



Evergreen Valley College

Academic Senate Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Mishra Conference Room

Present: Henry Estrada, Kelly Nguyen-Jardin, David Hendricks, Juan Gil, Melissa Hornstein, Nancy Lin, Eric Narveson, Grace Estrada, Rahmon Pashtunyar, Maria Esperanza Outeirino-Feijoo, Tina Iniguez, Alessandro Bailetti Saez, Judith Girardi, Binh Vo, Laura Garcia, Sravani Banerjee

Absent:

Guest(s): Tejal Naik, Ebonnie Berry, Sylvia Min, VP Dickerson

I. Call to Order – 3:02 pm

II. Adoption of Agenda with Amendments – Eric (1st), Grace (2nd), unanimously approved

- Move Action Item B to Consent – Screening Committee, VP Administrative Services – Henry Estrada
- Action Item C move to Consent Distinguished Faculty (Associate Faculty) - Fahmida Fakhrudin
- Action Item C - update Distinguished Faculty (Full Time) vote for 2

III. Approval of Minutes from April 7 – Alessandro (1st), Dave (2nd), unanimously approved

- Clarify under Public Comments made by Melissa regarding menstrual equity, other faculty members mentioned that the janitor said supplies were being stolen.

IV. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes per person/ 5 minutes per item)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for items not on the agenda. Law does not permit action or extended discussion of items not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Senate action is required, it can be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Sylvia Min spoke about the Women's Studies and Gender Equity program founded in 2005. Women's Center later lost physical space. During Women's History Month we held six events, ~400 participants.
 - With the Program Coordinator role change, no reassigned time or budget, the future of Women's History Month is uncertain.
- Esperanza Outeirino-Feijoo provided a follow-up on her safety concern regarding public EV charging, which allows non-students on campus.
 - Campus police handle Penal Code violations; admin handles Student Code violations - call campus police if unsure.
 - Current EV charger signage conflicts with current public-use practice; this is to be reviewed. Public access is limited to designated areas in each building; violations require immediate police contact.
- Eric Narveson reported that the SSHAKA Division elected Grace Estrada to serve as Division Senator (Fall 2026 – Spring 2028).
- Juan Gill raised the issue of EVC charging students for Credit by Exam. This is a potential barrier for low-income students and possible DEI implications. Current fees also conflict with new Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) processes. Juan is seeking an Academic Senate resolution to stop charging for Credit by Exam/CPL.

- Henry mentioned this is likely a procedure-level change; coordination with A&R is needed; to be agendaized for further discussion.

V. **Committee Chair Reports (3 minutes per report as needed)**

- 2) **All College Curriculum:** Grace Estrada
 - The report will be deferred to Information Items B, C, and D.
- 3) **AB 928:** Laura Garcia
 - The Chancellor's Office extended the spending deadline for the AB928 funds to December 2027, giving us additional time to use remaining funds.
- 4) **AB 1111:** Grace Estrada – no report
- 5) **Student Learning Outcomes:** Rahmon Pashtunyar
 - Did not have quorum, will meet on April 24 and discuss the PLO assessment process.
- 6) **Guided Pathways:** Tina Iniguez
 - Next Meeting in May.
 - SEM update: District enrollment data reviewed; notes were emailed to Senators for review and feedback.
 - ~6,000 applicants across the district; ~13% completion rate, with discussion on where students are lost.
 - CCC Apply updates (CCC Start pilot), enrollment pathways, trades and non-degree enrichment, adult education capture.
 - Summer SEM convening scheduled; additional updates forthcoming.
 - CAPS Day: Over 300 students attended; high demand strained capacity; 600 Ed plans were uploaded with strong faculty participation.
- 7) **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL):** Juan Gil
 - Met on April 16 and discussed grant ideas for possible summer–fall CPL work, retreat or fall breakout session.
 - Policy BP/AP 4235 (CPL) was updated and posted; last updated March 22, 2018, last revised February 26, 2026. There is a 3-year review cycle.
 - The EVC team attended the Math Conference, which was a good networking opportunity.
 - Our next meeting is May 21; CPL Coordinator announcement is expected within 12 months.
- 8) **Professional Development:** Binh Vo
 - Met in person on April 16. Reviewed UDL focus for August PDDs; proposed theme: "Becoming Student Ready: UDL and Accessibility in Action."
 - Public speakers (Henry, Grace, Rahmon) gave strong support for UDL as a theme which led to the committee's approval.
 - Binh gave his committee chair report at the College Council which assessed the committee's goals for this past year.
 - Binh requested Summer Senate hours to complete August PDD work.

- Also discussed advance planning, funding timelines, food budget and the need for summer handbook work.

9) **Distance Education (DE):** Tejal Naik

- Meeting canceled due to travel issues; two meetings remaining.
- The committee worked offline on eligibility language and handbook updates.
- Accessibility deadline extended one year beyond the April 24 deadline.
 - Ongoing Canvas work; focus on public-facing accessibility.
 - Plan to assess status with Chancellor's Office/CCC Accessibility Center.

