

ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE
Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

Minutes for Tuesday, September 22, 2026

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Room F-225 (Fine Arts Building)

*[See last page of the minutes for details on *, **, ***, Δ]*

Academic Senate Executive Committee (ASE):

President: Ana Gómez de Torres (AGT)	Vice President: Thesa Roepke (TR)
Secretary: Héctor Álvarez (HA)	Member-at-Large: Fred Patrick (FP)
Member-at-Large: Alberto Restrepo (AR)	

2026-2027 Academic Senators
(Department Faculty Representatives):

Academic/Student Services: Ben Britten (BBri)	Applied Social Sciences: Yvon Frazier (YF)	Business: Bob Bryant (BBry)
Counseling-Personal Development: Clint Freeland (CF) Carissa Perales (CPe) Kiri Villa (KV)	English: Chris Carrol (CC) Karina Lara (KA) Tina Nuñez (TK)	Fine Arts: Chris Hite (CH) Anne McMeeking (AM)
Health Sciences Amy Gisclon (AG) Shavaun Maxson (SM)	Industrial Technology: Gabriel Marquez (GM)	Kinesiology, Recreation, Athletics: Chuck Provencio (CPr)
Languages & Communications: Diane Auten (DA)	Life & Physical Sciences: Alicia Fox (AF) Sean Gottlieb (SG) Vince Tobin (VT)	Mathematical Sciences: Anna Kopcrak (AK) Martin Landeros (ML) Liz West (LW)
Public Safety: Marc Hammill (MH)	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Miguel Diaz (MD)	Part-Time Faculty Reps: Monique Segura (MS) Jessica Solorio (JS) Chris Sprecher (CS)

Senators-Voting Members (P: Present / A: Absent):

Ben Britten (P), Thesa Roepke (proxy for Yvon Frazier (P), Bob Bryant (P), Clint Freeland (P), C. Perales (P), K. Villa (P), Chris Carroll (P), Karina Luna (P), Tina Nuñez (P), Chris Hite (P), Anne McMeeking (A), Amy Gisclon (P), Shavaun Maxon (P), Gabriel Marquez (P), Chuck Provencio (P), Diane Auten (P), Alicia Fox (A), Sean Gottlieb (P), Vince Tobin (P), Anna Kopcrak (P), Martin Landeros (P), Liz West (P), Miguel Diaz (A), Monique Segura (P), Jessica Solorio (P), Chris Sprecher (P), Ana Gómez de Torres (P: votes only to break a tie), Thesa Roepke (P), Héctor Álvarez (P), Alberto Restrepo (P), Fred Patrick (P)

Senators-Voting Members Present Remote (Zoom Participants) *:**

Mark Hammill (P: Just Cause)

Student Representative (non-voting):

Kyle Guyton (P) and Tina Rios (P)

Guests Present:

Maria Arvizu-Rodriguez (MAR, Faculty, Counseling Dept./Univ. Transfer Ctr.), Craig Bach (CB, Exec. Director Institutional Effectiveness), Bob Curry (BC, Asst. Supt./VP Academic Affairs), Omar Moreno (OM, Faculty, Mathematical Sciences), Deborah Pirman (DP, Dean, Ext. Campus), Ruben Ramirez (RR, Exec. Director, Human Resources), Ora Shrecengost (Student), Genevieve Siwabessy (Asst. Supt./VP Student Services),

Guests Present: Remote (Zoom): Christine Reed (CR, Faculty, Counselor/Coordinator, MESA/STEM Academic Success Center)

CCPD Council Co-Chairs Present (P: Present / NP: Not Present):

Student Learning Council: (NP): Julia Raybould-Rodgers (Faculty, English Dept.) & (P): Bob Curry (Asst. Supt./VP Academic Affairs)

Student Services Council: (P): Maria Arvizu-Rodriguez (Faculty, Counseling Dept./Univ. Transfer Ctr.) & (P): Genevieve Siwabessy (Asst. Supt./VP Student Services)

Human Resources Council: (P): Thesa Roepke (Faculty, Applied Behavioral Sciences Dept.) & (P): Ruben Ramirez (Exec. Director, Human Resources)

Institutional Effectiveness Council: (P): Fred Patrick (Faculty, Distance Education Specialist-Academic Student Services Dept.) & (P): Craig Bach (Exec. Director Institutional Effectiveness)

Technology Council: (P): Alberto Restrepo (Faculty, Social & Behavioral Sciences Dept.) & (NP): Andy Specht (Exec. Director, IT)

Budget Council: (NP): Gary Bierly (Faculty, Social & Behavioral Sciences Dept.) & (NP): Laura Becker (Interim Assoc. Supt./VP Finance and Admin)

Facilities Council: (NP): Tyson Aye (Faculty, Kinesiology, Recreation, Athletics) & (NP): Laura Becker (Interim Assoc. Supt./VP Finance and Admin)

Senate Committee's Co-Chairs Present (P: Present / NP: Not Present):

Academic Policy & Planning (AP&P) Committee: (NP): Larry Manalo (Faculty, Health Sciences) & (P): Ben Britten (Faculty, Articulation Officer, Academic Student Services Dept.)

