

## **Shawn Firouzian**

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

Over my tenure at MiraCosta College (2016–present), I have served on numerous institutional and shared-governance committees, including the Academic Senate; President’s Alliance on DEI; Statistics and Calculus Curriculum Committees; IDEA Advisory Committee; Academic Affairs Committee; Institutional Program Review Committee; Dual Enrollment Advisory Committee; MESA Committee; Guided Pathways/Achieving the Dream; Integrated First-Year Support; Data & Evaluation Workgroup; and multiple hiring committees across the college.

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

I currently serve as an Instructional Faculty Liaison for the STEM Academic & Career Pathway. In this role, I have led efforts to develop innovative curriculum pathways, expand dual-enrollment opportunities, cultivate university and industry partnerships, and mentor undergraduate research initiatives that connect students with community organizations and regional employers. I have also worked intentionally to serve as a voice for the voiceless, advocating for faculty whose innovative and groundbreaking endeavors can sometimes be constrained by departmental structures or institutional barriers, and to help elevate, support, and empower their work in ways that advance our collective mission.

### **3. What do you think are the five most pressing issues facing the Academic Senate today, and how has your work demonstrated commitment to them?**

- **Faculty voice in institutional planning:** It is essential that faculty perspectives remain central in institutional decision-making. Through my service on Senate and program review bodies, I have consistently advocated for transparent, faculty-driven planning processes.
- **Equity and student success:** My work in culturally responsive curriculum design, dual-enrollment expansion, and DEI initiatives reflects an ongoing commitment to closing equity gaps and expanding access.
- **Curriculum innovation & workforce alignment:** I strongly support interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation without institutional barriers.
- **Community and industry partnerships:** I have worked to build partnerships that create experiential learning opportunities for our students while strengthening MiraCosta’s connection to local industry and community organizations.
- **Empowering faculty and staff innovation:** I believe creative, student-centered work should be elevated and supported. I am committed to advocating for

students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators whose innovative efforts advance our institutional mission.

#### **4. Communication & feedback with constituents**

To keep constituents informed while being mindful of inbox volume, I use transparent and accessible communication tools such as shared live documents summarizing meeting discussions and decisions. I also value in-person engagement and would advocate for rotating Senate meetings across our campuses, including the Community Learning Center, San Elijo, and Carlsbad, to increase accessibility, visibility, and participation college-wide.

## **Jorge Guerrero**

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

- I have enjoyed serving on the Tenure Review & Evaluation Committee (TREC) since the Fall of 2023. Our work has focused on streamlining the process for new faculty and creating a culture in which new faculty members can feel welcomed and supported while respecting our processes.
- At my previous institution, I was part of the Academic Technology Committee, which focused on faculty voices regarding technology and online learning. In addition, I was part of work committees focused on Electronic-Student Education plans and Distance Counseling.

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

- While I have not held an elected position, I have consistently demonstrated leadership through my advocacy for student success. As a faculty member, I have always advocated to my department and college to find ways to better serve students. We can achieve this by streamlining processes, finding new creative ways to reach students, and fostering collaboration.

### **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?**

- Adapting new state legislation while making students a priority. Common course numbering, dual enrollment, professional development, and other state legislation affect students, faculty, staff, and administration. I actively seek opportunities to support students as they navigate the complex changes that affect them directly or indirectly. For example, AB 1705 increased access to college-level math courses. However, it might also place students at a level where a stronger foundation would be useful. I explain to students their options so they can select the best pathway, including developmental math and non-credit options.
- Developing a new class schedule. I believe in developing a schedule that finds the balance between meeting the needs of students and the faculty that serves them. I can bring a counselor's perspective on the issues that students face while enrolling in courses.
- Reviewing academic policies. I firmly believe that we can develop policies that serve our students. I provided feedback to our academic senate representatives while reviewing our new academic renewal policy and the different situations in which students could benefit from the proposed changes.

- Professional development. I believe that professional development should be faculty-led.
- Streamlining processes. I continue to advocate for new processes and structural changes that are efficient and benefit all students, faculty, staff, and administration.

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

- As an academic senate representative, it is crucial to gather feedback from constituents to bring their voice, opinions, and suggestions to the academic senate. I would elicit feedback by having an open door policy, sending regular email updates, and scheduling academic senate updates during department meetings.