10) **College Budget:** Eric Narveson

- \$285,000 available for distribution with a fixed reserve established to address price, tariff, and inflation changes. Departments are advised to spend funds promptly once available. Most applicants will receive some level of funding.
- Committee Assessment Report is due to College Council Monday.
- Co-chair model was approved for the Budget and Technology Committees.
 - Kathy Tran appointed Budget Committee co-chair; no additional volunteers as this will be unpaid work.
- Standards and Practices update
 - Math discipline list and hearing vote at plenary did not pass; minimum qualifications remain unchanged.
 - Applications anticipated next year for Anatomy & Physiology, Art, and Agriculture & Technology
 - Senate leadership had a great time at the Plenary.

11) **District Budget:** Henry Estrada/Eric Narveson

- Did not meet. Alessandro will attend in Henry's place for the upcoming meeting.

12) **Institutional Effectiveness:** Fahmida Fakhruddin

- UDL Integration & Program Review Updates
 - The committee reached a consensus on the wording for a new Universal Design for Learning (UDL) prompt within the Program Review template. The question asks departments to describe innovative strategies or pedagogy incorporating UDL principles and provide one to two specific examples of how these impact student success or narrow equity gaps.
 - To ensure faculty are properly supported through Professional Development Day (PDD) training, this prompt will be officially implemented for the Fall 2027 cycle (2027-28 template).
- Policy Revisions & Conciseness
 - In an effort to keep reviews concise and readable, the committee voted to remove "areas of expertise" from question number 1 in the Faculty and Staff section. This prevents the inclusion of lengthy CVs and refocuses the prompt on how specific positions contribute to program success.
 - A recommendation is under review to set a two-year maximum time limit for program reviews remaining in "pending" status. The VPAA is currently consulting with the ACCJC to ensure this policy aligns with accreditation standards.
- Institutional Effectiveness & Reporting

- The committee clarified that Special Programs should use the review template corresponding to their current administrative reporting line (Academic vs. Student Affairs). The Program Review Handbook will be updated to reflect that these designations may change following college reorganizations.
- Program review materials for the upcoming Cycle (2026-27) are scheduled to be distributed in the week of May 4th, provided data sets are received from the college researcher by May 1st.
- Per President Lopez's request, the IEC will transition to a new standardized form for its annual self-assessment, with completion planned for the next meeting. All committees under the College Council are now required to use this same standardized form.
- Community Engagement Data
 - Recent institutional outreach saw over 700 community members and 300 students engaged during registration events. Notable success was reported in the use of simultaneous translation technology for Vietnamese and Spanish-speaking parents.

13) **Campus Technology:** Sylvia Min

- Reviewed 2025–2026 technology requests using accessibility, cybersecurity, ROI, sustainability, and duplication criteria.
 - Requests were approved, not approved, or deferred pending more information.
 - Multiple departments were reviewed with details available in the committee report.
- Accessibility Training, CTC hosting final Workshop - Outlook Accessibility April 24, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., LD324. Topics include ADA/508 compliance, universal design, color contrast, alt text, and image optimization.

14) **College Safety and Facilities:** Vince Cabada – no report

15) **Student Equity:** Victor Garza – no report

16) **College Council:** Henry Estrada

- Vince Cabada was invited to present; if unavailable, facilities and safety will be reported at a later meeting.
- Professional Development report was presented by Binh Vo.
- Fahmida Fakhruddin reported on approved program reviews for multiple instructional and support programs. Program reviews were also submitted by the VPs of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

17) **District Council:** Henry Estrada

- Has not met.

18) **District Academic Senate:** David Hendricks

- District Academic Senate leadership approved; Mark Branom elected President, Dave Hendricks to serve as Vice President and John Banks appointed Treasurer. One District Senate representative position remains open.
- Standing task force established for regular Administrative Procedure (AP) reviews. Task force is prepared for upcoming 4000–5000 series AP review.

- Plenary highlights included student withdrawal analysis, dual enrollment, AI, UDL, and transfer. College of the Desert has a question embedded in their program asking why a student is withdrawing.
- The three Senate Presidents met with Board of Trustees and Chancellor to strengthen ongoing communication.

VI. Academic Senate President's Report

- Henry shared his appreciation for the Senate and reflected on his tenure.
- Henry clarified that an FSA is required only for teaching or revising courses in a discipline, not for program coordination within interdisciplinary teams. The issue raised by Sylvia Min regarding Women's Studies will be discussed further with administration and Senate leadership.
- Henry encouraged Senators to be open and transparent in collegial debate, emphasizing the value of shared dissent and thoughtful discussion in Senate deliberations.

VII. Academic Senate Vice President's Report

- Senate Membership Updates
 - Senator confirmations pending for Business & Workforce, Library, and Nursing.
 - Sravani conducted the Senate election in Language Arts, and Tejal Naik will represent the LA Division from Fall 2026 to Spring 2027; Kelly Nguyen-Jardin will serve from Fall 2027 to Spring 2028.
 - At-large nomination deadline April 22; election held April 23–30 if needed.
 - Election Committee – Eric, Sravani, Alessandro, Kelly, Melissa
 - District Senate seat to remain open pending interest.
 - Associate Faculty Senate elections deferred to September.
- Kelly would like to be part of the conversation regarding the Women's Studies Coordinator.
- Employee Recognition Celebration is scheduled for next Wednesday.

