? Most likely it is because there needs to be a balance of the number of classes that need to run on each day of the week and there are only certain days that can be used for federal and state holidays, you can't just choose which day you want to use. We also have to teach to a certain amount of minutes.

Blake Stephens motioned to approve the 2028-2029 Academic Calendar. Morgan Barrows seconded. The Academic Senate voted unanimously to approve the 2028-2029 Academic Calendar.

Blake Stephens motioned to table agenda items 10.7, 25-26 Committee Survey Results, and agenda item 11.1. Inspire 2025-35 Strategic Priorities. Morgan Barrows seconded. The Academic Senate voted unanimously to approve to table agenda items 10.7 and 11.1.

11. New Business

1. **Inspire 2025-35 Strategic Priorities**
   Information
   Faculty Lead needed to work with Jessica Kaven, Assistant Dean of HSS, on goal tracking for Strategic Priorities 2 and 3.
   Presenter: Frank Gonzalez

Tabled.

12. Committee Reports

1. **Executive**

None.

2. **College/Senate Committees**

Taylor Brooks shared that the Outreach Committee has decided to dissolve. Information will be disseminated via email moving forward.

Blake Stephens shared that there will a Building Inspector Summit taking place at Saddleback College on October 8th from 10am – 1:30pm. Good for students interested in construction, plan checking, and the inspection industry.

13. Adjournment

Frank Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 3:59pm

- **Next Academic Senate Meeting:** October 7, 2026

HANDOUTS DISTRIBUTED WITH AGENDA &/OR AVAILABLE ON THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHAREPOINT WEBSITE

AS Agenda - 16Sept2026
Minutes Draft from September 02, 2026
CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS
9.01 Proposed course revision for academic year 2026-27 (Spring)
9.02 Proposed new noncredit course justification for academic year 2027-28
9.03 Proposed new credit courses for academic year 2027-28
9.04 Proposed new credit program for academic year 2027-28
9.05 Proposed new noncredit courses for academic year 2027-28
9.06 Proposed new noncredit programs for academic year 2027-28
9.07 Proposed course revisions and deletions for academic year 2027-28
9.08 Proposed program revisions for academic year 2027-28
10. Old Business
10.01 Approval of Faculty to Serve on Committees
10.03 Board Policy and Administrative Regulation Advisory Council (BPARC) Update -Continued discussions on relevant BPs and ARs. Next BPARC meeting is Friday, October 2, 2026
10.04 Full-Time Faculty Hiring Prioritization -Submission review process, upcoming meeting, scoring, and finalized list.
10.05 Faculty Professional Development Funding - Increased PD funding budget and discussion on increasing request maximum.
10.06 New Dean of Students -
10.07 25-26 Committee Survey Results
10.08 FLEX Week and FLEX Hours Reporting
10.09 Parental Rights of Dependent Children - Dual enrollment, CCAP programs, and FERPA
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