

Academic Senate Elections, Spring 2022

Candidate Statements for Associate Faculty Senator (2 Open Positions)

Ingrid Bairstow

Serving on the Senate means to be curious and passionate about your students, your institution, and your colleagues.

Before I was nominated for the Academic Senate, I was not aware of all that the Academic Senate did.

I read as much as I could about the Senate, read Senate meeting minutes, and attended the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges plenary.

I learned quickly.

Now I know what the Academic Senate does--and what I can do to serve my associate faculty constituents. I am experienced and ready to serve another term. Here are the highlights of my work and passion as a senator:

As an associate faculty senator

- *I listened-- a lot.* MiraCosta is a dynamic institution engaged at the forefront of California community colleges. For example, we have the highest percentage of students engaged in Work-Based Learning activities.
- *I asked questions*, especially with regards to associate faculty issues and our disproportionately impacted students.
- *I served on a task force to revise and update associate faculty hiring (2020-2021).* We created a new web page on the MiraCosta site as well as recommendations for a mentorship program.
- *I serve on a task force (2021-2022) to create a space on our campus to honor the land on which MiraCosta is built.* Look out for more information on this coming soon!
- *I collaborated* with associate faculty senators to create and send out our monthly newsletter of pertinent information regarding senate actions.
- *I worked with the Salary Advancement Committee* to make the process more available and easier to understand. I am passionate about serving my associate faculty colleagues encouraging them to find the best support for their continued growth as instructors. I will continue to do so next year, if elected.
- *I collaborated with my associate faculty senators to organize the bi-annual State of the Senate FLEX workshops.*

About me:

I have taught English as a Second Language for six years at the Community Learning Center. My students are disproportionately impacted (DI), come from 15 different countries and have varying educational backgrounds (from third grade to PhD level). They come from low to high socio-economic levels, but most lack access to 21st century technology and skills. When COVID hit, I worked with my colleagues at the Senate as well as in my department, to help all students overcome the many obstacles associated with online learning. Now, we are on the cusp of another change as we transition to the classroom with students who have adapted online learning. I look forward to forging a new future for our students and our instructors.

Maria Laura Carlsson

- 20 years teaching Spanish at MiraCosta College
- 10 years serving Associate Faculty (AF) on the MiraCosta College Academic Senate
- Represented associate faculty at multiple ASCCC Plenary Sessions
- Coordinated and lead multiple AF Senate Workshops during FLEX week
- Volunteer for multiple workgroups, events, and committees at MiraCosta College including:
 - Senate Bylaws and Rules review and revision
 - Associate Faculty Emeritus process
 - Associate Faculty Voting Rights
- Participation in the ASCCC Part-time Faculty Institute
- Currently serving my second term on the ASCCC Online Exchange Initiative (OEI) Advisory Committee (representing students and ALL faculty)

I bring student-centered and experienced dedication, experience, diversity, and energy to the Senate.

I am available to all associate faculty constituents; I am passionate, and I am engaged. I respectfully ask for your vote and look forward to representing you at Academic Senate.

With gratitude,
Maria Laura Carlsson

Genevieve Griffin

1. My name is Genevieve Griffin. My pronouns are she/her/hers. I consider MiraCosta College my home! I have had the opportunity to work at MiraCosta College since 2003. However, before that I was a student at MiraCosta College. I have a B.A Degree in Psychology from San Diego State University and a M.S. Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from California State University, Chico. Teaching seven different psychology courses in the department is something that I appreciate as I am able to utilize my background with helping student equity, success, and retention in many different forms.
2. In the time I have worked at MiraCosta College, I have engaged and participated actively in my department. I have presented at department meetings and collaborated with colleague's in creating and assessing Student Learning Outcomes.
3. I have had the opportunity to engage in the Honor's Program where I have students participate in Service Learning opportunities. Then I have the students apply what they have learned from their experience in a literature review paper at the end of their required Service Learning hours. In conjunction with the Honors Program I have been a mentor for students presenting research at the OMNI Fair.
4. Being an advocate of service learning and assisting the community with my students and colleagues is something that I am very dedicated and passionate about. My students and I (pre-covid) each semester have engaged in Service Learning opportunities to have my students gain more insight for the local community with impoverished communities and agencies that help adults with all kinds of disabilities. While engaging in this opportunity with my students they cultivated what it is like to assist the community. We then apply the information to chapters in the book and in lectures, having productive life-changing conversations. My students have participated in the STREAM Festival each Spring as we come up with experiments to facilitate hands on learning for the elementary and middle school students who attend. I also have presented at Service Learning Workshops along with my students who have made a commitment to continue with Service learning after the semester ends.
5. I have represented the psychology department at the Annual Career Fair for the last 4 years to educate students who are or contemplating becoming a psychology major with explaining the different fields and career opportunities in psychology. I have collaborated with the Career Center with being a mentor for students who want to engage in internships to get real world experience. I work very closely with the student, Career Center and the site coordinator where their internships are located.
6. I am in the process of starting the Psychology Club at the college. Now is the opportunity for me to become even more engaged in the campus community, learn new things, incorporate my knowledge and my experience from the 18 years of teaching and interacting with amazing colleagues. In addition, I learn from my students as well. This is the first time I asked to become a member of a committee.

