San Diego Mesa College (SDMC) Academic Senate (AS)
Committee of Chairs
October 7, 2026
Room MC 211 A/B

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present:
Valerie Abe, Juan Bernal, Anar Barhmbhatt, Donna Budzynski, Ian Duckles, Christie DuPraw, Justin Estep, Erin Evans, Tasha Frankie, Veronica Gerace, Erika Higginbotham, Amanda Johnston, Candace Katungi, Gloria Kim, Ken Kuniyuki, Cesar Lopez, Tara Maciel, Guillermo Marrujo, Annette Miner, Ryan Mongelluzzo, Bruce Naschak, Edeama Onwuchekwa Jonah, Hannah Padilla Barajas, Kari Parker, Nathan Resch, Leslie Saline-Styles, Christina Sanchez-Volatier, Jennifer Snyder, Irena Stojimirovic, Joe Toto, Todd White, Robert Wong
Absent:
Mark Abajian, Blythe Barton, Nate Betschart, Jarred Collins, Todd Curran, Nellie Dougherty, Jim Fegan, Anne Geller, Mary Gwin, Michael Harrison, Jason Kalchik, Jesse Keller, Connie Renda, N. Scott Robinson, Wendy Smith, Cara Smulevitz, Oscar Torres, Carlos Troth, George Ye

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME by Chair of Chairs Ian Duckles: 2:30 PM

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Motion ***Onwuchekwa / Budzynski,***

Unanimous:		**Objections:**
Abe,	*Bernal,*	*None*
Barhmbhatt,	*DuPraw,*	
Estep,	*Evans,*	
Frankie,	*Gerace,*	
Higginbotham,	*Johnston,*	
Katungi,	*Kim,*	
Kuniyuki,	*Lopez,*	
Maciel,	*Marrujo,*	
Miner,	*Mongelluzzo,*	
Naschak,	*Padilla Barajas,*	
Parker,	*Resch,*	
Saline-Styles,	*Sanchez-Volatier*	
Snyder,	*Stojimirovic.*	
Toto,	*White,*	
Wong		

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

IV. GUEST(s):
A. Acting Vice-President of Instruction: Monica Romero
- ***Introduction of Acting VPI***
- ***Update: Not a lot of new information. Will cover for Isabel while she is out.***
  - *It is week by week basis.*
  - *Alex is covering B&T*
  - *Will be putting a hold on non-urgent matters*

Questions:
- ***Mongelluzzo*** *– Is there a sense of where there might be more delays.*
  - ***Romero****- Discussed FTF as a concern for Intersession and Spring but is looking good with enrollment numbers.*
    - *Looking at funding and reconstruction budget. Currently on track. If you are waiting on something, please bring concern to your dean to bring to Romero.*
- ***Duckle****- Additional FTF new courses and bring up to Dean and to Romero. Second, what are FTF for the following year.*

- ***Romero*** *– When we see the waitlist grow is the time to reach out to try to get more courses at that time. We will be at or beyond the FTF. It's about meeting student demands. Standard practice to request new course.*
    - *Deans began discussion regarding what is needed and what will be taken to the district. Looking at completion rate and varies from course to course (looking to where the needs need to meet and where to grow. After they can determine FTF.*
- ***Marrujo*** *- Veterians are looking for in-person classes to help with housing funding. Not many are offered during intersession. Online only get half of the allowance. (can be a hybrid class or Hyflex) Need to have one instruction day in person a week. GE classes are perfect (not STEM- more challenging)*
    - *Romero- We need to look at classes (Core classes etc.) and timing to see if any overlap.*
- ***Mongelluzzo*** *– are veterans given priority reg?*
    - ***Marrujo*** *Yes, it is a part of spring (Discussed what the veterans are looking for)*
- ***Duckles*** *– What about Saturday class?*
    - *Romero – Some classes have started running on Saturdays. Please discuss with your dean if you/your dept want to run Saturday classes. All classes will be in the B&T building. Even get a student services rep there to answer questions. Discussed classes being over and some are for Adult learners)*
        - *Discussed who will be taking the classes.*
- ***Padilla Barajas*** *– Seems like the Adult learner focus is new and where did it come from? Also, what are the needs that we are trying to meet? What does it look like? Besides creative scheduling, what else would we do to support them? Are monies available for tutoring / in betted tutoring.*
    - *Romero – It came out of the Pandemic (people that rebounded the least were adult learners). Need to look at how to help them to reengage. High school numbers are declining and there is a need and space for Adult Leaners. (Work force demands and Professional Development). Looked at barriers for the adult learners and removing barriers. Started at CTE. We want to have a wraparound service. In the process of determining to best way to meet their needs. In class and out of class service.*
    - ***Budzynski*** *– Reginal data that has been published. Reginal kick off was last Friday and this Friday it starts. We also have data here at Mesa and State data as well. Fall to spring and Fall to Fall retention and it is higher for those over 25. Looking over all the data and filtering.*
- ***Gerace*** *– Enrollment management support the discission for the Saturday classes.*
- ***Abe*** *– Instruction management- does it have to be in the morning? District Budget meeting (Troy) – Did a e slide Reference more $ for adult learners.*
    - *Romero – we can try to meet the needs of the students. We will just need to adjust logistics. There should not be any extra costs. No extra monies for adult learners*
- ***Stojimirovic*** *– Students come into her building because there is nowhere to study on Fridays. Food on campus. There is lot junk food and it is expensive*
    - ***Romero*** *- For Saturday's we worked with the stand to have snacks. Working on this topic.*
        - ***Onwuchekwa Jonah*** *– LRC is open to till 3. If more students need then would advocate for more hours.*

