



Minutes were adopted by the GCC Faculty Senate on March 6th, 2025 at 12:00pm per Senate Operating Rule 1, “Electronic Approval of Meeting Minutes.”



ATTENDANCE							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karina Sokol, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aubrei Smith, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Jones, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Fried, Senator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nina Gargulio, Senator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Gergus, Senator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chuck Hulihan, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Kadel, Senator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed McKennon, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Nielson, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jillane Ocano, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexander Patrick- Rolando, Senator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Polansky, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jena Remy, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angela Schwendiman, Senator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Worthy, Senator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Gregg, FEC representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Kurtz, FEC representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sergio Rivas, FEC representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guests: Matt Jolly, GWCC Faculty Versha Anderson, PVCC Faculty

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
<p>Topic: Open Comment Period Time: 15 min</p>	<p>Jacqui Higgins Daily- OER Information (Library faculty and co-director of OER on campus); Statement shared with Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● District leadership has decided to remove the Open Education Resources OER, ZTC & LTC filters from Find A Class without consulting with our college leadership. Many faculty have dedicated hours to developing quality OER and these filters have been used for more than a decade.● We know that OER addresses multiple challenges we face in higher education - including outcomes in persistence and attainment; affordability; and quality education.● A survey recently conducted by the GCC OER Committee found that 93 percent of faculty respondents support keeping these filters in place (68 out of 73 respondents).● The main issue with unilaterally removing these filters are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Governance Failure<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Decisions made without meaningful faculty input■ Bypasses established shared governance principles■ Disregards the expertise of OER professionals and creators○ Student Impact<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Removes an important transparency mechanism for students seeking affordable course materials■ Reduces student ability to make informed course selection decisions■ Potentially increases the financial burden on students○ OER Development Undermining<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Diminishes visibility of faculty efforts to create affordable learning resources■ Contradicts stated institutional commitment to textbook affordability■ Potentially discourages future OER development● The GCC OER Committee is issuing a statement of opposition, and would like the GCC Faculty Senate to support this, and consider issuing a similar statement. <p>Christina Bell- Travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● She was invited to present at a national conference for her discipline and will have to back out due to travel process issues.● It is inefficient and impractical. Frustrated that she's worked towards this level of professional development and the very structure of Maricopa made this so difficult and has caused such problems.● Referred over to the Travel Subcommittee.

Topic: Guests

Time: 30 min

- Matt Jolly-  FEC President-Elect Candidate Statement Jolly.pdf
 - Principled approach to faculty leadership: shared governance, academic freedom, and peer review. Believes decision making should rely on expert authority- central to a good shared governance model. Faculty should be deeply involved in the decisions of our institutions and colleges.
 - Academic Freedom is tied to our role as faculty; ability to our jobs without fear of outside influences.
 - Peer Review- the only people qualified to judge faculty work are other faculty. Can be taken down to discipline level. Peer review is woven throughout our structure for ICs; peer investigation; curriculum development; etc.
 - In favor of IBN approach; can't approach admin as the opposition. Assume goodwill unless proven otherwise.
- Dear Colleague Letter- Maricopa's role in this conversation is unclear, but is something we will need to deal with. We need to discuss how best to protect our principles without doing damage to our ability to provide services for students.
- We will be facing budgetary issues and the new model; we're revisiting the Canvas LMS and considering replacing it; work to be done in the RFA process; governing board elections coming up- 3 members stepping down; FA engagement and membership need to be addressed. Currently only at 55%- why? What has changed from earlier years when membership was higher?
- Approach to leadership-"Believes the power of discourse to arrive at the best possible outcome. Believes in shared governance, even if it's not the one he'd prefer.
- Question-Regarding RFACT/District decisions: to what extent should shared governance extend down the chain? If decisions are being made that impact specific subgroups of faculty, how involved are they?
 - Answer- Senior Councils are consulted; decisions in RFACT are informed by FEC. The question is whether or not those subgroups are adequately represented in FEC.
- Versha Anderson-  FEC Nomination - AndersonV.pdf
 - Asked a question of the group- How can someone in this role best support and advocate for faculty? Opted to jump in and answer any questions about her background or view of the role.
 - Question-Regarding RFACT/District decisions: to what extent should shared governance extend down the chain? If decisions are being made that impact specific subgroups of faculty, how involved are they? Ex: CTE, nursing, service, lab loading, etc. What is the role of IBN?
 - Answer- 100% believe the impacted groups should be serving on the decision making body. Decisions aren't always made with enough faculty input, especially regarding those subgroups. There seems to be a disconnect with our current shared governance in some areas. We should immediately be reaching out to those impacted groups, and we should be making data driven/informed decisions. We need to look at the equitability in representation- All college presidents and VPs get representation; we have RFACT membership and FEC (2% of the faculty body). We need to be bolstering the faculty position with data since we don't have the numbers for influence. We should return to policy negotiations if the impacted group is still opposed.
 - The goal for IBN is for all of the impacted groups to be heard and to mitigate the negative impacts.
 - Communication and data are crucial for the process.

