

Minutes – Miramar College Academic Senate
3:30-5:00pm **Mar 17, 2026** Location: M-110
[Associated Documents](#)
[Meeting Slide Show](#)

Senators Present: Rodrigo Gomez, Carmen Carrasquillo, Olivia Flores, Dawn Diskin, Melissa Wolfson, Desi Klaar, Veronica Hartmann, Mary Kjartanson, Alex Sanchez, Amy Alsup, Anh Nguyen, April Koch, Brit Hyland, David Halttunen, Dawn DiMarzo, Jason Thoma, John Kim, Kandice Brandt, Leslie Marovich, Mardi Parelman, Martin Gonzalez, Matthew Jewett, Meggie Morris, Michael Lopez, Patti Manley, Sierra Hegle, Wahid Hamidy, Bianca Duong, Bryan McCulley, Melissa Rockey, Michael Elliot, Tyler Lam

Absent: Ali Gonzalez (proxy: M. Gonzalez), Dan Smith (proxy: P. Chlapecka), David Mehlhoff, Donnie Tran (proxy: D. DiMarzo), Eloy Guerra (proxy: V. Nevarez), *Julia McMenamin (proxy: J. Thoma), Laura Marin (proxy: A. Nguyen), Marian Edelbrock (proxy: K. Brandt), Otto Dobre (proxy: W. Hamidy), Daniel McNamara, Mike Colafrancesco

Other Attendees: Paul Chlapecka, Valentino Nevarez, Mara Palma-Sanft, Kurt Hill, Jeff Orgera, Dan Roberts, Juli Bartolomei
*attended as guest

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

2.1. [Meeting minutes from 3/3/26](#)

- The agenda and draft minutes from 3/3/26 were approved with no objection. [Marovich/Parelman]

3. Land Acknowledgment

4. Public Comments

- Happy Women’s History Month
- SD Regional AI Conference 2026 at Palomar College: Miramar was well represented and there are recordings available.
- SDCCD Board Meeting at Miramar College

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

5.1. [Academic Standards Subcommittee Changes](#) – Mara Palma-Sanft

- Approval will allow this to move to College Council to meet the deadline for Fall 2026.
- There were no changes since the last meeting, so Palma-Sanft reiterated recommended changes presented at the last meeting.
- Term length was calculated to ten years, but that can be changed. Recommendation to just extend to two terms, not necessarily ten years. Palma-Sanft noted that language can be changed to clarify the term length.
- Dean Orgera noted that there is a tentative plan to move degrees to the School of Academic Services. Palma-Sanft stated that the discipline will stay with the committee until a plan is determined.
- Motion to approve with updates to the membership term length. [Carrasquillo/Koch]
- Lopez asked whether the term length will be daunting and might discourage membership. Palma-Sanft stated that members might feel like they need the extra term length to get through the learning curve. It was also noted that a member can opt to leave the committee before their term expires.
- Motion to approve the resolution with recommended changes passed with one objection.

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

6.1. Standing: Curriculum Committee Updates – Veronica Hartmann

- At their March 12 meeting, CIC voted to pass a new subject indicator, CINE, which will replace DFLM at Miramar College.

6.2. Free Speech and Campus Safety – Adrian Gonzales / Rodrigo Gomez

- Gonzales was not present at the meeting.
- See [meeting slideshow](#) for details.
- See [Board Policy 3900](#) regarding Free Speech areas.
- Concerns were shared regarding some tabling during College Hour, with ASG voicing particular concern about Turning Point USA (TPUSA).
- Gomez read a [letter](#) by Prof. Wolf.
- Discussion on whether organizations on campus that are tabling are using this to recruit students.
- Concern shared: Can we continue to call this campus a safe space and maintain this attitude of safety, when there is hateful retract being promoted? Keep in mind this is a free speech campus and there are free speech zones.
- Gomez: Board Policies are available on the District website. Would like the Miramar A.S. to have a discussion.
- Parelman: Saw the TPUSA tabling and noted it seemed hostile. Reported to Dean Woods.
- Gomez: There was a picture taken from the tabling that was concerning.

- Gomez noted that the District is trying to get ahead of it and know the concerns from ASG, again reiterating to review the Board Policies.
- Parelman asked a question regarding the process to revisit Board Policies: What happens when policies are in contrast? Gomez recommended that the Miramar A.S. body write a resolution to present to the District.
- Gomez clarified that the ask is to be aware of tabling happening on campus, provide support options for students and, if you see anything concerning, provide support to students. Tabling organizations should not be following students or harassing them.
- Carrasquillo: Miramar College can put up signs stating that the campus does not endorse the views being shared. The VPSS has talked about getting more signs.
- Tabling is not allowed to look like they are part of an event on campus and they can be told to move, if it looks like they are part of a college event. Gomez noted that they should not be recruiting to look like they are part of student club.
- Gomez reminded senators to contact campus police if they see something concerning and to let him know so he can share it with the District and other meetings he attends, where he represents Miramar College.

