

**Academic Senate Election, March 2025**  
**Candidate Statements for Full-Time Faculty**

**For President-Elect:**

**Jim Sullivan**

Dear Colleagues:

As someone who came to MiraCosta because I wanted to ground my teaching career in social justice and community, shared governance has always struck me as both profoundly important and excruciatingly difficult: a view that has become only more solidified for me in our current political climate.

But as I share these thoughts with you, I do not think any of us need to read another inventory of the things that make governance and our work at a community college extraordinarily difficult right now

Instead, I would like to point out three (among many possible!) examples of outstanding faculty leadership at MiraCosta and think about what we can learn from these experiences as we move forward together.

**Making Progress on an Enduring Challenge**

Watching curry lead us through the calendar change process last year – with strong support from Denee and many other faculty and classified professionals – taught me that when we invest **sustained and focused attention** to a challenge, we can make important changes together. I think the calendar process highlighted some other important governance ideas: 1) **building from the foundations of our community up** with authentic discussions rather than simply ratifying decisions made from above and sent back to “the people” for buy in and validation, 2) **researching what other institutions and faculty are doing**, and 3) **recognizing that perfect is never really an option but better always is** (and that no choice will make everyone happy, but difficult choices can often jump start progress).

**Department Led Teaching and Learning Growth**

In my work as Joyful Teacher in Residence, I have been learning much about the wonderful work our Biology department has been doing to explore and implement a wide variety of pedagogical innovations that have resulted in not only higher student success rates but learning experiences that cultivate our students' agency and humanity. From what I can tell, this has occurred because of a departmentally driven **initiative to investigate and experiment with new ideas and approaches, an authentically collaborative approach with a dean**, and a **commitment to sustained**

**follow up** conversations and ongoing redesign efforts. Similar work is happening in disciplines and schools all over campus.

## **Improving a Process**

For the past four years, I have had the privilege of being part of the Tenure Review and Evaluation Committee and have been profoundly impressed by how under Chad Tsuyuki's leadership, the faculty serving on that committee have **balanced responding to the everyday challenges and crises of the tenure process with continuing to think big picture about the future**. Our tenure process is by no means where we want it to be yet, but this committee's **focused and sustained work** has made our process more human, inclusive, and growth centered. We are moving in the right direction.

I think this progress has come because Chad has worked diligently to **research** what other institutions are doing, **test ideas** with student focus groups and faculty workshops and **bring a wider range of faculty perspectives and experiences** onto the committee. Above all, Chad has facilitated **an environment where colleagues care about each other, learn from each other, disagree productively and respectfully, and embrace the challenges of implementing and refining a process** that is constantly being complicated by contract negotiations and the realities of implementation.

I have also learned from Chad and this committee that **grounding ourselves in principles and values** that we review each year and keep returning to as we explore our options results in better decision making. The inevitable unexpected issues, conflicts, and agendas that emerge each year have not sidetracked the steady progress of this committee – have not muted our faculty voices and leadership – because we have been able to return to those values and principles.

The kind of faculty leadership I have described here – principles and practices already fueling change at MiraCosta – are what I would like to **celebrate, cultivate, and connect** if I serve as Academic Senate President.

As top down, capitalist, market driven, just-in-time models of educational decision making, management, and professional development continue to proliferate, our students and our communities urgently need the kind of from the ground up faculty leadership I have described here: focused, sustained (and sustainable), inclusive, creative, research-informed, transparent, values-driven, and change-generating.

I hope we can explore and implement these ideas, principles, and practices in the years ahead as we work together at a crucial moment in the history of higher education in our country.

Please feel free to call, text, or email if you would like to talk about any of this: [jimsullivan@miracosta.edu](mailto:jimsullivan@miracosta.edu) / 951-505-2232

**For Senator:**

**Kristine Arquero**

Hi Everyone! If our paths have not yet crossed, I am Kristine Arquero, member of the chemistry department since 2017. I am honored by the prospect of advocating for faculty and students through the Academic Senate.

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

I served on the Outcomes Assessment Committee (2018 – 2022) where I supported the Core Competencies and Handbook Workgroups. Since 2022 I have been serving on DEqCC and have worked on revising our mission and organizing faculty community building events. I have chaired hiring committees for a full-time faculty (spring 2023) and a classified staff position (fall 2023) as well as served on TRCs and PRCs. I have been a part of the Pilipinx American History Month planning committee since 2018. And, I am the advisor for the Pre-Med Club.