Professional Standards Committee: (P): Héctor Álvarez (Faculty, Counseling Department), (NP): David Hernandez (Faculty, Counseling Department) (NP): Liz West, (Faculty, Mathematical Sciences, (P): Bob Curry (Asst. Supt./VP Academic Affairs)

Professional Development Committee: (P): Diane Auten (Faculty, Languages & Communications)

ACADEMIC SENATE AGENDA**1. Call to Order. [2] (AGT)**

President AGT called the meeting called to order at 4:03 pm

2. Roll Call:

Present at time of roll call (25): B. Britten, T. Roepke (proxy for Y. Frazier), B. Bryant, C. Freeland, C. Perales, K. Villa, C. Carroll, K. Lara, T. Nuñez, C. Hite, A. Gisclon, S. Maxson, C. Provencio, D. Auten, S. Gottlieb, A. Kopcrak, M. Landeros, L. West, M. Segura, C. Sprecher, A. Gómez de Torres, T. Roepke, A. Restrepo, F. Patrick, H. Álvarez

AGT: Quorum established

J. Solorio arrived after roll call occurred and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

V. Tobin arrived after roll call occurred and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

3. **Approval of Minutes from 9/8/26: [5] * (HA)**

A motion to approve the 9/8/26 minutes made B. Bryant/seconded by A. Kopcrak

AGT called for any objections or abstentions, 2 abstentions heard. Roll Call vote:

Yes (23): B. Britten, B. Bryant, C. Freeland, C. Perales, C. Carroll, C. Hite, A. Gisclon, S. Maxson, G. Marquez, C. Provencio, D. Auten, S. Gottlieb, A. Kopcrak, M. Landeros, L. West, M. Segura, C. Sprecher, A. Restrepo, F. Patrick, T. Roepke, H. Álvarez

No: (0)

Abstain: (2): T Nunez, K. Villa

Absent/not present at time of roll call vote: M. Diaz, A. Fox, Y. Frazier, A. McMeeking, J. Solorio, V. Tobin

AGT: the motion to approve the 9/8/26 minutes carried by roll call vote: 23-0-2 (7 absent/not present).

4. **Public Comments. [3-minute limit per individual]**

D. Auten: The Languages and Communications Dept. extends thanks to Ben Britten, Articulation Office, for being super helpful.

Additionally, the Languages and Communications Department is requesting AP&P develop a flow chart or contact sheet that clearly delineates who faculty should contact in each stage of curriculum development.

5. **President's Remarks. [5] (AGT)**

AGT mentioned that two student Senate representatives have been appointed. She welcomed and introduced Kyle Guyton (in attendance at this time) and mentioned Tina Rios as the second student representative to Senate.

A New Senators Shared Governance Presentation will be offered on Friday, September 25th from 2 pm-3pm (via Zoom). An invite will be sent after the Senate meeting—the presentation is open to all faculty, council and committee co-chairs, and it is required for all new Senators.

The Mentorship Program is still open. Tenured faculty interested in becoming a mentor are requested to email AGT for access to the training recording—after viewing the training, names will be included in the pool of tenured faculty who can serve as mentors to newly hired fulltime faculty. The pairing of mentors to mentees will be happening soon.

Reminder of the new ASE email: ASE@hancockcollege.edu. Everyone was advised to use this email to communicate with ASE.

ASCCC's *Just Transition: Academic for Climate Justice and Action Conference* will take place October 23-24th. More details are posted on the AHC Academic Senate webpage (go to the link titled Statewide Academic Senate Links & Conference Links).

Full-Time faculty considering Sabbatical Leave: the application to request sabbatical leave is now open. To be eligible for consideration, your dean must receive the application no later than Friday, January 15th, 2027. Deans will then submit the applications to the VPAA.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee (a committee of the Senate) meets during the first week of February to review, evaluate, and rank applications. Applicants will be notified in writing as to the status and ranking of their proposals no later than Friday, March 5, 2027.

