

Minutes – Miramar College Academic Senate

3:30-5:00pm

Oct 07, 2025

Location: M-110 and [Zoom](#)

(*See [agenda](#) for remote locations)

[Associated Documents](#)

[Meeting Slide Show](#)

Senators Present: Rodrigo Gomez, Carmen Carrasquillo, Olivia Flores, Dawn Diskin, Melissa Wolfson, Kristen Everhart, Veronica Hartmann, Mary Kjartanson, Alex Sanchez, Ali Gonzalez, Amy Alsup, April Koch, Dan Smith, David Halttunen, Donnie Tran, Eloy Guerra, Jay Calanog, Jason Thoma, Julia McMenamin, Kandice Brandt, Leslie Marovich, Lisa Munoz, Mardi Parelman, Martin Gonzalez, Matthew Jewett, Meggie Morris, Otto Dobre, Patti Manley, Randy Claros, Scott Moller, Sierra Hegle, Wahid Hamidy, Kristen Bonwell, Melissa Rockey, Najah Abdelkader, Tori Neises

Absent: Dawn DiMarzo (proxy: D. Diskin), Fred Garces, Kya Mangrum, Laura Marin (proxy: M. Gonzalez), Marian Edelbrock, Michael Lopez, Daniel McNamara, Mike Colafrancesco, *Natalie Bickett (proxy: K. Everhart)

*attended as a guest

Other Attendees: Mara Palma-Sanft, Magdalena Donea, David Wilhelm, Nessa Julian, Pablo Martin, Bill Pacheco, Juli Bartolomei

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 3:32pm.

2. Approval of Agenda and Consent Calendar

2.1. [Meeting minutes from 9/16/25](#)

- The agenda and Consent Calendar were approved with no objections. [Manley/Koch]

3. Land Acknowledgment

4. Public Comments

- (Due to technical issues, this public comment was made later in the meeting.)
Abdelkader: Several faculty members spoke at the SDCCD Board Meeting on Sept 11th regarding:
 - Issue a formal apology for statements equating Palestinian slogans with violence.
 - District policies that chill students' right to free speech.
 - Affirm the right of faculty in general and to engage in advocacy without being stigmatized or threatened.Gomez noted that the Board responded to these issues, as noted in agenda item 6.5.

5. Action Items (*this includes second reads*)

5.1. AS Meeting Modality Update - Rodrigo Gomez

- Gomez introduced the item as an Action Item, if the body felt ready to vote. However, if not, he suggested it be changed to a Discussion Item and be brought back for a future vote.
- Gomez explored the technical issues that persist in this hybrid format, with some senators attending in person and some remote, and the ongoing interruptions that hinder the governance process. The question is whether the A.S. should return to fully in-person meetings starting in Spring 2026. Gomez noted that City and Mesa went back to fully in-person after pandemic restrictions softened; Continuing Ed still offers the remote option but also aspires to a fully in-person governance approach.
- Discussion ensued.
- Motion made to return to fully in-person meetings in Spring 2026. [Manley/Kjartanson]
- Motion made to amend the motion to make an exception for adjunct senators. [Everhart/Bonwell]
- Further discussion ensued, with several senators requesting postponement of the vote so they could discuss it with their departments and others requesting postponement due to the technical issues.
- Technical issues resulted in remote attendees being unheard by senators in the room, and some messages in the chat were being missed by the in-person body, which was interpreted as a Brown Act violation. Because no action can be taken when the Brown Act is violated, Kjartanson rescinded her second on the original motion.
- This item will come back to the next meeting for a vote.

6. Discussion Items (*this includes first calls and first reads*)

6.1. Standing: Curriculum Committee Updates - Veronica Hartmann

- Reminder to contact [Hartmann](#) with new programs and revisions.

6.2. Miramar College Mission & Vision Statements Update - David Wilhelm

- The Mission Statement was reviewed, with a single change noted, removing “success” from the opening section.
- There was some discussion on the removal of “success.” It doesn’t remove success as a goal, but rather frames it as a byproduct of the preparation we aim to give to students.
- The Vision Statement was also reviewed.
- This will come back for a second read.

6.3. Ensuring Senate Representation for All Faculty - Rodrigo Gomez

- Recent department and school realignments have created representation gaps for some contract faculty whose roles are not housed within an existing A.S.–represented department. This includes positions such as Career Services and

Articulation, which were previously grouped under divisions that no longer exist in the same form. The issue has been identified and discussed with the VPI and Academic Senate Executive Committee.