**Which leadership roles have you held?**

Serving as department chair (fall 2022 – spring 2024) was one of the most professionally impactful roles I have had to date. It was a formative experience where I learned to make tough decisions that I could truly stand behind and honed the ability to communicate with all stakeholders involved. With two years of chair experience navigating new and challenging situations, I feel more prepared than ever to serve as senator.

**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?**

From my perspective, the five most pressing issues (in no particular order) include:

- advocating for and supporting our most vulnerable students especially at a time of rapid changes;
- strengthening community between full time faculty, associate faculty, classified staff, and students so that we can work synergistically towards common goals;
- striving to build a more racially just campus;
- evolving our teaching and students' learning;
- navigating curricular changes while supporting the faculty who implement those changes in their classrooms

Advocating for students and building community are my professional driving forces. From facilitating department discussions about students' sense of belonging to currently supporting MiraCosta's new Title V STEM grant, I operate with these two goals top of mind and will continue to do so if I serve on Academic Senate.

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

Learning from my past senators, I will keep constituents informed by sending out monthly/bi-weekly updates and will poll constituents as needed via email. Messages will not only keep folks informed but also include my thoughts on items and request input from constituents. I will make myself available in person, via phone, and virtually for anyone interested in dialoguing. My goal is to listen well so that I can faithfully represent your faculty voices.

**For Senator:**

**Alexis Tucker Sade**

Alexis Tucker Sade, PhD, MPH  
Anthropology and Global Health Program  
Mana Mentor

Thank you for taking the time to consider my re-election to our Academic Senate. Since it is not regular practice, I want to explain why I am seeking another term. As is the case with our committees, it takes a while to understand how the Academic Senate operates and what our functions are within collegial governance. Once we gain a solid understanding and begin engaging fully, our term is already winding down. Since it is uncommon to seek another term, we lose the benefit of having experienced senators and generational knowledge. My colleagues and I observed this benefit first-hand among our AF senators who often serve for many years. Having served on our Academic Affairs Committee for the full five years before becoming a senator, I have seen how that tenure benefitted my later work on AAC and AS. I would like to continue my work on our Academic Senate, serving all faculty and supporting our newly elected members as an experienced senator.

I am also seeking re-election to continue my work on reforming the way in which the Academic Senate works in relation to our committees and our constituents. Through an in-depth study of the form and function of the AS, my taskforce concluded that our AS is not functioning in a manner that wholly fulfills its purpose and potential. However, this does not require a reconfiguration of the AS to solve the problems we identified, but rather a reformation of how the current structure fulfills its responsibilities. At the top of that list is our role as a hub of communication. The project I am working on right now aims to (1) Increase the quality of communication with our entire constituency – the faculty, (2) Decrease the amount of communication by creating a single forum produced collaboratively by all senators, and (3) Increasing the communication channel between AS and subcommittees to make the work more streamlined and less reactive. In other words, our goal is to foster a more cohesive and effective collegial governance process among faculty and to reduce email overload by focusing on a high quality and comprehensive single source for outbound AS communication (which is a more equitable and representative model).

Please consider supporting me to continue this work to ensure our faculty voice remains prominent and influential at MiraCosta! **I am working for us, so we can all work for our students and community!**

**For Coordinating Officer:**

**Robin N. Allyn**

Here is my statement for the CO position:

**Which committees have you served on and when? Which leadership roles have you held?**

I have served as a MiraCosta College Academic Senator since 2017 and as Coordinating Officer from 2021-2023. I was a member of the ASCCC Diversity, Equity, and Action Committee (2018-2019) and have been on the MiraCosta Service-Learning Advisory Board since 2014. My leadership includes curriculum development, faculty professional development, and workforce integration, with conference presentations on guided pathways, work-based learning, and student success initiatives.

