

District Academic Senate Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Location: Room DO-112, District Office

Attendance

Present

- John Banks (SJECDD Treasurer; SJCC Academic Senate Treasurer)
- Grace Estrada (EVC Academic Senate)
- Henry Estrada (EVC Academic Senate President)
- David Hendricks (District Academic Senate President; EVC Academic Senate Treasurer)
- Mark Branom (District Academic Senate Vice President; SJCC Academic Senate President)
- Kelly Nguyen-Jardin (EVC Senate Vice President) – Remote

Guests

- Cristina Leal (SJCC Senate)
- Binh Vo (EVC Senate – Chair, Professional Development Committee)
- Jessica Breheney (SJCC Faculty – President, FA 6157)

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- Motion to adopt agenda: Grace (first), Henry (second)
- No revisions proposed
- Agenda approved unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes: Henry (first), Grace (second)
- Minutes approved unanimously

4. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

5. Information and Discussion Items

- I. Special Assignments MOU. Phil had asked that the DAS and the campus Senates work to make Senate oversight more explicit for Special Assignments that are directly related to 10+1 authority. The current MOU between the union (FA 6157) and the District expires at the end of June and could use some revisions. Many of the provisions of the MOU were ignored in its implementation. There continues to be a misalignment between the amount of time dedicated to some of the Special Assignments and the amount of time it takes to complete them. The other issue is that the process for assigning Special Assignments is described in a singular way in the MOU, but applying the processes universally doesn't always make sense. For instance, the ongoing Program Coordinator positions need much more oversight in their processes to assign the work than an incidental project that requires only a few hours of work to complete. Aligning the processes for assigning work needs to vary depending on the nature and extent of the assignment. Further, those positions that have a direct connection to Senate authority should include the Senate's recommendation for how to staff the position. There needs to be more direct collaboration with the FA in helping to redesign the MOU to more explicitly define the Senate's role over those positions under Senate purview. Administrators also need to be more collaborative with the Senates in designing and assigning Special Assignments. Grace suggested that perhaps distinguishing between Fund 10 positions versus those supported by other sources of funding could be one way of defining the Senate's role over such assignments. Jessica suggested that the Senates could help build the case of reevaluating any mismatch between assigned duties and pay by encouraging their members who have Special Assignments to keep records that track their hours and the work they did. David suggested that Phil's Resolution be updated to reflect the upcoming academic year and that the Resolves be made more explicit so that both Senates and the DAS could move forward on supporting the call to establish the Senates' role in the Special Assignment process more clearly. The modified Resolution could be discussed at each of the campus Senates at their next meetings.

- II. Non-Credit Courses. Both campuses need to be more aware of our obligation to provide non-credit courses for our students. Grace pointed out that many non-credit courses emphasize employability skills and can help many who are in the workforce to hone and develop their skills. Our current Strategic Plan does not address the demand for non-credit coursework. New skills, such as understanding and using AI can be addressed through non-credit courses. But, we need to be strategic about how to add non-credit courses. Mark noted that several computer applications courses were moved to non-credit, yet have not been offered as they don't align with a certificate. One consideration is making sure that our non-credit offerings are not standalone courses and instead are part of a certificate. Grace noted that there also are funding implications. If credit and non-credit are funded by the same course, it

will be a zero-sum game, and credit will dominate and eclipse non-credit offerings. It is part of our mission to serve all of our students and non-credit would provide a way to bring in some potential students who don't feel they have a place. Another consideration is that even though non-credit students do not receive a grade for their work that Professors should assign one. This would make the transition to for-credit class equivalency under Credit for Prior Learning much easier. John added that non-credit math courses might help get students up to speed on their skills without violating AB 1705. Too many students upon graduation from high school don't have the skills to go straight into Calculus and are left without options under the current system. David noted that this conversation will continue at both Senates as we consider issues that need to be on our radar for next year.

- III. Priorities for the 2026-27 Academic Year. David asked for ideas about priorities for the next school year. Mark noted that there is a potential project to collaborate with Google to adapt the CIS 120 series on data analytics and project management to make it more broadly available, but in a way that keeps students connected to the support systems of our colleges while allowing them to build their skills. Several Senators questioned why the Facilities Master Plan for the District was finalized prior to the Strategic Plan. It seems that the timing should be inverted to allow the Facilities Plan to reflect the ideas in the Strategic Plan. David noted that another issue on the horizon is Dual Enrollment and ensuring proper faculty involvement to make sure that it is implemented effectively; issues of curriculum, appropriate course selection, and faculty qualifications are direct concerns of the Senates. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) also will be of increasing importance. AI usage will be a big issue. Mark said that SJCC will be conducting a faculty academy to help train our faculty on how to be better teachers. It could be made into a District-wide initiative. The Senates should also get involved with revamping evaluation forms and should work with the FA on it. Cristina also raised the issue of faculty hiring prioritization. The decline in the number of full-time faculty is becoming a more significant issue since there are several Departments with only 1 or none members. There needs to be better delineation between replacement and growth in determining faculty hires.

6. Action Items

No action items were presented.

7. Consent Items

No consent items were presented.

8. Reports

Evergreen Valley College Academic Senate. Henry congratulated Nasreen Rahim on 25 years of service and praised her work and contributions to EVC. The EVC Senate passed a commendation in recognition of her contributions to distance education, among other accomplishments.

San José City College Academic Senate. Mark congratulated Cristina on becoming the new SJCC Academic Senate President. He looks forward to becoming the DAS President.

District Academic Senate. David expressed his gratitude to the rest of the DAS for their support. He thanked the SJCC Senate for allowing him to serve for the past year. The past year and a half of serving has been a privilege.

9. Recognitions and Announcements

No formal recognitions were recorded.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM following a motion by Grace (first) and John (second).