B. Articulation: Juliette Parker

- *Discussed and Referenced CALGETC Document regarding last CRC meeting and what is happening with course proposals. Submitted for approval in December. Received a response in June and sent an appeal after. CHIC course was denied for CALGETC- class appeared to be historical approach. (Said it needs to be more Ethnic study focused)*
- *Discussed supporting documents to provide evidence that it is ethnical approach.*
- Discussed Health Ed /Filipino American Studies courses and why they were denied. Support and *evidence were provided proving it does in fact*
- *The standards have been met and gone through appeal process. Has been denied a second time*
- *At an impasse and now asking Administrators step in and help.*

Questions:

- ***Naschak*** *– Is there any ideology shift in the committee? Appears there are political agendas at play.*

- ***Parker*** *– There have been some changes in personal at the CSU Chancelor's office*

- ***Budzynski****, – Are there differences in the courses being approval Vs ones denied?*
  - ***Parker*** *– Yes. One example is a Math course at one school was approved (UCSB) and at Mesa was denied. Mesa changed some of the verbiage (similar to UCSB) and had it reevaluated and sent it in. Still got denied.*
- ***Gerace*** *- Thank you and appreciate all the hard work on behalf of the faculty.*
  - ***Parker*** *– you are doing a great job and not wrong in what you are doing. With the document it's the review process and reviewers. Nothing to change on your part.*
- ***Onwuchekwa Jonah*** *– So what next?*
  - ***Parker*** *– Asked Admin (Process issue) to address. New issue.*
- ***Mongelluzzo*** *– Are we looking for a way to resubmit with new verbiage?*
- ***Marrujo*** *– Have you collaborated with other colleges that have their courses approved?*
  - ***Parker****- That's what we are trying to determine with UCSB. It started with Ethnic studies course took 3 years. Possible that there is perception that the community colleges are not at the level at other universities.*

V. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES:

Motion ***Gerace / Onwuchekwa Jonah***

Unanimous:		Objections:	Abstain:
Abe,	*Bernal,*	*None*	*Padilla Barajas,*
Budzynski,	*Toto,,*		*White,*
DuPraw,	*Estep,*		*Barhmbhatt,*
Evans,	*Frankie,*		*Snyder,*
Gerace,	*Higginbotham,*		*Wong*
Johnston,	*Katungi,*		*Naschak,*
Kim,	*Kuniyuki,*		
Lopez,	*Maciel,*		
Marrujo,	*Miner,*		
Mongelluzzo,	*Onwuchekwa Jonah,*		
Parker,	*Resch,*		
Saline-Styles,	*Sanchez-Volatier,*		
Stojimirovic,			

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. **Handbook for Chairs (Veronica)**

- *Work in progress*
- *On Teams you will see the new version with (1) in title. Still gaps. Please help create a working file and upload. Please note any typos and any missing information.*
- *Discussed and brief overview of the Handbook*

Questions:

- ***Higginbotham*** - Is goal to make it searchable?
  - ***Gerace*** *– Yes and make sure sections are live. Recourses are helpful to add.*

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A.

VIII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- ***Duckles, Mongelluzzo & Kim*** *– Discussed building safety. Great discussion. Feel there is a shift and that safety seems to be becoming more important. (good start). All full-time faculty (if willing) to be in charge and take on the role if there is an emergency.*
- ***Gerace -*** *Admin came to meeting with solutions to questions they had. Emergency buzzards are not accessible. They are working on a solution. Evacuation Monitors*
- ***Onwuchekwa Jonah –*** *Admin came to the LRC (will be a longer conversation as there are multiple departments in the building and people shifting.*
- ***Marrujo –*** *Element 451 – Supposed to solve issues and ease workflow. Still learning what it is all about.*
  - ***Higginbotham –*** *Not set up to meet the needs of communication. Seems to be more of a*

marketing tool

- ***Budzynski-*** *Student signs in and AI grabs all their information (concern)*
- ***Evans –*** *Launched at Miramar 1st – Monica Dunco (EOPS and CALWORK) – year sabbatical for employment – geared to student retention and not happy with it. Miramar's AS made a resolution agentic AI (migrate through systems) major concerns. (fact finding space) Appears to be moving forward without discussion with the schools/faculty.*
- ***Mongelluzzo -*** *Concerns of faculty having to clean up counseling issues from 451 guidance. All 3 academic Senates should approve before implementation***.**
- ***Marrujo –*** *If Miramar is already using and it has been entered into the system then it is in all our systems. Advising is a concern and student issues that arise.*

IX. PLANNING/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Academic Affairs: Evans

B. Academic Senate: Gwin

C. Committee on Committees: Gerace

D. American Federation of Teachers (AFT): Duckles

E. Curriculum Review Committee (CRC): Estep/Resch

F. Student Services: Dougherty/Higginbotham/Marrujo/Parker

G. Enrollment Management and Instructional Strategic Planning Committee: Harrison

H. Planning & Institutional Effectiveness (PIE) Committee: G w i n /Duckles

I. President's Cabinet: G w i n /Duckles

J. Program Review Committee (PRC): Naschak

K. Strong Work Force Committee: Johnston/Wong

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ROUND TABLE/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

XI. NEXT CoC MEETING: Working Meeting October 21 (BT-102), Regular Meeting November 4 (MC 211)

XII. ADJOURNMENT: 4:30PM