VIII. Consent Items

- TRC - Mera Horne (ENGR) - Celso Batalha (Admin) to be replaced by Lisa Hays (starting Fall 2026)
- Equivalency Committee – English – Huma Saleem and Nicholas Goodwin
- Distinguished Faculty (Associate Faculty) - Fahmida Fakhruddin
- Screening Committee, VP Administrative Services – Henry Estrada

IX. Action Items

- Screening Committee VP Student Services - Vote for 3
 - The Senate selected Laura Garcia, David Hendricks and Mirella Burton
- Distinguished Faculty 2025-2026 – Vote for 2 fulltime faculty members
 - The Senate selected Nasreen Rahim and Martha Hardin

X. Discussion Items (limited to 3 minutes per item)

- Open Educational and Low-Cost Textbooks (ZTC) – Henry Estrada
 - Draft APs on instructional materials, OER, and low-cost materials were shared in the Senate folder.
 - The proposal adapts external AP models which need to align with district policies.
 - Discussion focused on clear definitions, academic freedom, and actual student costs.
 - Henry requested Faculty feedback and will bring back for Discussion and then advance to AP task force and return to Senate.
- Obtaining Data from Associate Faculty for SLO Assessments – Henry Estrada

- Difficulty obtaining SLO data from associate faculty was discussed. This issue affects accreditation readiness and program review approval.
 - Dual enrollment faculty add additional challenges.
 - Senate to consider a formal statement clarifying expectations.
 - Compensation, contract limits, and possible union involvement were noted.
 - Options discussed included dean coordination and paid PDD sessions.
- C. Proposed Distance Education Contract Agreement - Henry Estrada and Tejal Naik
- Revised MOU language was shared which addresses prior online teaching certification issues. The updates align processes across campuses, clarify certification timing, and add a grace period.
 - Certification renewal standardized to a two-year, semester-based cycle.
 - Consistent language required at both campuses for contract inclusion.
 - Discussion included new faculty, lapsed certifications, part-time faculty, and acceptance of equivalent training.
 - Suggestion raised to consider equivalency or experience-based certification pathways.
- D. Senate Bylaws – Senate Representation for Officers and Past President – Melissa Hornstein
- Proposal to amend bylaws to prevent leadership continuity issues if Senate Leadership loses their division elections mid-term.
 - Make VP and Treasurer serve solely as officers (like President).
 - Add two division senator seats; quorum increases by one.
 - Past President voting seat suggested to preserve continuity.
 - Question raised on voting rights for added seats; general support for voting rights.
 - Bylaws amendment process requires drafted language, multiple readings, and Senate vote; timeline may extend beyond this year. It was suggested that a Senate subcommittee look at this issue and bring ideas to the full Senate next Semester.

XI. Information Items (limited to 3 minutes per item)

- A. Title IV Federal Aid and Institutional Eligibility – Ebonnie Berry
- Presentation given on upcoming Title IV federal financial aid and institutional eligibility changes (handout was provided for details).
 - New Student Tuition and Transparency System (STATS) will replace Gainful Employment (GE) and Financial Value Transparency (FVT).
 - Federal aid eligibility will be tied to post-completion earnings outcomes.
 - Programs failing earnings thresholds risk loss of Title IV eligibility.
 - Implementation timeline and institutional impact outlined; discussion and questions followed.
- B. Process for Deactivating Courses Replaced by CCN in Colleague - Grace Estrada
- This is a procedural/catalog change only; no faculty impact.
 - State guidance changed from new courses to modified courses. This requires deactivation of replaced courses in CurriQunet/Colleague (e.g., PSYCH 1 → PSYCH C1000).
- C. Title 5 Change - Disciplines Assigned to Courses – Grace Estrada
- Title V clarification reviewed; discipline placement tied to Disciplines List (Section 53407). Our current practice already meets Title V requirements.
 - No move to multiple disciplines per course; avoids logistical and operational issues. Discipline assignment remains reflected in the Course Outline of Record (COR).
- D. Title 5 Change - UDL (Universal Design for Learning - Grace Estrada
- Title V requires UDL integration in COR components.
 - Required areas: description, objectives/outcomes, content, methods, evaluation, and textbooks.

- Compliance deadline is April 22, 2026 to show we are in progress in implementation. We have a phased implementation plan with training and reviewer checklist targeting full implementation by Spring 2029, a year ahead of the 2030 deadline for full compliance.
- Ongoing faculty training in coordination with SLOAC, IEC, and PDC.

XII. Announcements & Recognitions

- Next Academic Senate meeting: May 5, 2026

XIII. Adjournment – 5:10 pm – Dave (1st), Melissa (2nd)