

February 13, 2025
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), Brier Welch (Classified Senate rep), Ryli Bowen (ASCOM rep), Gary Gonser (ESCOM student rep), and Mici Benet

Absent: Emily Cardwell (ASCOM rep), Lauren Amundson (Classified Senate rep)

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. **Agenda** – The Council approved the meeting agenda.
2. **Minutes** – The December 12, 2024, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **President's Report**

Standing Item: Participatory Governance System (PGS)

Academic Senate Vice President Dave King reported on the PGS Flex session held in January, where employees shared their experiences on committees and gave feedback for improving the participatory governance system. An anonymous survey is planned to evaluate participatory governance at COM. Data should be available mid-March to analyze themes and evaluate by fall.

Cari Torres, Assistant Vice President of Instruction, is working to formally create an accreditation steering committee before of the next accreditation visit.

Klaus Christiansen will bring the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) proposal to the GRC.

Each fall committees should review their charge, discuss ways to make updates to the committee charge, and determine their committee members' responsibilities.

Start of Semester Check-In

Superintendent/President Jonathan Eldridge reported that enrollment is up, and Caring Campus and Wayfinding efforts were successful and well-received by students. Although the semester is off to a great beginning, faculty and students report that more late start classes are needed, add codes are difficult to get, and that many students feel afraid or stressed, and are having difficulty focusing because of the current political environment.

Executive Orders and Rule Changes

Changes to FASFA questions and some federal grants, due to changes implemented by the current Administration, will not impact College of Marin's non-discrimination protections and practices.

Title 5 protections remain in place though a court order to vacate Title IX protections of personal characteristics requires COM to revert to earlier policies and procedures. The Board of Trustees will waive the second reading requirement and act on the Title IX-related policies and procedures.

Update on Native American Engagement and Land Acknowledgement

Dana Emerson, Vice President of Student Learning and Success, reported that COM has worked closely with local Miwok and the official Native American tribal spokesperson to work towards developing a respectful land acknowledgment process.

As part of this thoughtful process, COM has hosted Native American panels and discussions. Ongoing intentional engagement and strengthening relationships with the Marin American Indian Alliance will lead to a meaningful land acknowledgment. COM is hosting an upcoming powwow on March 23 which is a significant step.

As part of the Centennial events, a learning landscape is planned to connect the campus to its indigenous roots. Staff are also working on the donation of a Harkin Lucero sculpture.

The Council discussed *AP 3845 Art on Campus*. It will include updates based on feedback from the Art Department faculty and the Finance and Operations staff.

Communication Coordination

The role of the College Council is to serve as a space for collective communication between College leaders. These monthly meetings allow for responses to any questions that arise and a chance for clarification. The last few semesters, College Council conversations have become more meaningful. The meetings go beyond a platform for reports.

President Eldridge reported that he met with Supervisor Colbert to discuss the College Avenue crosswalk safety concerns. Supervisor Colbert is reviewing several areas of College Avenue to be improved for safety.

Better communication about HVAC problems in the Academic Center, such as the expected time frame for repairs when heating or A/C is broken, will help faculty, students, and staff plan.

Superintendent/President Eldridge invited the College Council members to contact him, copying Mici, if they wish to add an item to the College Council agenda for discussion.

4. Board Policies and Administrative Procedures

To the extent that a BP/AP is in a constituent group's purview, the College Council unanimously recommended that the following policies and single procedure be forwarded to the Board of Trustees as information items and for action.

- *AP 3530 Weapons on Campus*
- *AP 3550 Drug and Alcohol-Free Environment*

Due for review as part of the regular review cycle (non-substantive), updated directly online:

- *AP 3600 Auxiliary Organizations*

5. Board of Trustees

The Council reviewed the draft regular board meeting agenda for February 18, 2025. Highlighted items included: the Mid-Year Budget Update and Financial Report, Phishing and Cyber Threats overview, a Centennial Planning update, and an End of Year Fundraising Report.

From now on the senate reports will be heard before the CEO report.

6. Constituent Reports

ASCOM

Ryli Bowen, the ASCOM President, reported on recent and upcoming events. ASCOM elections have started, and students can meet the candidates on March 26. Students are working to inform everyone better about fentanyl overdoses and where Narcan is located on campus. It would help to have more training on the use of Narcan to prevent opioid overdoses. ASCOM is exploring a self-funded speaker series on technology, arts, business, and more.

Classified Senate

Classified Senate President Sally Wong announced that Episode 4 of the *Classified Know More* Podcast, will host Vice President of Finance and Operations Eresa Puch as their special guest, on February 27. The Book Club will participate in the COMmon read and attend the in-person event with Ada Limón, on March 13. The Senate is planning an afternoon tea for classified professionals in mid-March, to replace the annual breakfast event, and has launched its spring See's Candies fundraiser.

ESCOM

Gary Gonser, ESCOM President, updated the Council members on ESCOM's many events and activities. Details may be found [here](#). ESCOM continues to host exciting and engaging events to attract student members.

Academic Senate

Academic Senate (AS) President Maria Coulson reported that the Senate met with Vice President Dana Emerson and Vice President Nekoda Harris to discuss hiring practices. The Senate is working with Cari Torres, AVP of Instruction, on restructuring the accreditation committee. The Senate has discussed renaming the board policy and administrative procedure on probation to reduce stigma and aligning graduation requirements with the latest California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) transfer pathways. She gave additional updates on Rising Scholars, Zero cost textbooks, and revised graduation requirements.

7. Meeting Wrap Up

Council members may contact President Eldridge, copying Mici, if they wish to add an item to the College Council agenda for discussion.

8. Meeting Schedule:

The next College Council meeting will be on March 6, at 3:00 p.m., in room AC 229.

9. Adjourn Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.