CONSENT

6. **Approval of 2025-2026 Retirees' Emeritus Status. * [5] (ASE)**

Motion to approve made by B. Britten/seconded by C. Sprecher

AGT called for any objections or abstentions, none heard.

AGT: Item 6: Approval of 2025-2026 Retirees' Emeritus Status was approved by unanimous consent.

ACTION ITEMS

7. **BP 3250 Institutional Planning. * [5] (FP/C. Bach (CB))**

CB reviewed what changed in BP 3250: as was mentioned last Senate meeting, the BP includes recent League language recommendations, strikethroughs in the notes section and inclusion of necessary legal references were noted. The Student Success and Support Program Plan (has a strikethrough) because it is now known as the Student Equity Plan.

Motion to approve BP 3250 made by B. Britten/seconded by C. Freeland

AGT called for any objections or abstentions

No: 0 / Abstain: 0

AGT: BP 3250 is approved by consent.

INFORMATION (FOR FUTURE ACTION/APPROVAL)

8. **AP 7921 Full-Time Faculty Hiring and Recruitment. * [5] (TR/R. Ramirez (RR))**

TR: significant work done by HR council in the review of AP 7921. Residual language was removed. Extensive work on formatting has been done. The AP was sent out to all faculty and feedback that was received was considered as shown. Updates included ongoing training required every three years for faculty serving in the Diversity Resource Specialist role (DRS).

RR: added that when the AP 7921 was first created it drew heavily from AP 7120. He echoed that legacy language was removed and assured everyone that an in-depth go-through and update of this AP was completed by HR Council. There have been significant changes, he advised everyone to carefully review AP 7921. He feels the AP now is stronger and clearer.

TR encouraged everyone to consider reviewing the AP with track changes but also without track changes enabled so it's easier to read.

AGT: Senators are to take AP 7921 to departments for feedback.

Discussion:

Clarification on where to send feedback and suggestions?

TR: feedback should be sent to her and RR.

9. **BP/AP 5110 Counseling. * [5] (M. Arvizu-Rodriguez/G. Siwabessy)**

MAR: both the AP and the BP are undergoing a standard 5-year review

BP 5110:

MAR: No changes to the BP 5110.

Discussion:

Does the term "Counseling" in the BP also encompass personal or mental health counseling?

GS: clarified licensure requirements for personal and mental health counseling are distinct from academic counseling. Crisis and mental health counselling is available through Student Health Services. During academic counseling, counseling faculty may determine and assess the need for crisis or mental health counseling and make referrals to Student Health Services when appropriate.

AP 5110:

MAR: Student Services Council reviewed and has made a minor edit to Item 7 within the AP. The word probation was stricken and replaced with notice: it now reads *identify students on academic and progress notice and assist them in developing a plan for improvement in their academic performance*. This change is in-line with statewide efforts to remove the word "probation" from academic probation designations due to negative connotations.

Discussion:

CH asked if the semantic change mentioned to Item 7 means there are no longer consequences if/when a student's grade point average falls below established standards, he asked if there is no longer a policy or consequences?

It was clarified a process remains in place, and that the AP reflects only the change in the wording 'academic probation' to now read 'academic notice'.

Question if students from the Santa Ynez region still have access to services near them.

It was clarified that counseling faculty still provide services to students from Santa Ynez. Dayana Zepeda (Faculty, Counseling Department) was mentioned as the counselor scheduled at the Santa Ynez Valley Center.

10. AP 5013 Students in the Military. * [5] (M. Arvizu-Rodriguez/G. Siwabessy)

MAR: AP 5013 is undergoing a standard 5-year review and League language was included. Residency determination for military personnel and dependents was edited and language added to clarify. The use of "they" was incorporated into the AP (gender-neutral pronoun).

Discussion:

Question asked on the AP's use of "undergraduate student" and if it is the best descriptor in a community college setting.

GS: yes, as undergraduate is used in the League language templates.

Question regarding use gender-neutral pronouns and language in APs/BPs.

It was suggested that gender-neutral pronoun use is now becoming standard practice across CA CC districts and in the League templates. AHC has started to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns.

AGT: the AP is to be shared with departments for feedback, and feedback or questions are to be directed to MAR and GS for Student Services Council. AP will return as Action Item.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

11. Bulldog Boot Camp Faculty Recruitment. * [5] (J. Schroeder (JS))

JS: Bulldog Boot Camp launched on June 26, 2026. It's a college and career readiness program for students. Consists of two, non-credit classes, WKPR 7198 & 7199. It took place over two weeks, week 1 was skill development and student engagement and week 2: project development and completion.

