ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: LRC 250 COMMUNITY ROOM
Meeting documents are also available in the AS SharePoint (CCCD login required)

Reminder – Senators: Meet at 1 pm outside the LRC main entrance (by the Native Garden) for the group photo.

Mission: The Golden West College Academic Senate's mission is to serve its faculty, promote the best interests of higher education, and to represent the faculty in campus, district, and state-level senate charges by carrying out the primary functions as delineated in the CA Code of Regulations, Title 5, section 53200, which includes both academic and professional matters, and consulting collegially with the local campus and district governing boards. For additional information on the Academic Senate and its mission, please visit the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

Vision: The GWC Academic Senate represents all faculty in the shared governance process. We are deeply committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for faculty to express their diverse viewpoints and concerns while maintaining focus on curricular and professional activities. Our campus culture serves to express the collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our faculty invest in their work. The GWC Academic Senate will continue to focus on promoting excellence, access, opportunity, and inclusion on our campus and in our programs.

Please note: All GWC Academic Senate meetings are subject to audio and/or video recording at the Academic Senate's discretion to maintain a record of the proceedings. Agendas and minutes will be archived in the Academic Senate's SharePoint.

ACADEMIC SENATE ROLL CALL **Bold** = Executive Board ▪ ~~Strikethrough~~ = absent	
Jennifer Bailly – CCI Chair	Teresa Nguyen – ELL/ESL/GED
Amanda Best – Arts	Diana Rochat – Classified Senate *(non-voting)*
Pete Bouzar – Mathematics & Engineering	Teresa Roston – Cosmetology
Dawn Brooks – Performing Arts	Jason Sheley – Liberal Arts & Culture (ANTH, GEOG, PHIL)
Annamaria Crescimanno – Vice President | Biological Sciences	Matt Shimazu – Physical Sciences
Tiffany Dilello (Comm Studies) – Part-time Faculty At-large	~~Herman Singh~~ – Social Sciences (ECON, PSCI, SOC, ETHS)
Laura Duvall – Psychology	**Justin Smith – President | History & Education**
Kate Green (Chemistry) – IPD Chair	Julie Terrazas – Library
Leilani Johnson – Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics	Tammie Tran – World Languages (SIGN, INTR, SPAN, VIET)
Damien Jordan – Vice President | Counseling & EOPS	Aleksandra Uchlik – Business, Accounting, Computer Science
~~John Kasabian~~ – Auto Tech, Digital Arts, Drafting	Michelle Veyette (English PT)–Distance Education Coordinator *(non-voting)*
Heather Kelley – Communication Studies	Ethan Widjaja – ASGWC *(non-voting)*
Theresa Lavarini - English	VACANT – Criminal Justice
Phuong Nguyen – Nursing/Health Professions	

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to order – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:13pm.

B. Welcome Guests
1. Rupa Saran, Chief Information Technology Officer and Vice Chancellor; Subba Mungi, Director of Academic and User Support (2:00 pm)

C. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes
1. Agenda – September 22, 2026. **MOTION** by VP Jordan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Senator Brooks. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

2. Minutes – September 8, 2026. **MOTION** by Senator Best to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by VP Crescimanno. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

D. Announcements, Congratulations, and Appreciation
1. Reminder: Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 6 in LRC 250 – Faculty Prioritization Norming Session
2. Accepting donations for the Academic Senate Sympathy & Salutations Fund. The link to the Senate's Foundation account will be sent to the Senators.
3. VP Jordan expressed appreciate to Leilani and Danny Johnson and Jennifer Mower for organizing the college's 60th Anniversary concert, which was well attended and we received.

E. Opportunity for Public Comment *(3 minutes per speaker) - Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Academic Senate on any item that has been described in this notice, before or during consideration of the item. We ask that you keep your comments to three minutes. Thank you.*

II. CONSENT AGENDA

III. NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Full and Part-Time Faculty members are encouraged to nominate themselves.
Visit the Academic Senate's Faculty Service Opportunities webpage to view committee openings, review committee descriptions, meeting information, and to submit your nomination. (PATHWAY: GWC Homepage > Quick Links > Academic Senate > Committees – Vacancies & Nominations)

A. Call for Nominations – DCC BP/AP Subcommittee: Fall 2026 | Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays from 1-2:30 pm on Zoom
B. Call for District Equivalency Oversight Committee | (1) Full-time Faculty Member At-Large
C. Call for Nominations for vacant terms beginning in Fall 2026 (see below)
The initial call was open for ten days (concluded September 4). After that period, positions will stay open until filled, with nominations submitted by noon on the Friday before a Senate meeting will be included on the agenda for committee appointment. Refer to the committee vacancies and nomination spreadsheet linked above to access the nomination forms.