6.3. [New Miramar Technology Plan](#) – Kurt Hill / Jeff Orgera

- This is informational, not yet a first read, as there have already been updates to the plan. The updated version is on the [Technology Committee website](#).
- This is a campus-wide Technology Plan, with sections for different constituents.
- Sections for Academic Senate and Faculty, with a workgroup to ask what the classroom of the future looks like.
- Forward-looking three-year plan. First year would look at different activities, next year would be piloting those. Third year scaling, with the possibility of some of the Bond Buildings already completed (Aviation hangar).
- Looking to have this plan finalized and approved by summer, with a first read in April and approval in May.
- Asking faculty to look at what the Technology Committee outlined and send any suggestions/feedback to [Hill](#) or the Technology Committee. Review the recommendations and see how those would apply in your department/area.
- Manley: Question about who came up with the timelines, specifically the 6-10 year timeline on equipment in classrooms. Hill noted that some of the technology on campus is old. This new Technology Plan has looked at that, but people need to understand that technology is expensive and some items cannot be replaced as often.
- There are concerns with over-promising, and the timelines are set to be more realistic. If there are recommendations and a consensus on timelines on replacing equipment faster, the committee is open to hearing them.
- The Technology Plan is a recommendation; it does not mean there will be funding for replacement.
- Gomez: Question about whether the plan includes responses to A.I. Hill noted there is a recommendation on the faculty side, which the A.S. is already addressing, talking about A.I. in the classroom.
- Kim: A version was brought to the IDEA Committee. Conversation regarding accessibility and equity seem to be a back thought. Hill noted that accessibility is not an option, it is the law. This plan does not get into specifics. Accessibility should be embedded in all of this. Hill clarified that the version IDEA reviewed was last year's plan. It has been updated since, and Hill will look through and see about adding language.
- Koch noted that section 5.1, Initial Design Concepts for Classrooms, is a good section for adding accessibility language. Hill agrees and will look to add to this section. This is a good example of what a faculty workgroup could look like, when discussing the classroom of the future.
- Marovich: Question about interactive display replacement. Hill clarified that P.C.s that are built-in would likely need to be replaced before the interactive displays/monitors.

6.4. [CRM Implementation Update](#) (Element 451) – Dan Roberts

- Four years ago, the School of Business and Technical Careers received a grant to look at Career Education admission and retention rates.
- Grant recommendations included increasing marketing and obtaining a Client Relationship Management (CRM) system, as a way to communicate with students.
- Element 451 was selected, and functionally includes communication engagement with students.
- Roberts has been working with different departments on piloting. Now at the point of implementing campus-wide.
- Feedback Roberts received was that students felt they were getting too many emails, too much communication.
- Roberts looked at the Fall 2025 DLs to see what was being sent out. 75% of DLs were student-facing activities.
- Looked more closely at the type of activity; some were good for all students, while others were more specific to a certain student body.
- Trainings in late May – early June for specific areas to see how they are using the DL and how CRM can support. Will then scale across campus.
- Moving forward, departments will be responsible for creating events, and student communication will be done in a way that is not over-communicating with students.
- Currently working with Admissions & Records and Academic Services with communication and registration process for Commencement.
- Working with Counseling faculty using CORA and hosting Chat with Counselor.
- Reach out to [Roberts](#) with questions or recommendations.
- Motion to extend time by two minutes passed with no objections. [Alsup/Carrasquillo]

- Alsup: Question about student-facing emails for student-facing events. Many faculty use those emails to share with students and form a connection. Communications should not just go to students. DL emails serve a purpose. Roberts agrees and thinks there could be a balance. Faculty announcements in classrooms are part of marketing.
 - Koch noted that the DLs are the best emails she gets about events and she can tailor them to her class. Some students say they do not know about upcoming events until faculty tell them.
 - Kim: Will there be research connected to making sure students are opening these communications? Roberts: Yes, and current and future plans are to get student voices and feedback.
 - Concerns with target-marketing and students only getting information based on their identity or major. Students are exploring majors and want to learn more about another field; everyone should be getting the information. Roberts agrees and notes that the CRM is one channel. Roberts is advocating for multiple channels, but when looking at RSVPs, get those through the group that the event is targeting.
- 6.5. AP 5500.1 - Honest Academic Conduct – Rodrigo Gomez
- Coming from the District, amending [Administrative Procedure \(AP\) 5500.1](#). The District is requesting feedback.
 - Adding a seventh item, regarding A.I. usage in the classroom and plagiarism.
 - Email [Gomez](#) with suggestions or recommendations.
 - A.S. is not voting, just providing feedback.

7. Reports

7.1. Committee Reports

- 7.1.1. None

7.2. Special Reports

- 7.2.1. None

7.3. Executive Committee Reports

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

- Call for Scholarship Application Readers
 - Flores and Klaar volunteered.
- College Council is forming an AI Workgroup.
- AI Day Professional Development

7.3.2. Vice President – Carmen Carrasquillo

- None

7.3.3. Secretary – Olivia Flores

- None

7.3.4. Treasurer – Dawn Diskin

- The current balance is \$464.49.

7.3.5. Contract Member-at-Large – Melissa Wolfson

- None

7.3.6. Part-Time Member-at-Large – Desi Klaar

- Sending an email to adjunct faculty on paying A.S. dues to support student scholarships.

7.3.7. Chair of Chairs – Mary Kjartanson

- Meeting Thursday, March 19, at 1:00pm in R3-100 (EMT/Fire).

8. Announcements

- [Gender Equity in the Age of Ice](#): Wednesday, March 18, 12:45 - 2:00pm, I-101 A/B
- Careers in Nutrition, Exercise Science and Other Related Fields: Wednesday, March 18, 9:30am - 3:00pm, K1-107
- [AFT Mini Conference](#): Friday, April 10, 9am - 3pm
- AI InnovAltion Day 2026: Friday, March 20, 8am - 4pm, North City Campus. Free.
- ASCCC AI and Academia 2026: March 19 - 21
- Pow Wow: Saturday, March 21, Hourglass Field

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.

The next meeting will be on April 7th. Please submit agenda items to both Rodrigo Gomez and Juli Bartolomei.

Respectfully submitted,
Olivia Flores and Juli Bartolomei