The project involved activities that explored solving problems in an industry of interest and building or creating something that showcased learned technical skills. At the end of the two weeks, students participated in a final, cohort presentation, with the winning team earning a monetary prize.

The student experience, among other things, is intended to foster and improve professionalism and communication skills. Students also experience hands-on, teamwork/collaboration opportunities, and mentorship from faculty. Also, students are connected to campus resources, leadership opportunities and bonding. Students who complete earn a non-credit certificate of achievement. JS encouraged everyone to watch the student testimonial video embedded on the PPT on the Senate SharePoint (since it was not working when she tried to play it during her presentation).

Faculty commitment:

Faculty participants create field-specific curriculum following established template/guidelines, engage in recruitment of students, and prepare a budget (necessary for the college to order/purchase necessary supplies).

Summer 2027 dates: July 26th-Aug 6th, 8:30 am to 5 pm. Opportunity for overload teaching pay for 80 hours.

Benefits to Faculty:

Course structure/curriculum outline is provided, collaboration with other colleagues, possibility to teach additional summer courses, create meaningful connections with students, hire a student worker. Co-teaching is possible.

JS added that if co-teaching occurs, the faculty split the load, and the opportunity is there to also collaborate on a project with a faculty outside of your discipline, if interested.

A motion to extend discussion an additional 5 minutes made by A. Kopcrak/seconded by S. Gottlieb

AGT called for any objections or abstentions, none heard.

AGT motion to extend discussion an additional 5 minutes approved

JS clarified that this opportunity is open to all faculty, not just CTE faculty. Also, it is not only for faculty, program coordinators and assistants can participate with approval from their supervisor.

Pay is equivalent to teaching two-summer courses, but in only two weeks.

Interested faculty were encouraged to follow up with JS or scan a provided QR code that would direct to a Faculty Interest Form.

Discussion:

Clarification if this opportunity is open to part-time faculty? Yes, it was clarified that mention of all faculty includes part-time.

It was asked if JS would be willing to make presentation at department meetings, in particular the English Dept. JS is open to department presentation and is open to answering questions by email.

12. Academic Senate Website Updates. [10] (ASE)

AGT: The Senate webpage is being revamped, new information and tabs have added (e.g., the Frequently Asked Questions link/page, and expect new links to be added (e.g., Academic Senate Forms, Senate Presentations, and updates to the Statewide Senate Links are coming).

The FAQs page was reviewed. Having a FAQs link/page on the AS webpage is an attempt to centralize and direct inquiries directly to Senate Exec (ASE).

Examples of FAQ links were covered, and the following questions and links were highlighted:

- When and to whom should department chairs submit the names of their department senate representatives.
- When and to whom should I submit a request to have an item considered for the Senate Agenda?
- Where and to whom to council/committee Chairs/Co-chairs submit their required monthly written report?

AR mentioned the importance of submitting the exact verbiage of your agenda topic for consideration, and it was mentioned to also submit documents needed for the item to have the necessary files available for senators to review—documents will be placed in the Senate SharePoint for the agenda item in a future meeting date.

Motion to extend discussion 5-additional minutes made by A. Kopcrak/seconded by S. Gottlieb

AGT called for any objections or abstentions, none heard.

AGT motion approved

Discussion:

Feedback: This will be a great resource.

Questions if links were live and available for use now, as several senators reported that upon clicking on the links they received 'access denied' or 'request access' notifications.

ASE will follow up on the issue with links and inform the Senate when issues are resolved.

13. Council and Committee Vacancies [5] (ASE)

HA: Update provided on opportunities for faculty to serve as Academic Senate appointees to councils and committees. The *Academic Senate Appointments to Councils and Committees* link on the Senate webpage was reviewed. Openings/vacancies were addressed, as well as a request made to senators to share this link with department and if updates are needed to contact HA or any member of ASE.

It was mentioned that hyperlinks have been added to the Academic Senate's Standing Committee titles that will link the description of the committee, its charge and composition for review. It was mentioned that some committees meet in person and some hold hybrid meetings.

AR referenced the Technology Advisory Committee (edTAC), found within the CCPD Committees tab. He mentioned that although there are four members currently showing on the webpage, edTAC, can have up to 7 faculty members and encouraged participation from a wide range of disciplines.

It was reiterated if anyone has interest in serving on any council or committee to contact ASE and use the online form.

CCPD COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES' REPORTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS) [3 min each unless otherwise indicated.]

