Regular Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 6, 2026
Time - 9:00AM-11:00AM
Governance Room OC30115 and Hyflex via Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 11:07am.

II. Roll Call

Present: Polo Mariscal, Kristine Arquero, Ghada Osman, Jorge Guerrero, Shawn Firouzian, Robin Allyn, Jim Sullivan, Julie Graboi, Sarah Gross, Brian Page, Krista Warren-Yagubyan.

****Note**: Jennfier Streagle, Adrean Askerneese, Krista Warren-Yagubyan and Dr. Lennor Johnson arrived after Roll Call and were present for the meeting. VP Afifa Zaman joined via remote participation from San Francisco; ASCCC Fall Plenary.

Absent: Alexis Tucker Sade, Katrina Tamura.

Others present: Arielle Locke, Nick Mortaloni, Scott Fallstrom, Denee Pescarmona, Omar Jimenez, Emiko Kiyochi, Ashley Davis, Elba Gomes, Dung Le and others in zoom.

III. Persons Wishing to Address the Senate

Senator Firouzian recognized Honor student Arturo Salazar's achievements who recently represented MiraCosta College and the Honors Program at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Conference in Chula Vista, CA. Salazar presented his research on household income and financial inclusion for young adults in America that found that a strong relationship and indicator of wealth deficiency beginning with banking relationships. Salazar is engaged as a business administration and honors student, founder and president of the business entrepreneurship and finance club and a Phi Theta Kappa officer. As a mentor to Salazar, Firouzian asked the Academic Senate to recognize his accomplishments and important role of both the Honors and Dual Enrollment programs at MiraCosta College.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2026
B. Approve 2027-28 Curriculum Packet, Part I
C. Approve 2025 / 26 Sabbatical Leave Reports
D. Approve Fall 2026 Sabbatical Leave Applications
E. Approve Proposed Minimum Qualifications Alternative Guidelines: Japanese

Sullivan pulled Items C) and E) for discussion.
Items A) B) and D) were approved unanimously, Vote 12|0. Discussion: six sabbatical reports were pulled to highlight the individuals' work and contributions within their respective disciplines. A combination of projects were submitted, to include; Open Educational Resource (OER) development, curriculum/course enhancement, historical abroad research and travel, resource collection and new Canvas modules to support Veterans were among the sabbatical projects. **A motion to approve Item C) Sabbatical Leave Reports (MSU Firouzian/Arquero) passed unanimously. Vote 12 | 0.**

A motion to approve discussion on Item E) Alternative Minimum Qualifications in Japanese (MSU Page/Guerrero). / Vote 12|0. Discussion: Japanese Faculty, Emiko Kiyochi and Equivalency Chair, Ashley Davis were present to share a substantive A4 guideline revision where new equivalency criteria was developed for evaluating Japanese degrees, addressing challenges with existing European language-based minimum qualifications. Senator Osman raised awareness that the change to this guideline will have a positive affect on the discipline noting that in a former role as Linguistics Chair at SDU the Master's Degree in Janpanese equivalency evaluation was a challenge. Emiko Kiyochi was recognized for having engaged im impactful committee work serving the foreign language discipline.

II. Information / Discussion

A. Community Hour (Mortaloni)

Discussion: Dean Mortaloni (Student Affairs) addressed the Senate by providing context and background to the rebranding of Community Hour. Concerns had been raised by students and faculty alike with regards to the scheduling and objective of the program. Addressing Senator Askerneese's question regarding the schedule conflicting with course offerings and limited faculty participation; Mortaloni offered that community hour was rebranded to build on community and student engagement aligned with outcomes and assessments in instruction. The 11:30am to 12:22pm time block was intentionally reserved to create opportunity for campus wide alignment ativities. Programming is informed by student data and institutional goals aimed at enhancing student learning objectives while complementing classroom learning objectives. The college committed to offering weekly co-curricular activities on Tuesdays mid-morning/afternoons. [Community Hour Flyer].

In response to a follow-up question from Sullivan regarding faculty participation in Community Hour, Mortaloni acknowledged that faculty involvement is currently limited and needs improvement. Efforts are underway to increase participation through collaboration with OAC and academic departments, including Ethnic Studies and the Art Department, to develop co-curricular programming.

Future plans include integrating participation records into SURF that would eventually produce as a co-curricular transcript that would enhance students college transfer applications. Campus Community Hours will vary by location and consistency but each campus is hosting an event that fits well within their programming between the hours of 11:45am and 12:45pm.

A final concern raised by Senator Osman drew back to Senator Tucker Sade's initial point which was the overlap of course offerings that may have decreased courses offered during this 55 minute break. Mortaloni acknowledged the benefits and did not validate the perception that course offerings were decreasing. The counter-argument is that Tuesday's represent the highest on-campus student attendance based on institutional data (Sullivan) making it an important time and associate faculty may be impacted [scheduling, pay] due to the disparity between faculty ranks if the data points to less course offerings.