- **Academic Senate** | Term: three years
  - Criminal Justice | 2026-29
  - Sociology & Ethnic Studies | 2026-2029 *(pending approval)*
- **Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI)** | Term: three years
  - Art | 2026-29
  - ELL/ESL/GED | 2026-29
  - Kinesiology, Health Ed, Athletics | 2025-28
  - Mathematics & Engineering | 2026-29
- **Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC)** | Term: three years unless otherwise specified
  - Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, & Drafting | 2024-27
  - Communication Studies | 2024-27
  - Criminal Justice | 2024-27
  - Psychology | 2026-29
- **Institute for Professional Development (IPD)** | Term: three years unless otherwise specified
  - Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, Drafting | 2024-27
  - Criminal Justice | 2025-28
  - Library | 2024-27
  - Social Sciences | 2024-27
- **College Technology Committee**
  - DEAC rep | 2025-27
- **DEIA Committee**
  - English, ELL, ESL | 2026-28
- **District Equivalency Oversight Committee**
  - (1) Full-time Faculty Member At-Large | 2026-2028

IV. GUEST REPORTS & UPDATES *(max 5 minutes per item; 5-10 minutes total)*

A. ASGWC Report - Ethan Widjaja, Student Body President
B. Banner SaaS Update - Rupa Saran, Chief Information Technology Officer and Vice Chancellor; Subba Mungi, Director of Academic and User Support (2:00 pm)
Rupa Saran reported on the Banner Self-Service and Banner SaaS update, with a focus on implementation progress, testing, and Spring 2027 launch planning.
- Student Profile launched in June 2026, providing a centralized student experience. Launch of the new Public Online Schedule was delayed from October 2026 to Spring Break 2027 to address faculty and counselor feedback.

- Attendance Tracking and Class Roster modules are being configured and will be tested with faculty.
- Integration, reporting, and DegreeWorks conversion work are progressing, with most major components either completed or actively in testing. Extensive user acceptance testing is underway across Student, HR, Finance, Payroll, Financial Aid, and Reporting areas.
- Multiple data migration tests have been completed successfully, with migration times continuing to improve.
- Spring Break 2027 remains the target go-live date for Banner SaaS, pending successful testing and validation.
- Faculty requested future demonstrations of the student and faculty user experience. Additional faculty participation in testing is encouraged and welcomed.

V. UNFINISHED DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5-10 minutes per item; 10-15 minutes total*

A. Vote to approve the Amendment to the AS Bylaws, Article 1: Structure and Composition, Section 3-H-ii: Membership of the Academic Senate/Additional Senate Members – Justin Smith, AS President
MOTION by Senator Best to approve the Bylaws as presented, with one minor grammatical correction suggested by Senator Lavarini. Seconded by VP Jordan. The votes were counted as: (19) Yes – Best, Bouzar, Brooks, Crescimanno, Dilello, Duvall, Johnson, Jordan, Kasabian, Kelley, Lavarini, P. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, Roston, Sheley, Shimazu, Smith, Terrazas, Tran, and Uchlik. (0) No. (0) Abstentions. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

B. Academic Areas of Discipline FTEF – Justin Smith, AS President
1. Vote to approve – Petition for Representation - Sociology & Ethnic Studies
President Smith and VP Crescimanno reported on the Petition for Representation submitted by Sociology and Ethnic Studies seeking separate representation based on updated FTEF counts.
   - Discussion focused on the importance of faculty reviewing annual FTEF data to ensure discipline assignments and representation calculations are accurate.
   - It was noted that combining Sociology and Ethnic Studies would provide sufficient FTEF for representation while maintaining existing representation for Economics and Political Science.
   - Approval of the petition would establish an additional Senate representative position and related committee representation.

