

Minutes – Miramar College Academic Senate
3:30-5:00pm **Sept 01, 2026** Location: L-301
[Associated Documents](#)
[Meeting Slide Show](#)

Senators Present: Rodrigo Gomez, Olivia Flores, Amy Alsup, Melissa Wolfson, David Mehlhoff, Desi Klaar, Veronica Hartmann, Mary Kjartanson, Alex Sanchez, April Koch, Brit Hyland, Dan Smith, David Halttunen, Donnie Tran, Eloy Guerra, Jason Thoma, John Kim, Julia McMenamin, Kandice Brandt, Kevin Gallagher, Leslie Marovich, Mardi Parelman, Marian Edelbrock, Matthew Jewett, Meggie Morris, Michael Lopez, Monica Demcho, Otto Dobre, Patti Manley, Sierra Hegle, Wahid Hamidy
Absent: Jordan Omens (proxy: D. Mehlhoff), Molly Fassler (proxy: A. Alsup), Veronica Dayag (proxy: D. Smith)
Other Attendees: Melissa Rockey, Michael Elliott, Corinne Jenni, Mara Palma-Sanft, Juli Bartolomei

1. **Call to Order**
 - The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda & Consent Calendar**
 - The agenda and Consent Calendar were approved with no objections. [Koch/Sanchez]
3. **Consent Calendar**
 - 3.1. [Meeting minutes from 05/19/26](#)
4. **Land Acknowledgment**
5. **Public Comments**
 - None
6. **Action Items (*this includes second reads and urgent votes announced via email*)**
 - 6.1. None
7. **Discussion Items (*this includes first calls and first reads*)**
 - 7.1. Standing: Curriculum Committee Updates - Veronica Hartmann
 - No update.
 - 7.2. Measure HH Quarterly Senate Updates & Communication Process - Rodrigo Gomez
 - Gomez requested that senators send feedback to [Gomez](#), [Flores](#) or [Bartolomei](#) regarding how often they would like the District to present to the Academic Senate (AS) regarding Measure HH.
 - Concerns were shared, including that fewer things are able to be funded by Measure HH.
 - Gomez will follow up and request that they come to an upcoming meeting to address questions and concerns.
 - 7.3. Reestablishing the At-Large Senator Position - Rodrigo Gomez
 - Gomez discussed the possibility of reestablishing the At-large Senator seat that previously existed at Miramar to address representation gaps for contract faculty whose positions do not fit neatly within the existing AS departmental structure. The proposed model would allow faculty in these unrepresented areas to elect a senator from among themselves so they have a voice and vote within the AS.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Senators were asked to discuss pros and cons with their departments, as this item will come back to the next meeting for a vote.
 - 7.4. Districtwide Distribution List (DL) Email Access & Communication Issues - Rodrigo Gomez
 - Gomez noted that faculty have reported inconsistent access to District distribution lists (DL), creating concerns about whether important communications are reaching all intended recipients and the impacts of the communication barrier.
 - City College has also reported issues, so this is not limited to Miramar College, thus reflecting a district-wide pattern.
 - Gomez invited faculty to share their experiences so he can take them to the Board.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Gomez will follow up at the District and with the Board.
 - 7.5. Free Speech and Campus Safety - Rodrigo Gomez
 - Gomez explained that he would like to expand this standing item to include campus culture. Campus culture = campus safety.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the resignation letter from the Liberal Arts dean and the serious issues it raised regarding an unhealthy workplace culture.
 - Gomez stressed that these concerns cannot be ignored and that the goal is to use this standing item to help facilitate improving the campus climate.
 - 7.6. First Read: Resolution on Agentic AI - Rodrigo Gomez
 - This is a follow-up from last semester.
 - Gomez shared that AI is shifting from generating content to systems that can recommend, communicate, act, and pursue multi-step goals. As AI becomes embedded in institutional platforms, assessment, RSI, student learning, and

trust become harder to separate from the technology. As one senator stated, AI is not just providing the tool to lead to critical thinking, it is doing the critical thinking.

