

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2025

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Downtown Campus, Amethyst Room / Zoom

Attendance

Officers:

- Denise Reilly, President
- Dr. Kelly O'Keefe, President-Elect
- Dennis Just, Vice President
- Rita Lennon, Past President & Governing Board Rep

Senators Present:

- Alex Armstrong (Sciences)
- Ally Stacey (Math - Proxy for Caroline Torres)
- Diane Lussier (Math)
- Greg Loumeau (Arts - Proxy for Sean Mendoza)
- Jane Hall (Business/IT)
- Kimlisa Salazar Duchicela (Social Sciences)
- Liz Rangel Arriola (PimaOnline)
- Makyla Hays (PCCEA President)
- Matej Boguszak (Math)
- Michael Nolan (Arts)
- Padma Nair (Sciences)
- Sarah Kirchoff (Applied Tech)
- Sarah Robinson (Education)
- Sol Gomez (Library)
- Vivian Knight (Business/IT)
- Lisa Jurkowitz (Proxy for Cynthia Howe)

Guests who signed in:

- Amanda Abens
- Aubrey Conover
- David Bea
- David Parker
- Dana Roes

- Elliot Mead
- Emily Halvorson-Otts
- Ian Roark
- Jeff Gabbitas
- Jeff Lowry
- Jeff Nasse
- Jeff Thies
- Josie Milliken
- Julie Andrews
- Kate Schmidt
- M Bennett
- Michael Amick
- Michael Tulino
- Michelle Tong
- Reed Dickson
- Robert Loomis
- Sam Overton
- Shelley Chen
- Terry Filipowicz
- Tina Neil
- Tony Sovak

1. Introductions (1:00 – 1:15 PM)

a. Welcome and introductions – Denise Reilly, Dr. Jeff Gabbitas

- Meeting opened with a musical parody performance by Dr. Jeff Gabbitas (Faculty, Translation & Interpretation Studies) about teaching, Zoom, and D2L.
- Roll call and introductions of Senators, Officers, and Guests conducted around the room.

b. Review and approval of November meeting minutes – Motion to approve by Alex Armstrong, Seconded by Dr. Kelly O'Keefe.

- Vote was initially delayed due to lack of quorum. Once quorum was established after the Open Forum, the motion passed.

c. Requests for Agenda Modification – Dr. Kelly O'Keefe requested to add an item to the agenda: An official Faculty Senate vote to enable AI for students starting in the spring (Item added).

d. Requests for Open Forum

- Sarah Robinson: Announced a STEM boot camp at Northwest Campus (Room A207).
- Dana Roes: Announced "Flex," a dance recital at West Campus Proscenium Theater.
- Dr. Tony Sovak: Announced the Creative Writing Club open mic at Downtown Campus Library (Dec 9).

e. Requests for Faculty Engagement – Dennis Just

- **All Faculty Day Theme:** Request for faculty to vote on the theme/colors for the upcoming All Faculty Day.
- **Shared Governance Workgroup:** Call for volunteers to join a workgroup to define shared governance, update AP/BPs, and create decision-making tools.

2. Reports (1:15 – 1:45 PM)

a. Provost Report – Dr. Ian Roark

- **Scheduling:** Discussed the move to an 8-week scheduling paradigm within a guided pathways context.
- **Bachelor's Degree:** Received a glowing report from the HLC site visit regarding the Bachelor's Degree in Education; moving forward with implementation.
- **Santa Cruz County:** Noted growth in Nogales/Santa Cruz due to economic development (South 32, port of entry).
- **Workforce Pell:** Dr. Roark appointed to the AACC and Education Design Lab workforce PELL advisory committee.
- **Recognition:** Presented a certificate to Denise Reilly in recognition of her service as Faculty Senate President.

b. Governing Board / Chancellor Report – Rita Lennon, Dr. Jeff Nasse

- Rita Lennon conceded her time to Chancellor Nasse.
- Dr. Nasse Congratulated Denise Reilly on her tenure. He emphasized the importance of shared governance and the "unifying lens" of student success.

3. Business (1:45 – 3:00 PM)

a. Division Spotlight - Arts

- **Presenters:** Robert Loomis, Shelley Chen, Jeff Lowry
- Presentations regarding Digital Film and Video (Loomis), Video Game Design (Chen), and Digital Arts (Lowry).

b. Budget (FY 2027)

- **Presenter:** Dr. David Bea
- Discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and the goal to reduce operating expenses by \$4 million to balance increased personnel/medical costs.
- Showed a "thermometer chart" indicating the college is halfway to the reduction goal (via attrition and contract savings).
- Promoted the upcoming Virtual Budget Forum.

c. Academic Affairs Updates

- **Presenters:** Dr. Jeff Thies, Emily Halvorson-Otts
- **Catalog:** Discussed the draft catalog for '26-'27.
- **Shortened Terms:** Emily presented data comparing success rates in 8-week vs. 16-week terms (e.g., 8-week success around 80% vs. 16-week around 74%).
- **Support:** Acknowledged the "huge lift" for faculty and the need for cross-functional teams (Science, CTE, Writing) to address contact hour challenges in shortened terms.

d. AP/BP Improvement Process

- **Presenters:** David Parker, Michelle Tong

- Presented the new cadence for reviewing Administrative Procedures (APs) and Board Policies (BPs).
- Moving from a reactive or 3-year cycle to a standard 5-year review cycle to align with accreditation and prevent bottlenecks.
- Policies will be grouped thematically for review.

4. Announcements and Next Steps

- **New Officer Team Announced:**
 - Dr. Kelly O'Keefe (Incoming President)
 - Dennis Just (President-Elect)
 - Vivian Knight (New Vice President)
 - Sarah Kirchoff (New Governing Board Rep)
 - Jane Hall (New Secretary)
- Faculty to vote on theme/colors for All Faculty Day.
- Volunteers needed for Shared Governance Workgroup.

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM by Denise Reilly.