   MOTION by Senator Bouzar to approve the Petition for Representation for Sociology and Ethnic Studies, and revise the previous Social Sciences seat to Economics and Political Science. Seconded by VP Jordan. Hearing no objections, the motion passed. The votes were counted as: (19) Yes – Best, Bouzar, Brooks, Crescimanno, Dilello, Duvall, Johnson, Jordan, Kasabian, Kelley, Lavarini, P. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, Roston, Sheley, Shimazu, Smith, Terrazas, Tran, and Uchlik. (0) No. (0) Abstentions. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

C. Honors Program Update – Damien Jordan, AS Vice President
VP Jordan reported that the Honors Program Task Force met to discuss development of an Honors-by-Contract agreement.
- The proposed contract would define the scope of work between the student and faculty member, including project expectations, research requirements, and deliverables. The task force reviewed examples from other colleges and formed a small faculty workgroup to develop a proposed contract model for GWC.
- The task force will reconvene in approximately three weeks to review the proposed contract and consider recommendations. VP Jordan will meet with Fullerton College's Honors Program Coordinator to learn more about their Honors-by-Contract process, including transcript notation and program administration.
- Additional information and recommendations will be brought back to the Senate at a future meeting.

D. P2P RSI Update – Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith reported that a preliminary draft of a pilot program for the P2P RSI review process was presented to DEAC for discussion.
- Following feedback, revisions were made to align the pilot process with existing DEAC work, including established ACCJC rubric criteria. The pilot rubric was updated to incorporate existing evaluation elements and related resources.
- Efforts were made to streamline the pilot process to make participation less burdensome and more efficient.
- The revised pilot proposal will be brought back to DEAC for further review and discussion at its next meeting.
- President Smith noted that discussions are progressing positively and will provide an additional update as the work continues.

E. Best Practice Workgroup (Committees, Constituencies) - Justin Smith, AS President
President Smith reported the work group will develop guidelines for communication between committees, constituencies, and their representatives. Discussion topics may include:
- How representatives communicate information to the constituencies they represent.
- How feedback from constituencies is gathered and shared.
- How voting and other committee information is communicated.
- How information from representatives serving on other committees is reported back to the Senate.

President Smith noted that there are currently no established guidelines for how committee representatives should report information back to the Senate or their constituencies.

- The work group will consider establishing expectations for regular reporting, such as requesting representatives provide a report to the Senate on a monthly basis.
- President Smith invited Senators to serve on the work group. Senators Bouzar, Crescimanno, and Lavarini volunteered to serve on the work group.

President Randall discussed efforts to improve committee effectiveness, communication, and transparency.

- Concerns include inconsistent reporting to constituencies and the need for additional guidance for committee chairs.
- Senator Bouzar, who helped develop the current organizational structure, will assist in reviewing its history and identifying opportunities to improve committee functionality.
- The goal is to ensure important matters are addressed through appropriate committee processes and that representatives and committees maintain clear communication and accountability.

F. Faculty Governance & Leadership Series Update – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President
VP Crescimanno reported that the Faculty Governance and Leadership Series held its first session and received strong participation from attendees.

- The next session is scheduled for October 16 and will focus on Senate and Union purview, as well as faculty requests and faculty hiring processes.
- VP Crescimanno noted that the program is off to a strong start and he looks forward to its continued development throughout the academic year. An additional report will be provided later in the year.
- President Smith expressed appreciation for VP Crescimanno's leadership, organization, and efforts in developing and facilitating the series.

VI. NEW DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5 minutes per item; 5-10 minutes total)*

A. Role of AS in addressing systemic inequity and institutional barriers as it pertains to academic and professional matters - Acknowledgement * Accountability * Action

1. Program Review Faculty Prioritization update – Annamaria Crescimanno, AS Vice President
VP Crescimanno reported on Faculty Request deadlines, review procedures, and preparation for the Faculty Prioritization process.
    - Faculty Requests are due Friday, September 25, at 5pm; no extensions will be granted. Program Review deadlines have been extended to Monday, September 28.
    - An Academic Senate Faculty Prioritization Norming Session will be held October 6 to review sample submissions, discuss the rating rubric, and complete a practice rating to promote consistent evaluations.
    - Senators will receive access to Faculty Requests following the October 6 meeting to allow additional review time before the Q&A Session.
    - Senators should submit questions through the Q&A process if requests lack sufficient detail or clarification.

B. Other Agenda Requests

VII. STANDING DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS *(max 5 minutes)*

A. Program Review
B. AI (Artificial Intelligence)
C. 10 + 1

VIII. REPORTS & UPDATES *(max 3 minutes per report; total time 15 minutes (@ 2:45 pm)*

Electronic copies of written reports are due to the Senate Office by Thursday at 5:00 pm the week preceding the meeting for which the report is attached to the agenda.