(Warren-Yagubyan) Mortaloni offered consideration to encourage associates to offer additional office hours during this time to make up for the loss if there was impact noting that he would share this as a suggestion during the next associate faculty orientation. Several Senators are in favor of the rebranding and co-curricular aspects (Gross, Sullivan), others are looking forward to adjustments for greater faculty inclusion (Arquero). Faculty were encouraged to attend the monthly meeting as Student Affairs is monitoring and measuring program outcomes and impact to the campus community. When asked if there was a process for structured feedback this is a growing need and would be further implemented in the Spring semester.

B. Three Year 50% Law Plan (Gomez)

Gomez presented an overview of the district's efforts to develop a required three-year plan addressing compliance with California's 50% Law, which must be submitted to the Board of Trustees by December 31 and to the Chancellor's Office by June of next year.
Discussion: the district's need to improve internal processes, particularly position control and financial coding practices, to ensure expenditures are categorized correctly under the 50% Law. Several senators sought clarification about how different employee groups and expenditures are counted, including student workers, reassigned faculty time, counselors, librarians, and associate faculty.
Gomez explained that the district is reviewing how positions and expenses are coded, as some expenditures may currently be assigned incorrectly. The Chancellor's Office has advised the district to maximize the use of grant funding where appropriate, which can reduce pressure on the general fund and improve the district's 50% Law position.
Faculty leaders and senators expressed concern that efforts to achieve compliance could disproportionately impact instructional positions, counseling services, library services, and associate faculty. An emphasis was on the need for stability, job security, and preservation of student support services, while questioning continued growth on the non-qualifying side of the 50% Law calculation (Warren-Yagubyan).

District leadership responded that no layoffs have been proposed and that planning efforts are focused on improved budgeting, staffing strategies, employee upskilling and reskilling, and better use of grants and excluded expenditures. (Dung Le).
The district is also examining whether certain programs and costs can be appropriately excluded from the 50% Law calculation under state guidelines; such as Athletics Uniforms/ Non-instructional coaches and programming at TCI.
The discussion concluded with an invitation for continued input through the Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) and upcoming budget workshops intended to increase transparency and understanding of the district's budgeting process. Warren-Yagubyan explicity asked for updates between now and June before any plan is approved and sent to the Chancellor’s Office.

C. ASCCC Fall Plenary Resolutions

Senators shared in meaningful discussion around the Resolutions proposed for a vote at Saturday’s Plenary in San Francisco, CA. Senators took positions with the following

Resolutions (105 *Guerrero*, 110.13 *Arquero*, 112.101 Paper '1996, 2018, 2026 AF Equivalency Degree Title Hiring *Warren-Yagubyan,* 104.01 *Firouzian*, 110.01 *Gross*, 101.2 Askerneese).
Discussion: What are proposed actions based on these outcomes once these Resolutions are approved? How will the work impact us as a local Academic Senate? Support for Dual Enrollment and High School partnerships. Support for Transfer Counselors and their role in developing comprehensive education plans. Support for Cal-GETC Transfer was noted as being a hot topic during Curriculum Institute Summer '26

D. Goal One Inquiry Plans: Acceleration and Dual Enrollment (Sullivan)
A motion to table this item until the next agenda **(MSU Allyn/Guerrero)**. **Vote 11|0** Askerneese absent from vote.

Reports 1:

College Superintendent/President – *Johnson* (access report)

President Johnson addressed concerns regarding the district's compliance with the 50% Law, sharing that he does not anticipate any layoffs as a result of the issue. He explained that the district is currently about one percentage point deficient on a budget of approximately **$157 million** and characterized the challenge as a matter of improved alignment and tracking of resources rather than a financial crisis. Drawing on his previous experience, he described the situation as relatively minor and encouraged the college community to remain calm. He reported positive engagement from his recent listening sessions, which were attended by approximately 20 community members, and a medium group comprised of faculty and students. His primary long-term concern is the future of the San Elijo Campus. He noted that the campus will require significant reimagining and redesign over the next five to ten years. President Johnson also encouraged the college community to remain focused on the institution's Mission, Vision, Values, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and highlighted his five institutional priorities centered on continuous improvement and maintaining excellence. He challenged the college to remain the model for the California community college system, mentioned that the institution's greatest competition is itself and expressing a desire for MiraCosta College to be viewed as the "gold standard" among community colleges. Sullivan thanked Johnson for his efforts to build relationships and community across the college. Warren requested updates regarding the budget report that will eventually be submitted to the Chancellor's Office, and Sullivan encouraged senators to direct budget-related questions to the Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) and to Senate Leadership (Zaman, Sullivan) to address during their BPC engagements.

Reports 2

E. Associate Student Government – *Hutchinson* (access report)
Absent.

F. Classified Senate – *Streagle* (access report)