

## **Candidate Statements for Associate Faculty Senator**

*The following statements were submitted before the deadline of March 4<sup>th</sup>, and are in alphabetical order.*

### **Genevieve Griffin**

1. My name is Genevieve Griffin. My pronouns are she/her. Working at MiraCosta College has been an honor as my personal beliefs align with our institutional mission statement, commitment, values, and goals. As we strive towards a more comprehensive understanding of the educational experience, we absolutely cannot ignore marginalized and minority groups because we risk overlooking crucial insights into what we feel, think, and how we interact. I consider MiraCosta College my home! I have had the opportunity to work here since 2003 and before that, I was a student at MiraCosta College. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from San Diego State University and a Master's degree in Psychology from California State University, Chico.

2. I had the honor to be appointed, serve, and represent associate faculty on the Academic Senate in the spring semester of 2023. I thoroughly enjoyed the work that the Academic Senate engages in. It was such an amazing feeling to be a part of the process by looking at AB legislative policies, to see if they are working, and how we can enhance the college experience for students, faculty, and staff alike so we can move forward as a college. We need to focus on DE&I concerns so every student population can have the opportunity to succeed and close the equity gap. I believe it is pertinent to look at the Student Equity and Student Outcome data to see which student populations are being unrepresented at the college. We have an Associated Student Government (ASG) representative on the Academic Senate. As faculty our partnership with ASG allows us to understand the students' perspectives so student's voices can be amplified. I am also involved with the Dual-Enrollment Committee to facilitate the innovative program of allowing high school students to enroll in college courses to get ahead in their academic progress. I, also collaborate with colleagues on current and forthcoming state law policies.

3. During my time on the Academic Senate, I served on the task force for Teaching and Learning. My goal was to focus on student equality, diversity, student success, and retention. Since the pandemic and new technological advances, such as ChatGPT, I have seen the pedagogical approach change. This is something that I believe needs to be addressed thoroughly for both students and faculty.

4. One important goal I have if reelected to the Academic Senate is to focus on DE&I concerns for students and faculty. As a college we need to have standards for student preparation and success especially for marginalized and minority groups that represent a large part of our student population. Professional Developmental policies is a topic that is addressed within the Academic Senate meetings. We are here to construct activities and workshops for all faculty, both in person and online, that can help enhance pedagogical approaches and address students' needs. I also want to address curriculum development, establishing pre-requisites, and fair grading policies within each discipline. I believe it is pertinent to get students prepared,

whether their plan is to transfer to a 4-year university, obtain a certificate, or an Associate's degree, ensuring they understand all policies and requirements to achieve their goal. In addition, I am interested in exploring and securing grants for the college. The Academic Senate's involvement is a necessity for the accreditation process and for faculty structure to comply with district and college governance.

5. While employed at MiraCosta College, I have engaged and participated actively in my department. I have presented at department meetings and collaborated with colleagues in creating and assessing Student Learning Outcomes. I have had the opportunity to engage in the Honors Program and OMNI Showcase with my students. Furthermore, I am an advocate of The Service-Learning Center and assisting the community with my students. My students have also participated in the STREAM Festival, designing experiments to facilitate hands-on learning for the elementary and middle school students who attend. Lastly, I have represented the Psychology Department at the Annual Career Fair for many years and collaborated with the Career Center, serving as a mentor for students who want to engage in internships to gain relevant experience.

6. If there are questions or concerns, I am easily accessible via email, work, or personal cell phone and I am prompt to respond within 24 hours, if not sooner. I can communicate issues to the Academic Senate. In order to communicate with my constituents, I would send emails to faculty to keep them updated and foster open communication. Furthermore, when deemed appropriate, I can create anonymous surveys and/or polls, depending on the data or specific issues we are looking at which would increase opportunities for feedback from the faculty. It would be an honor to be elected to the Academic Senate again to represent associate faculty. I respectfully ask for your vote so I may continue the work I have started in 2023 within the Academic Senate.

I appreciate your consideration and your vote!

## **Sarah Gross**

As a MiraCosta alumni, I have been part of this community for nearly 15 years. As a student, I worked in the Writing Center and my passion for working with students and giving back to my community was ignited. After earning my MA in Counseling, I returned to MiraCosta to begin my career as an Associate Counselor and now have the great privilege of working with students in both our General and Transfer Counseling Departments. Like many associate faculty, I am also a freeway flier, working at Saddleback College as a general and dual enrollment counselor and instructor.