A. AS President's Report – Justin Smith

- Single District Transcript - Efforts to improve the Single District Transcript format. The current college-by-college organization creates confusion for students and receiving institutions. President Smith gathered feedback and will continue advocating for a chronological format to improve clarity and efficiency.
- Bookstore – The Barnes & Noble contract ends in the spring, and the college will issue an RFP. President Smith volunteered to represent the Senate and gather faculty feedback on bookstore services. Discussion may include contract renewal options and involving the OER Coordinator in the process.
- Faculty Evaluations - President Smith reported on district efforts to improve student participation in faculty evaluations. Online evaluation links will be embedded in Canvas to encourage student participation. Evaluations remain anonymous and accessible only to the Research Department; instructors receive results later. Senators raised concerns about administering evaluations in HyFlex courses when students attend in person or remotely.

B. AS Vice Presidents' Reports – Damien Jordan (no report) and Annamaria Crescimanno
VP Crescimanno invited attendance of the ASCCC conference:
- ASCCC Academic Academy for Climate Justice & Action | October 23-24 | Newport Beach, CA
- CARs submitted to the Senate Office by Friday, September 25 will qualify for prepaid registration assistance.

C. Council for Curriculum & Instruction (CCI) – Jennifer Bailly, Chair
Chair Bailly reported on Common Course Numbering implementation is on hold until fall 2028 due to ongoing articulation issues. Senators discussed inconsistent UC transfer and general education approvals for identical courses across colleges, limited feedback from reviewers, and concerns about the impact on student transfer options. Statewide discussions are ongoing to address these concerns.

D. Institute for Professional Development (IPD) – Kate Green, Chair
- Faculty Excellence Award Recipients: Chair Green announced the peer-nominated Faculty Excellence Award recipients: Sasha from English (full-time) and Ming Hong from Accounting (part-time).
- Academic Rank Applications: Chair Green reminded faculty to review their eligibility for academic rank advancement and submit the required applications, noting that advancement is not automatic.
- Recruiting Mentors: Chair Green is seeking six volunteer mentors for first- and second-year tenure-track faculty and temporary one-year faculty. Mentoring may qualify for salary advancement credit for faculty in Columns 1–4.
- Science Nite: Chair Green announced that Science Nite will take place Friday, October 3 from 5-8pm and encouraged Senators and their families to attend.

E. Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) – Michelle Veyette, DE Coordinator
Coordinator Veyette reported on DEAC's initial meeting and current priorities for distance education.
- The committee discussed the peer review pilot, GWC Canvas training and certification updates, and developing formal distance education guidance and best-practice resources.
- The POCR team will update its processes and materials to align with the new 2027 rubric; GWC's existing recognition remains unchanged.
- DEAC will also review best practices for no-show drops in fully online courses and update resources for faculty interested in POCR alignment.

F. Union Update – Theresa Lavarini, CFE Executive Director
Senator Lavarini reported:
- "Your CFE Negotiations Team met on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, from 10-3pm to discuss topics and strategies for the upcoming negotiations. We will begin in October, so look for updates from the union throughout the semester.
- If you or a full-time faculty in your area do not have a committee assignment and you are dues-paying member of the union, you are eligible to represent CFE on hiring committees and other committees. Please reach out to me, and I will keep you in the loop when vacancies show up.
- Part-time faculty in our unit (teaching 7.5 LHE or more) are also eligible to represent CFE on committees. They gain valuable committee experience, and we gain insights from the pt-faculty viewpoint and their knowledge of how other districts operate."

G. Special Reports (as requested by Academic Senate)

H. Information Item - 9/18/26 DCC Technology Subcommittee Report - Shawn Taylor, College Technology Committee Co-Chair

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. Move to Adjourn. Thank You! – Senate President
President Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:29pm.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Senate Scholarship Fund Balance: Endowed balance: $7,417.81. *Donations may be submitted online:* ***Foundation donation link*** *with a note indicating funds are for the Academic Senate Scholarship Fund.*

B. Senate Sympathy and Salutations Fund – (*Senators may contact the Foundation Office to submit donations)*

C. 10+1 Senate Purview
1. Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines (*rely primarily*)
2. Degree and certificate requirements (*rely primarily*)
3. Grading policies (*mutually agree*)
4. Educational program development (*rely primarily*)
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success (*rely primarily*)
6. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles (*mutually agree*)
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports (*rely primarily*)
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities (*rely primarily*)
9. Processes for program review (*rely primarily*)
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development (*mutually agree*)
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate (*mutually agree*)