MARIN
COLLEGE OF MARIN

College Council

Minutes

May 14, 2026
AC 229 Kentfield Campus

Present: Jonathan Eldridge, Dana Emerson, Eresa Puch, Mia Robertshaw, Maria Coulson (Academic Senate), Dave King (Academic Senate), Cara Kreit (Academic Senate), Emily Cardwell (ASCOM), Sally Wong (Classified Senate), Brier Welch (Classified Senate), Lauren Amundson (Classified Senate), Gary Gonser (ESCOM), and Mici Benét

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. **Agenda** – BP 3850 Display of Flags and AP 5520 Student Discipline and Due Process were pulled from the agenda for additional review. The Council approved the meeting agenda as amended.

2. **Minutes** – The April 16, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **President's Report**
Participatory Governance and the Committee Reflection Survey
The Council was asked to review the **PGS Committee Reflection Survey** at the April 16, 2026, meeting for discussion at this meeting.

   The group discussed strengthening the participatory governance process over the past year. Making PGS a standing agenda item has been effective for process review and recommendations. So has maintaining a clear reporting link between the Governance Review Committee and College Council; supporting a shared process to revise the governance plan, including a defined timeline, scope, and campus engagement strategy; and consultation with the Community College League of California, and Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges, which President Eldridge and Academic Senate President Coulson are coordinating.

   Reflecting on the past year, the College Council played a more active role in making recommendations and improving policy discussions, though communication gaps and limited coordination among committees remain, highlighting the need for stronger collaboration, clearer reporting, and committee member training. The Council seeks improved processes for campus-wide committee feedback and reporting mechanisms to support a more effective participatory governance system.

GRC could assess feedback around the ACCJC Standard 4.3 and how committee members feel about the campus climate of collaboration in decision-making, because while surveys have captured general sentiment, there is a strong interest in moving beyond "temperature checks" toward identifying specific practices that are working well and areas needing improvement.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of increasing committee visibility and engagement, especially for students, by clearly explaining the purpose of each committee and the value of participation, creating opportunities to display committee work, and strengthening connections with student leadership groups. Finally, there was agreement on the need to clarify the overall governance structure by developing clear definitions, a shared understanding of roles, and tools such as a glossary, calendar, and/or organizational chart to reduce confusion about how distinct groups fit together.

4. **Board Policies and Administrative Procedures**

Policy and Procedure Review: To the extent that a BP/AP is in a constituent group's purview, the College Council unanimously recommended that the following policy and procedures be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for a first read and as information items, excepting those with strikethrough, respectively:

- BP 2015 Student Trustee
- AP 2320 Special and Emergency Meetings
- ~~BP 3850 Display of Flags~~
- AP 4222 Remedial Coursework
- BP 4250 Probation
- AP 4250 Probation
- AP 5031 Instructional Material Fees
- ~~AP 5520 Student Discipline and Due Process~~
- BP 5300 Student Equity
- AP 7160 Professional Development

Reference update only (non-substantive):

- BP 2010 Board Membership
- BP 2200 Board Duties and Responsibilities
- BP 2340 Agendas
- BP 2345 Public Participation at Board Meetings
- BP 2431 Superintendent/President Selection

Ongoing: Chapter 3, 4, and 5 policies and procedures with no legal updates are under review by administrators as part of the regular six-year review cycle. This work is in conjunction with the remaining CCLC 47 updates and the newly released CCLC 48 updates.

5. **Board of Trustees**

The Council reviewed the regular board meeting agenda for May 21, 2026.

The Board agenda includes a presentation on the Fire Foundry project, specifically the New Apparatus Building; an overview of the draft Five-Year Capital Construction Plan, which is due to the Chancellor's Office on July 1, 2026; and updates on the District's environmental impact mitigation efforts, student basic needs, the student housing opportunity in San Anselmo, and the recent Canvas cyber-attack.

The Board agenda also includes three sabbatical reports, recognition of seven newly tenured faculty, and a presentation on the closeout of the CRA trust. It will also include four resolutions: Resolution 2026-06 recognizing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; Resolution 2026-07 commending Student Trustee Emily Cardwell; Resolution 2026-08 regarding Student Trustee Board membership; and Resolution 2026-09 addressing elected officials and terms of office.

6. **Constituent Reports**

ESCOM

ESCOM President Gary Gonser reported that computer workshops will be offered twice a month through August, supported by grant funding that ends on August 31, 2026. The program also includes an Elder Studies course and two new spotlight presentations. ESCOM activities were recently featured at the Center for Student Success as part of the Centennial events at the Kentfield campus, along with upcoming community events that include multiple service providers. These efforts aim to provide older adults with meaningful engagement and support for leading active, constructive lives. Richard Jensen will serve as the new ESCOM President and Treasurer, though Gary will continue to work on ESCOM's marketing and communications. The details of upcoming ESCOM events may be found **here**.

Classified Senate

Classified Senate President Sally Wong reported that the Senate had a productive year building community through podcasts, continued growth of the book club, welcoming a new Senator, and hosting events, including a Halloween fundraiser and February Tea Time, while supporting professional learning and campus activities. A summer retreat is planned to evaluate the year and set priorities, along with a summer social in late July at both campuses. Classified Senate (CS) President Sally Wong's full report can be found **here**.

ASCOM

Student Trustee Emily Cardwell reported on recent ASCOM activities, noting that the spring craft event was moved indoors to the new ASCOM office due to rain. Even so, the students found the activities fun, and the new space was well received. Peer evaluations have been submitted and stipends will be distributed. Transitions into new student leadership positions were announced at the Kudos Corner, with some senate roles still open, requiring an emergency meeting over the summer to fill the positions. Finals week includes ASCOM hosting a World Wraps event and the distribution of all club funds.

Academic Senate

President Maria Coulson reported that this date was the final Academic Senate meeting of the term. Shawn Nelson, Transportation & Applied Technology instructor, was seated as a new senator, while the President Maria Coulson and Vice President Dave King will remain in their current roles. It was also noted that Dave King will be on sabbatical for fall 2026, and Gina Cullen will return as interim Academic Senate Vice President.

7. **Meeting Wrap Up**
   Mici Benet will share the link to the Agreement with College of Marin & Grand Canyon University Concurrent Enrollment Pathway contract on the May 19 board agenda and will pull BP 3850 Display of Flags and AP 5520 Student Discipline and Due Process from the board agenda. Mici will also send a reminder for the fall 2026 meeting dates to current and new College Council members.

8. **Meeting Schedule:**
   The next meeting will be on September 10, 2026.

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