I believe I would provide a unique perspective to the Academic Senate from Student Services and can offer a more holistic voice for associate faculty. As a counselor, I understand the policies of each department on campus and how policies and legislation can consequently affect an individual student's success. Additionally, my experience as a counseling instructor has afforded me with the understanding and appreciation for issues facing classroom faculty today.

### **Which committees have you served on and when?**

While I haven't had the opportunity to serve on a formal Senate committee, I have played an active role in the following initiatives:

- ACP/Guided Pathways; working with STEM, Health Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences (2021-2022)
- Strong Workforce Program (2023-present)
- Dual-Enrollment, teaching and building partnerships with feeder high schools (2023-present)

### **Which leadership roles have you held?**

- I am currently serving as a lead for the new CSU and UC Transfer Success Pathways in the Transfer Center.
- During my time as a Writing Consultant, I aided in the development of online writing consulting and assisted in the subsequent training.
- Prior to my career in counseling, I was selected for many leadership roles throughout my career in healthcare. I was asked to lead administrative initiatives for the medical group, establish medical practices, and act as a consultant for managers within the healthcare group.

### **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?**

- Legislative impacts of AB 1111, AB 928, AB 1705. As a counselor, I have a strong understanding of the far-reaching effects legislation has on individual students, faculty, and community college education.
- Addressing the needs of disproportionately impacted students and advancing DEIA initiatives on campus. I have worked to advance ACP efforts and conducted personal outreach to disproportionately impacted students to connect them to services including Student Equity, Tutoring, Counseling, SAS, Financial Aid, CARE, etc.
- Policies addressing student distress and mental health concerns affecting academic success. As part of my graduate program, I earned a Certificate in Mental Health Recovery and Trauma Informed Care which assists me daily in my work counseling students.
- Dual enrollment. As the Chancellor's Office has made dual enrollment a primary focus, this area of our work will continue to increase, and I have first-hand experience providing dual-enrollment counseling services at two different high schools, dealing with administrative coordination, and teaching counseling classes to high school students. I understand both the challenges and benefits of growing dual enrollment initiatives.

- Revision of academic calendar and potential impact on teaching, counseling, and student success. While I haven't been directly involved in the calendar development, I pay attention to the information being sent and understand that any decisions made should prioritize student success, persistence, and completion.

**What would you do to keep your constituents informed, and what would you do to elicit feedback on important issues from your constituents?**

As the largest faculty group on campus, Associate faculty voices are important and should be heard in all academic and professional spaces. Staying informed is essential; however, as an associate faculty member who works for two districts, I understand the struggle to stay up-to-date and read through the often-overwhelming number of emails that we receive each day. So, I plan to keep constituents informed through sending monthly emails that provide a clear and concise summary of updates. I also plan to solicit your feedback to inform my vote and ensure associate faculty concerns are heard and considered.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I appreciate your Vote and am committed to ensure our voices are heard and considered.

## **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 six years ago, to directly contribute to one aspect of MiraCosta that I have found especially impactful. During my three years on Senate thus far, I have done my best to learn from many of my colleagues who advocate passionately for Associate Faculty needs and parity, while also bringing our unique and diverse perspectives into campus discussions. Currently, I am working to apply that approach to our MiraCosta Calendar Project workgroup, where both our unique circumstances in terms of calendar impacts and our unique experience of working at numerous campuses with different types of calendars have proven important to the discussion.

I believe that one of the most important issues currently facing the Academic Senate is its role in guiding our campus' response to the numerous initiatives and new legislation being implemented at the state and local levels. Senate will be vital in working to ensure that we comply with new rules and guidelines, while also highlighting the voices of our faculty to ensure that our individual departments and instructors remain free to utilize their own expertise of what does or does not work well within their disciplines. Senate will be a key arena where we must face the challenge of maximizing the opportunities and minimizing the constraints of these new changes, so that we can all continue working toward our shared goals of student success and equity according to each of our own experiences and knowledge.

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 have taken a significant step forward by incorporating Associate Faculty into the formal Committee Call process in recent years, 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.