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question- Over the years our participation in the FA has been declining. What are your thoughts on how to improve that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Answer- Go back to the people: What is missing for faculty? What keeps them from joining? What would they like to see in order to join? We need to better market the benefits. Legal representation is great, but there are numerous other benefits; all of the community outreach; the philanthropy for students. ○ Question- What is your perspective on restoring full faculty ratification for the RFA, or collecting faculty opinions earlier? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Faculty Senates should be decided by college and their representatives vote accordingly. ■ The bigger issue is needing to ratify the document in an all or nothing format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The process has a lot of room for improvement which could encourage buy-in from faculty. Holding votes on our campuses prior to the FEC vote would pull faculty in. ● Ratification should be policy by policy; hold off on the ones that need more deliberation and data collection and move forward on the ones approved. ■ Understands the discontent over the process; is worried that this disengagement will harm the influence of the faculty in advocacy and negotiations. ■ We need to bring faculty together and promote inclusion and inclusive decision making. ○ Question- Faculty leaders frequently deal with conflict; In those situations, what would factor into your decision to approach from a collaborative stance or an adversarial stance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Answer: Who am I communicating with; has this been brought up before; is it stemming from process or policy? Is it interpersonal- usually due to feeling dismissed, unheard, or misunderstood? These all influence the communication approach.
<p>Topic: Call to Order & Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Time: 2 min</p>	<p>Called to order at 3:12pm</p> <p>Motion to approve Agenda from Senator Kadel; Second from Senator Gregg; All approved, none opposed, no abstentions.</p>

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
<p>Topic: Officer Reports Time: 10 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● President: Report Linked Here<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ VPAA Konopka was approached to fill out an interest survey on new B.A. degree proposals. VERY quick turnaround time- too fast for Shared Governance Council.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Creation of a B.A. Review Group to review data on workforce needs in the West Valley. Determine community needs and which degree would best align.■ Question- Should we be thinking about a new degree if we're considering a reorg?<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We could look at offering a degree already existing at one of our East Valley sister schools. We wouldn't need to create the curriculum in this case. Business degree used as an example.● Secretary: None● Treasurer: The current balance in our account is \$8506.51.