7. One of my goals for the Academic Senate is to focus on student equality, diversity, student success and retention. Since Covid started, I have seen the pedagogical approach change and that is something I believe that needs to be addressed. Many students have grown accustomed to being online and I believe that we need to recognize this change where both students and professors can adapt to. In addition, I am aware of a newer concept called Ungrading that can help facilitate student retention and success.
8. I would like to address Professional Developmental policies as well with the Academic Senate to construct activities and workshops both in person and online to deal with pressing issues for both students and staff. Since the start of the pandemic there has been an increase in cyberbullying and stalking, mental health issues while also addressing sexual assault and harassment. I would like to inform all faculty about CARE (Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education) and the wonderful resources they provide to our student body. Due to inflation being at an all-time high I think it is pertinent to address these issues such as funding for the impending housing crisis and with food insecurities.
9. Another goal for running for the Academic Senate is, I want to focus on discrimination and anti-racism that is still unfortunately prevalent in our world and on campus. I am able to incorporate my knowledge and degree in psychology with these pressing issues. I want to be able to address curriculum development, establishing pre-requisites, and fair grading policies within each discipline. I believe it is pertinent to get students prepared whether they plan to transfer to a 4-year university or policies for certificate requirements and A.A degrees to obtain a better career.
10. In order to communicate with my constituents, I would send emails to update faculty. Furthermore, when deemed appropriate creating anonymous surveys and/or polls depending on the data we are looking at and specific issues while increasing feedback opportunities from the faculty.
11. It would be an honor to be elected to represent the Academic Senate. In collaboration with working with fellow colleagues to gain more insight and utilize my knowledge to help enhance MiraCosta as an institution.

Brian Page

My name is Brian Page, and I am asking for your vote to continue serving on the Academic Senate. My main interest for serving on the Senate is that I want to contribute to maintaining the positive and beneficial aspects of the environment that I have experienced since I started teaching here. While I recognize the issues that we as Associate Faculty still do face, I also value the positive aspects of the campus environment that I have experienced, and want to work to maintain them. This was why I made my first foray into campus governance when I joined the Professional Development Committee four years ago, to directly contribute to one aspect of MiraCosta that I have found especially impactful. At the same time, I hope to gain a better understanding of the things that I know we as a campus don't do as well, and help to improve them.

I think that one of the most important issues facing the Academic Senate is maintaining strong communications with everyone across the wider campus. As we saw with the debate over the academic calendar last fall, it's not always clear to many people what issues or changes are being discussed, and when feedback on those issues is being solicited. Accordingly, I was pleased to work this past year on a Senate taskforce which looked specifically at how to improve communications between the Senate and other faculty and staff. The work of this taskforce resulted in the development of a new Academic Senate monthly newsletter, based in part on the newsletter that the other Associate Faculty Representatives and I have been writing for the last couple of years.

Another important issue for the Senate to continue working on is the ongoing push to help more Associate Faculty serve on campus governance committees. I think we took a significant step forward last year by incorporating Associate Faculty into the formal Committee Call process, instead of the ad hoc process we've seen in the past. Nonetheless, there is far more work to be done in order to ensure that service on governance committees is open to more associate faculty in practical terms. These committees are where so much of the day-to-day work of campus governance takes place, so it is vital that we continue to push for more Associate Faculty representation in all of those conversations. These committees are where we can make our experiences and our voices heard, and where we can continue to build the ranks of our leadership.

I would deeply appreciate the opportunity to continue serving as one of your Senate representatives, and I ask for your vote in order to do so. Thank you.

Christian Vela Che

- Which committees you served on and when?
I have served as the Diversity Day Committee lead member since 2019. Diversity Day is an annual celebration of the student population we served in the Noncredit Continuing Education department.
- Which leadership roles have you held?
I have served as a lead committee member and lead presenter on several conferences and workshops.
- What do you think are the five most pressing issues facing the Academic Senate today, and how has your work over the past three to five years shown your commitment to these issues?
If I get elected, I will take notes on the areas (effective communication, logistics, action plans, etc.) that prove efficacy and the areas that need our attention to improve.
- What would you do to keep your constituents informed, and what would you do to elicit feedback on important issues from your constituents?
I will create weekly/monthly short info videos, surveys, reminders, GIFs, infographics, flyers, and if budget and rules allow, I will propose a small incentive (\$5 Gift Card Coffee) for needed feedback from our constituents.