## **Polo Mariscal**

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

- Institutional Program Review Committee, as a member, Fall 2018 - Spring 2020
- College Council, as a member, Fall 2020 - Present

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

- Institutional Program Review Committee, as Co-chair, Fall 2020 - Present

### **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?**

One of the most pressing issues facing the Academic Senate is ensuring meaningful faculty participation in institutional decision-making. As IPRC co-chair for the past six years, I have helped keep program review faculty-driven and closely tied to planning and resource allocation rather than mere compliance. In this role, I've collaborated with faculty authors, Senate leadership, the Budget and Planning Committee, the Outcome Assessment Committee, the Course Program Committee, and the Academic Affairs Committee to ensure that faculty perspectives meaningfully inform institutional priorities.

A second major issue is maintaining a rigorous, relevant, and equitable curriculum as student needs, transfer requirements, and workforce demands evolve. Through IPRC, I helped and supported faculty in using data, outcomes, and reflection to evaluate how programs serve students and respond to transfer and workforce expectations, keeping equity at the center of these conversations.

The Senate also plays an essential role in advancing equitable policies and practices. In my IPRC work, we revised the Program Review Handbook to more clearly connect program review to equity, accreditation, and institutional effectiveness. These revisions encourage faculty to address equity gaps and student success as part of routine program evaluation rather than as an add-on.

Another ongoing challenge is ensuring clear and timely communication between the Senate and the faculty it represents. As co-chair, IPRC prioritized transparency by developing clearer program review guidance, training materials, and workshops that make institutional processes more accessible for faculty.

Finally, the Senate must continue to balance governance, accreditation, and continuous improvement. I have consistently emphasized program review as a tool for reflection

and improvement rather than a box-checking exercise, reinforcing how faculty work contributes to long-term planning and shared governance.

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

If elected, I would prioritize two-way communication with constituents by:

- Providing regular updates via email summaries following Senate meetings
- Sharing plain-language explanations of major issues, votes, and policy changes
- Being accessible for individual conversations and questions

To elicit feedback, I would:

- Actively solicit input before major votes or policy decisions
- Use brief surveys or informal check-ins to gather diverse perspectives
- Bring constituent concerns directly to Senate discussions and report back on outcomes

My goal would be to ensure that faculty feel informed, heard, and accurately represented.

## **Ghada Osman**

It is my honor to be considered for a Senator position for the 2026-2028 term. In my roles as the faculty coordinator for mental health at Health Services, a Senator for the 2024-2026 cycle, a member of PDP since 2023 and TREC since 2022, and a committee member on numerous department, division, and cross-department committees, I work closely with a broad base and broad range of faculty, staff, and classified administrators across various departments on a daily basis, physically at both the Oceanside Barnard and San Elijo campuses, and with both credit and non-credit students. In addition to my current position of which I have held a version in an interim capacity since January 2019 and permanently since July 2020, I have been involved in part-time roles at the College for most of the decade before that, and have 15 years of experience as tenured classroom faculty at San Diego State University where I served as Department Chair and Vice Chair of the University Senate. Most importantly to me, I am a community college alum, and will always view my community college years as the most rewarding and nurturing of my entire educational career.

I believe that the five most pressing issues facing the Senate are:

- 1) building community across the College for students, faculty, and staff, especially in this era of crucial shifts including the centrality of online work, the burgeoning role of AI, growing mental health needs, and the continued impact of almost two years of solely remote work;
- 2) exploring the role of leadership in the College as a whole during a time of significant transition, including the Senate's own role, for increased representative and effective shared governance;
- 3) translating the concepts of a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion into actions that truly bridge equity gaps, via both faculty's continuous education and critical self-examination as well as through concrete actions on the part of faculty, departments, and the College;
- 4) improving students' learning experiences through current District-level efforts to revamp scheduling processes, and continued thoughtful exploration of innovative, student-centered practices at the individual and department levels;
- 5) envisioning more holistic development of students' experiences beyond information and skill acquisition, and into accessible opportunities for the multi-faceted growth, development, and empowerment of the whole person.

My work in the last 3-5 years has very much focused on these priorities, from emphasizing work that centers student wellbeing and empowerment, to strengthening partnerships that build community and growth opportunities for students on and off-

campus, to facilitating in-depth discussions and actions aimed at reducing equity gaps and increasing trauma-informed interactions, to active participation in reflections on models of structure to strengthen the Senate's role as truly representative of faculty.

I would keep constituents informed and elicit feedback through relevant email updates and Google poll forms. In addition, I would like to explore the benefit of sending topic-focused updates that summarize developments on a specific issue of concern over a period of time, as well as collaborative updates with other Senators that may pool and streamline knowledge more effectively.