

December 12, 2024
AC 229 Kentfield Campus

Present: Jonathan Eldridge, Dana Emerson, Eresa Puch, Mia Robertshaw, Maria Coulson (Academic Senate rep), Dave King (Academic Senate rep), Sally Wong (Classified Senate rep), Ryli Bowen (ASCOM rep), Emily Cardwell (ASCOM rep), Gary Gonsler (ESCOM student rep), Leonard Weingarten (ESCOM student rep), and Mici Benet

Absent: Brier Welch (Classified Senate rep), Lauren Amundson (Classified Senate rep)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Agenda** – The Council approved the meeting agenda.
2. **Minutes** – The November 14 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **President's Report**

Standing Item: Participatory Governance System (PGS)

Academic Senate Vice President Dave King reported that the GRC will host a PGS Flex session in spring, likely on Friday, January 17, to educate more people about the participatory governance system. This session is an opportunity to evaluate the PGS plan's purpose and to generate more interest in serving on committees.

General Council Mia Robertshaw announced that Brown Act changes beginning in January 2025 will limit the number of times committee members can join Brown Act-governed meetings remotely under the emergency justification exceptions. She will communicate the changes in a memorandum, update a Brown Act checklist, and provide training for the College's Brown Act bodies, early in the spring semester.

End Of Semester Check-In

Superintendent/President Jonathan Eldridge stated he is impressed with College of Marin (COM) students. He visited over 15 classes this semester, where students gave positive feedback about COM, offered ideas for areas of improvement, and expressed excitement about the Center for Student Success building opening.

Recent changes in the District's administration include the hiring of Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Learning and Success Dana Emerson, four months ago, and the resignation of two long-time administrators. President Eldridge emphasized that the District will continue to support existing programs including the learning communities and is steadfastly committed to equity.

He reported that the District's budget is healthy. Nevertheless, careful planning is necessary for the upkeep of facilities, to allow for innovation, and to continue competitive employee compensation and benefits in the future. Focus on efficiency, collaboration, sustainability, and trimming costs wherever possible will allow COM to maintain a healthy budget into the future.

Staff, faculty, and students are encouraged to address their questions directly to the leadership for accurate information.

Emily Cardwell, ASCOM Vice President, asked if COM will condense the biology sequence because this affects students planning to transfer to four-year institutions, due to admission cycles. Maria Coulson, Academic Senate President, confirmed that COM will switch to the condensed sequence, on track to begin fall 2025.

President Jonathan Eldridge confirmed that the need for improved safety at the crosswalk on College Avenue is a priority. He is meeting with Supervisor Brian Colbert in the new year for an update on Marin County's plans to create a safer crossing.

4. Board Policies and Administrative Procedures

There were no policies and procedures for review. All remaining procedures with CCLC accreditation-related updates from CCLC 44 were reviewed and approved by constituents. Because these had no substantive updates, Mici uploaded the APs to the website directly on December 9, 2024. The latest CCLC 45 legal updates are currently under administrative review.

Mici will forward *AP 4250 Probation* for review by the Academic Senate as requested.

5. Board of Trustees

The Council reviewed the draft organizational and regular board meeting agenda for November 19, 2024. Highlighted items included: trustee oaths, the annual rotation of the board officers, a Centennial planning update, and an oral recommendation for management personnel. The senate reports will be heard before the CEO report.

6. Constituent Reports

ASCOM

Ryli Bowen, the ASCOM President, reported that the end-of-semester event supported student wellness with puppies, bagels, and coffee during the week of final exams. The same ASCOM board members will serve in spring 2025, but ASCOM would like to add a new position to their board focused on sustainability and environmental initiatives. Vice President Emily Calder will revise club contact lists and will remind clubs to reactivate their clubs, update rosters, and review their charge. ASCOM plans to host a scholarship event in the spring.

Classified Senate

Classified Senate (CS) President Sally Wong will not report at the upcoming Board meeting. She shared that Episode 3 of their new *Classified Know More* Podcast, will host Dean Horinek as their special guest, on December 18. The Classified Book Club is joining COMmon Read with books by Ada Limón, United States Poet Laureate who will be at the James Dunn Theater, on March 13, 2025. The Winter See's Candies Fundraiser has ended.

Academic Senate

Academic Senate (AS) President Maria Coulson reported receiving a memorandum from the Chancellor's Office with updated guidance on AB 1705. The directive amends the placement for STEM students and pre-calculus courses will continue. Faculty will continue its work on implementing AB 1705 and guidance for STEM student placement.

Discussions about the campus bookstore continue with attention to the needs of ESL students. The AS is also determining who to appoint to the Safety Committee (UPM member or AS member) in alignment with SB 553.

ESCOM

Gary Gonser, ESCOM President, updated the Council members on ESCOM's many events and activities, including a recent, successful ESCOM holiday celebration. Details may be found [here](#). ESCOM continues to develop Senior Planet computer classes, to ensure they are relevant and interesting.

7. Meeting Wrap Up

The Board of Trustees will approve their 2025 meeting calendar on December 17. Mici will send the College Council members a calendar meeting invitation for 2025, once the Board meeting schedule is approved.

8. Meeting Schedule:

The first College Council meeting of the spring semester is planned for February 13, at 3:00 p.m., in room AC 229, pending Board approval of their 2025 meeting calendar.

9. Adjourn Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.