14. Student Services Council. [5] (MAR/GS)

MAR provided updates on the work that is currently undertaken by Student Services Council (SSC) and the goals they set for 2026-27. There are high numbers of BP/APs coming, approximately 10 (two came to Senate today, and three more are in the works for future senate meetings that include course auditing, honorary degrees, academic renewal, pre-requisites and corequisites, instructional materials, prevention of identity theft in student financial transactions.). They anticipate about another 8 more for the spring semester that would come to Senate.

SSC is actively striving to have its members not only share data but also collect and review select student services data for analysis within the council. The goal is to not only share data but take a deeper dive to inform cross functional service and program area improvement. SSC remains committed to measuring outcomes and removing barriers faced by students.

Senators were encouraged to consult with their departments to provide SSC with feedback on registration process improvement and experiences with students adding the first weeks of the term.

ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES' REPORTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS) [5 min each unless otherwise indicated.]

15. Faculty Professional Development [5] D. Auten (DA)

DA presented the committee's role and current budget. The committee oversees weekly professional development calendar communications (her weekly email to the faculty with PD opportunities was referenced) and processes faculty paperwork for classes, conferences, and related travel. Support is provided for both full-time and part-time faculty.

Full-time faculty budget allocation and funding:

The year started with \$67,902 balance, combining a \$47,902 rollover from last year (largely accumulated during COVID due to unused PD funds and no faculty sabbaticals during that time) and a \$20,000 annual allotment. Funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum cap of \$3000 awarded per faculty member.

Part-time faculty budget allocation and funding:

Part-time faculty receive an annual allotment of \$30,000 with \$0 carried over from last year. The Part-time Faculty Association (PFA) distributes this across three areas, allocating \$7500 to this committee for travel and classes. Funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served, up to \$700 per person. The PD Committee includes representation from Patricia Koivisto, part-time faculty and PFA President.

DA also manages a separate budget with funds from Student Equity and Achievement program (SEAP): \$15,000 dedicated to student equity and success initiatives for both full-time and part-time faculty. Funds must meet SEAP specific criteria, and this funding is prioritized first.

At the committee's next meeting, they will discuss how to address requests from multiple faculty members within the same department who wish to attend the same conference. Recent requests from faculty in the Math and the English departments would require the use of more than 50% of the PD budgets if all requests were approved. The committee will discuss how to handle these requests while considering the impact on available PD funds.

Discussion:

LW noted the importance of considering that costs for conferences, lodging, travel, etc. have risen and are expected to continue to rise significantly.

CR provided clarification that PD funding allocations mentioned for full-time faculty have not been negotiated and are not in the contract.

A motion to extend discussion five additional minutes made by A. Kopcrak/seconded by B. Bryant

AGT called for any objections or abstentions, none heard.

AGT the motion to extend discussion is approved

DA added that she believes the \$3000 allocation is generous compared to neighboring institutions (e.g. at Cuesta it's approximately \$600 for faculty).

CR, in response to BBry's question/feedback (from the Business Dept.), clarified that college service is defined in the contract as 2 hours per week, PD requires 36 hours per year (accounting for 169 working days but faculty are paid 175 days, so the additional 36 hours are the PD requirement for full-time faculty. She mentioned that faculty received ample notification about the negotiations regarding Article 17 last semester and noted the matter was also brought before the Senate last spring. The article was also discussed at the recent faculty FA meeting at the start of this semester during All Staff Day. She summarized that every three years faculty will submit a final report showing how college service was met. PD is dictated by board policy and falls under purview of the Academic Senate.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DEPARTMENT SUGGESTIONS

AGT referenced the new online-submission forms available on the Academic Senate's webpage through the FAQs section and through the newly created Senate Forms link. She explained how to access the link for future Agenda Items. Items will be considered as first come first served through the online form.

It was clarified that during this agenda item senators can inquire about future agenda items (but it was asked that they also use the new online forms to request) and this agenda item is an opportunity for department suggestions.

No department suggestions offered.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next Academic Senate Meeting: October 13, 2026.

Agenda Items Due by October 5, 2026 @ noon.

* *Documents available on Senate SharePoint*

** *Documents available in previous Senate meeting's on SharePoint Folder*

*** *If a Senator is requesting remote participation due to "just cause" (per SB 707) they must submit a request prior to the meeting, as well as indicate the reason for remote participation. For remote participation use the Zoom link below.*

Remote participation for "just cause" is limited to five (5) meetings in a calendar year.

If any Senators are participating remotely, this link will also be available to the public for viewing or making public comments

Senator's Remote Participation Link:

<https://hancockcollege.zoom.us/j/86273338597>

Δ *Denotes a change in the order of Agenda Items by way of an approved motion*