Topic: Committee Reports

Time: 30 min

- College Faculty Staffing Advisory Committee (**CFSAC**) (Sokol/Remy/Kurtz/McKennon/Nielson)- No report
 - Survey coming soon.
- College Plan Task Force (**CPTF**) (Sokol/ Jones/ Patrick-Rolando/ Fried/ Garguilo)- 5 min
 - Working draft is finished; waiting for the CPTF to approve and then it will be sent to the campus for review and feedback.
- Committee on Professional Rights and Responsibilities (**PRRC**) (Gergus/ Ocano/ Hulihan/ Smith/ Schwendiman/ Polansky)- No report
- Technology Advisory Committee (**TAC**) (Rivas)- 5 min
 - Working to change the Gaucho Secure internet login- removal of the @mcccd.org- too complicated to log in currently, and hopefully this will help student use.
- Senate Governance and Operations Committee (Sokol)- 2 min
 - We need to form this committee- interested Senators?
- Shared Governance Council (Sokol/Kadel) - 10 min
 - Operational Planning Framework
 - [Proposal](#)
 - [Survey](#)
 - 4DX is gone, but that doesn't mean our need to assess Strategic Planning is gone. We need to figure out a new way to do this.
 - Not purchasing a new program; not requesting a consultant; just a new process for how we do this work.
 - Asking faculty leadership (senators, chairs, adjunct reps, etc) to fill out the survey.
- Compliance Committee (Worthy)- 5 min
 - **New MCCCCD Chief Compliance Officer.** The District Office has hired a new Chief Compliance Officer, Shannon Chavez. Shannon met with ACT last week; she has 20 yrs. of experience in compliance. She sees training and communication as the most important parts of compliance. She wants to design a framework for all colleges, provide training, and create and/or enhance components of compliance that already exist.
 - **Important Immigration Guidance and Resources.** If you have not already done so, please read the email sent out from the District's Institutional Guidance and Coordination Team. It provides additional resources to support your awareness and preparedness regarding immigration-related matters on campus. Important resources are discussed and available at [IGC Sharepoint site](#). (Also referenced in the Senate President's Report for this meeting)
- [Faculty Chair Report](#) (Morrison/Feld)
- FEC / Councilors at Large (Kurtz / Rivas / Gregg/ Sokol) - 15 min
 - RFA ratified at FEC
 - 20 to 3 vote- all four of our reps voted to ratify; 2 no from PV; 1 no from SCC.

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 FEC-president candidates- voting process is that FEC reps will vote in April so please share your feedback.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Question: Would it be worth having either a survey of GCC faculty or a Town Hall (like the virtual FEC rep one) so as to solicit broader faculty feedback?<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Agreement that a wider net for feedback is best.● Suggest everyone reach out to their zones and collect feedback.○ AGEC Redesign<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Meredith Warner and Kimberly Mauldin presented to FEC.■ Question- when will the final decision be made?<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Waiting for the Vice Provost to make a decision; supposed to go into effect Fall 2026.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Decisions for credit totals per designation.○ Work with your IC to determine discipline impact.○ EBAC Wellness Credits<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Points Presented:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shifted to a point system.● Attending religious events is counted for a significant amount of points. 3000 points if you go to church once per month; annual wellness check with your doctor is 1000 points.● Need a large number (15,000 points) to get to the top level.■ Question- how would they verify/validate?<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It's self-reported.○ RFACT request for issues for '26-'27 cycle- deadline for FEC to submit by 3/3- send anything to Karina by 3/1.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Currently two concerns:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● An evergreen clause: the current RFA remains in effect if the new one is not approved● HLC allows for limited exceptions to the "nothing but a Master's" as a min qual for academic faculty, but MCCCDC has remained tied to the briefly more restrictive HLC language circa 2020, since updated/corrected due to feedback from academic institutions. I have attempted to get ANY traction on this (as it has made it impossible for ICs to evaluate/allow any limited and otherwise highly qualified (and experienced) faculty to serve our students) in what has now been 2 years of discussions with our AVC. She indicated that this is because the RFACT has no language that allows for any limited exceptions. So, I have proposed adding in that clause in the next round, at her suggestion.