**What do you think are the five most pressing issues facing the Academic Senate today, and how has your work shown commitment to these issues?**

1. AI & Higher Education – Advocating for ethical and creative AI use in teaching & learning.
2. Work-Based Learning – Supporting faculty in integrating career-focused learning into coursework.
3. Data-Driven Curriculum Development – Co-led course updates in Women's Studies, LGBT Studies, and Sociology for Statistics.
4. Shared Governance & Faculty Advocacy – Ensuring faculty voices shape institutional policies and budget decisions.
5. Adapting to Student Needs – Expanding experiential learning, student engagement, and creating inclusive spaces for optimal learning.

**How do you see your role as a Senate officer in relationship to the Administration and the faculty you represent?**

The Academic Senate is a faculty-led governing body, and my role is to amplify faculty voices. Ensuring that faculty expertise drives academic and institutional decisions, particularly in curriculum, student success policies, and institutional planning is critical to our charge.

**What would you do to ensure the Academic Senate's annual goals are realized?**

- Enhance transparency – Keep faculty informed and engaged in Senate initiatives.
- Strengthen professional development – Expand support for faculty in AI, cultivating belonging, and career-focused teaching & learning.
- Encourage participation – Create a welcoming, inclusive governance space.
- Advocate for faculty priorities – Ensure policies are data-driven, equitable, and student-centered.
- Uphold faculty voices – Protect academic freedom and shared governance in institutional planning.

## **For Coordinating Officer:**

**Anastasia Zavodny**

Hi fellow Faculty!

I respectfully ask for your vote for the Coordinating Officer position on MiraCosta's Academic Senate. As a member of MiraCosta's Associate Faculty since 2017, I am a faculty in two departments (Business Administration and Economics). While my shared governance experience within MiraCosta thus far has been service in the union, I have extensive experience in academic and professional matters via statewide committee service, and both senate membership and extensive committee participation at another institution. I am eager to bring my knowledge and expertise to MiraCosta!

### **Committee and Leadership Service**

Here at MiraCosta I am currently serving as Secretary of the MiraCosta College Academic Associate Faculty union (MCCAAF) and Lead Negotiator. Previously I have held the position of Membership Chair for MCCAAF. For those of you who teach at multiple colleges, you may know me from my service at Palomar College. There, I have served on Faculty Senate since 2017 and have been serving as Chair of Committee on Committees since 2019 (a position overseeing all faculty positions on shared governance and very similar in scope to the duties of this Coordinating Officer position). I am currently filling the role of Past President at Palomar's Faculty Senate, where I help advise the Senate President and provide counsel for issues pertaining to the 10+1. Additionally, I co-chair Palomar's affordable textbook committee (since 2018). I am currently serving on the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Online Education Committee (in my second year) and have previously served two years on ASCCC's Part-Time Faculty committee.

### **Most Pressing Issues facing Academic Senate**

#### Academic Integrity

- Ensuring academic integrity is maintained, especially for online courses facing artificial intelligence misuse
- Creating guidance to help balance innovative classroom applications of artificial intelligence and maintain academic rigor



### Supporting Students

- Ensuring ALL students are supported throughout their academic journey
- Providing clarity for students with the implementation of CalGETC

### Transfer Pathways

- Implementing CalGETC
- Supporting faculty working on common course numbering

### Textbook Affordability

- Support the expansion of Zero Textbook Cost courses and degree pathways through current CCCCO grant and beyond

### Supporting Faculty

- Supporting equitable access to professional development
- Advancing standards of excellence for online courses

### **Relating to Faculty**

As a senate officer, my responsibility is to my faculty colleagues and ensuring we maintain our academic and professional areas of purview (10+1). I am available to my fellow faculty to help address questions and concerns and ensure germane questions and issues are brought to the Senate. Specifically as Coordinating Officer my responsibility is to ensure regular communication between Senate and our committees. In terms of my relationship with Administration via this position, I will build and maintain collegial relationships to help ensure faculty issues are addressed promptly and our purview over academic and professional matters is maintained.

### **Ensuring Senate Goals are Realized**

In my role as Coordinating Officer I will work with senate leadership and senators to ensure the annual goals are being advanced throughout the academic year. For Academic Senate goals involving areas of oversight from our committees, I will maintain regular communications with committee chairs to communicate these goals and ensure the proper flow of updates and materials to Senate. I also look forward to bringing my

zany committee recruitment emails to the MiraCosta community to maintain faculty membership!

Thank you so much for reading this far, and I very much appreciate your support!