- The CCCCCO and ASCCC have issued guidance that calls for building local frameworks for human autonomy, faculty expertise, and collegial consultation.
- The call to action is to consider 10+1 in this new agentic AI reality. Big changes should still come through the AS.
- Presented [CCCCCO AI in Teaching and Learning Building Local Frameworks](#)
- Presented the draft [resolution](#) as a first read and discussion ensued.
- The resolution aims to keep humans in the loop (human oversight).
- Senators were asked to bring the draft resolution back to their departments for discussion and then share feedback. It will be brought back for a second read.

8. Reports

8.1. Committee Reports

8.1.1. None

8.2. Special Reports

8.2.1. None

8.3. Executive Committee Reports

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

- The AS is invited to meet with Chancellor Smith in N-206 to share thoughts on the qualities, characteristics, and leadership attributes that are believed to be important for the next President of Miramar College on Friday, October 2, 4:00–5:00pm. Those who cannot make it can email [Gomez](#) what they would like him to say on their behalf.
- District enrollment and student completion are moving in a positive direction. The Chancellor reported that SDCCD reached 40,000 FTES for the first time since 2018, while associate degrees awarded increased 20% over the previous year. The District also reports a healthy unrestricted general fund and additional instructional support allocations going to the colleges, so they are not taking money away and might give Miramar a little money.
- Faculty contract negotiations remain open. The Chancellor specifically acknowledged ongoing negotiations. The District will also need to negotiate implementation of the new statewide 14-week paid pregnancy disability leave requirement and address rising healthcare premiums as the previous RAF protections expire.
- The Chancellor clarified that there are no plans to close campuses on Fridays if a reduced workweek for classified professionals is ultimately implemented—a useful clarification given rumors circulating around the District.
- Miramar College's Mental Health and Wellness Services Department has received the 2026 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award from Insight into Academia magazine. Gomez reported to the Board that Miramar is the only college in San Diego that has been awarded this. Gomez reminded senators to [send him](#) anything they would like him to present to the Board.

8.3.2. Vice President - Olivia Flores

- Flores is working with committee chairs on finalizing committee vacancies and updating the committee membership document. She will send the request to fill vacancies next week. Flores reminded senators that, per the CBA contract, faculty members should serve on at least one committee.
- Flores reported that there will be some hiring committees coming up. She has updated the [Committee on Committees webpage](#) with information about the process.

8.3.3. Secretary - Amy Alsup

- No report.

8.3.4. Treasurer - Melissa Wolfson

- The current balance is \$790.49.

8.3.5. Contract Member-at-Large - David Mehlhoff

- No report.

8.3.6. Part-Time Member-at-Large - Desi Klaar

- Klaar will walk adjunct senators through the paperwork to make sure they get paid.

8.3.7. Chair of Chairs - Mary Kjartanson

- No report.

9. Announcements

- More details about the following announcements can be found in the [meeting slide show](#).
- Office of Environmental, Health & Safety (OEHS) is kicking off their Fall 2026 Safety Training Series: Sept 18 and 24, with more in October and November.
- Grand opening of The Village: Thursday, September 17, 12:00–2:00pm, K1-308.
- Remind students to [apply for PATH!](#) They have until September 4.
- The 2026 Equity Summit will be on October 2, from 10:00am–2:00pm, featuring keynote Dr. Mohammed Soriano-Bilal. [Registration](#) and [website](#).
- [Data Analytics Digital Innovation Regional Convening, CCCCCO](#): Tuesday, September 29, 9:00am–2:00pm.
- [AI Engage Summit Registration](#): Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14, 9:00am-1:00pm.

- September is Suicide Prevention Month. Watch for emails, including for the Suicide Prevention and Hope Fair on September 23. There is also a free module called “Living Works,” which is self-paced training on what to say to someone whose conversation raises concerns.

10. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:39pm.

The next meeting will be on Sept 15th. Please submit agenda items to both Rodrigo Gomez and Juli Bartolomei.

Respectfully submitted,
Juli Bartolomei and Amy Alsup