Topic: Senate Priority Subcommittee Reports

Time: 40 min

- Academic Reorganization Committee (**ARC**) (Sokol/Fried/Smith/Nielson/Kadel/Remy)- 10 min
 - Met with Senator Gregg about the Strategic Plan; Lore for VP perspective; all 3 deans
 - Information pulled from all areas, and compiled with the survey to chairs/opds, as well as department/FSA organization.
 - Group will meet Monday to discuss the compiled data and begin brainstorming different FSA organizational structures.
 - In March, we'll begin reporting out the monthly progress.
- Travel Process (Kurtz/Patrick-Rolando/Polansky/Gergus)- 10 min
 - [Professional Growth Themes](#)
 - Clarity between what is needed for Travel Authorizations vs Expense Reports.
 - Typically larger hang ups with TAs.
 - Inconsistencies between district and local travel/fiscal.
 - Support for fully overhauling the system.
 - Better FAQs or Troubleshooting tips.
 - [Survey data](#) indicates we have VERY low participation- the question is why?
 - The authorization process seems to be the most difficult.
 - Committee is considering writing a Sense of the Senate to present. Hoping to be able to discuss and vote on this in the next meeting.
 - Request to have the travel process reviewed as there are significant barriers preventing faculty from taking part in professional growth.
 - The audience would be the FPG team and FEC.
 - Question- Post approval denials: how common is this? It shouldn't fall on the traveler to have to correct those supervising this process.
 - Answer: there have been a few occasions where you are preapproved for one number, and then get reimbursed for a smaller number. Per diem, transportation, and parking adjusted after approval.
 - Denial of the full thing hasn't happened, as far as we know, just parts.
 - Reimbursement issues are specific to college- that would be our fiscal. Should be consistent across the district.
 - There are changes we can make locally, but we lack the authority to change the full process.
 - Question- Have any other colleges done a similar survey or looked into this? What is the district perspective on changing this system? Do we risk a change for the worse and/or reduction in funding if we pursue this route? The process might be lengthy, but it's worth it.

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Answer: A Sense of the Senate is ours alone. Part of why it would be sent to FEC would be to encourage other colleges to do the same. It will be worded not that we are against the process, but that we embrace it and want to improve and simplify, not eliminate. Constant reviews and back and forth is a waste of resources, let's fix the process to make it better for everyone involved. ■ Waiting on requested data regarding number of local TAs and approvals, etc. ● Club/Committee Work (Ocano/Jones/Hulihan/Rivas)- 10 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently awaiting results of a survey. Once results are analyzed, they will begin reaching out to various presidents and chairs of these groups. ● Reducing Student Barriers (McKennon/Worthy/Gregg/Garguilo/Schwendiman)-10 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the learning phase of the planning process.
<p>Topic: Old Business Time: 0 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All-Employee Picnic (Kadel)- 10 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senator Gregg- Motion to approve the food selections/sources and proposed dates; Second by Senator Remy. ○ Revised motion from Senator Gregg: Motion to approve the Employee Picnic food selections as presented and the event date of April 4, 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All approved; none opposed; no abstentions. ○ Senators Garguilo and Smith will assist with day of set up.
<p>Topic: New Business Time: 10 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty Commencement Speaker- 15 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are currently on step three of the process. ○ Nominations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sociology Faculty and Faculty Senator Alexander Patrick-Rolando (nominated by Senator Worthy) ■ Behavioral Health Sciences Faculty Bill Beverly (nominated by Senator Remy) ○ Ranked choice vote of all Senators present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Senator Alexander Patrick-Rolando chosen as commencement speaker.

AGENDA TOPICS

Topic	Discussion
<p>Topic: Information/ Discussion Time: 60 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Elections Committee for '25-'26 Senate- 10 min<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 5 Senators (3-year terms)○ 2-3 FEC reps (1-year terms)○ President- Elect (3-year term)○ Committee membership: Senators Gergus and Worthy; Non-Senate Faculty: Genea Stephens, Tenisha Baca, and Roxan Alexander-Arnston.● AVP- IE forums<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do we want them?<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It's important to give people an open forum to be heard. It's better to give the option and have no one participate than to not offer the option at all.■ The recordings are helpful for those who can't attend live.○ Consensus is that we are in favor of forums, and strongly encourage the continued recording and sharing of those recordings.○ Note- an AVP is technically the equivalent of a dean; both 125
<p>Topic: Adjournment Time: 2 min</p>	<p>4:36 pm</p>

ON THE RADAR FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Faculty Senate Elections for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

MEETING DATES

Virtual- 1.23.25, 2.27.25, 3.27.25

In Person- 4.24.25