- Possible options include:
 - Reinstating a Senator-at-Large or creating a “Catch-All Senator” position.
 - Reviewing the Constitution & Bylaws to define eligibility and voting rights for unaligned positions.
 - Coordinating with affected areas (e.g., Career Services, Articulation) to ensure proper inclusion.
- This item will come back for discussion at the next meeting.
- 6.4. Software Approval Diagram Flowchart - Pablo Martin
 - Martin broke down the new process for requesting new technologies and approving them.
 - Feedback should be sent to [Martin](#).
- 6.5. SDCCD's Commitment to Free Speech and Academic Freedom - Rodrigo Gomez
 - [Board Policy 3050 – Civility and Mutual Respect](#)
 - [Board of Trustees Resolution Supporting Academic Freedom](#)
 - The Board recently passed a resolution supporting “Academic Freedom” and “Freedom of Speech” in response to students speaking up at Board meetings.
- 6.6. Student Equity Plan 2025-2028 - Nessa Julian
 - [Student Equity Plan Executive Summary](#)
 - Bring back to departments and share feedback with [Julian](#).
 - This will come back for a second read.
- 6.7. Faculty Contract Hiring List Presentation - Mary Kjartanson
 - Postponed.
- 6.8. [Miramar AI Working Group](#) – [AI Policies & Guidelines](#) – Draft for [Miramar AI Guidelines](#) - Rodrigo Gomez
 - Gomez encouraged faculty to attend.
 - Miramar College has been a leader in the AI in Education conversation since it started. We are the only college currently with an AI Resolution. In the absence of specific professional development related to AI, Gomez is proposing the creation of a Miramar working group on AI.
 - AI guidelines are available from other colleges, but Miramar currently has nothing uploaded.
 - The work group would like to produce something collective that speaks to all groups.

7. Reports

7.1. Committee Reports (None)

7.2. Special Reports

7.2.1. Faculty Technology Liaison Report - Pablo Martin

- Martin encouraged everyone to take note of “work-arounds” so they can be addressed.
- The Miramar College Web Developer is retiring. Reach out to VPI Odu or deans with thoughts on where to go with that position.
- Martin will report survey results.

7.3. Executive Committee Reports

7.3.1. President - Rodrigo Gomez (State, District, Campus, and Senate Issues)

- Gomez shared the breakdown for adjunct funding and reminded adjunct senators to get their paperwork to him to sign.
- AP7211: Gomez is still waiting for feedback to see what will be sent to Mesa and City. Send recommendations to [Gomez](#) ASAP.

7.3.2. Vice President - Carmen Carrasquillo

- Friendly reminder that the A.S. Workgroup GAIA will be meeting soon to begin planning for Women's History Month. Please be on the lookout for the DL meeting announcement. All are welcome.

7.3.3. Secretary - Olivia Flores

- Flores reported as the AFT Faculty Rep:
 - An email will go out soon regarding an AFT soccer luncheon on 10/21.
 - There are current discussions about faculty pay scale. Reach out to [O. Flores](#), [A. Alsup](#), and/or [H. Paulson](#).

7.3.4. Treasurer - Dawn Diskin

- The current balance is \$1,011.07.

7.3.5. Contract Member-at-Large - Melissa Wolfson

- No report.

7.3.6. Part-Time Member-at-Large - Kristen Everhart

- Adjunct Success, Retention and Equity Committee meets this Thursday, 3:30-5pm, on [Zoom](#). Everyone is welcome to attend, and there is flex credit available.

7.3.7. Chair of Chairs - Mary Kjartanson

- No report.

8. **Announcements**

- Article in NEA Today about faculty salary pay scale.
- Brandt: DSPS is hosting a Disability Film Festival in recognition of October being Disability Employment Awareness Month. They will be screening four films, followed by opportunities for group discussion. The first film is Murderball, which will be shown on Thursday, Oct 9th, from 1-3pm at the High Tech Center (L-102). Snacks will be provided. All SDCCD students and staff are welcome!

9. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.

The next meeting will be on Oct 21st. Please submit agenda items to both Rodrigo Gomez and Juli Bartolomei.

Respectfully submitted,
Juli Bartolomei and Olivia Flores