

Academic Senate Minutes

September 29, 2025 Toyon Room, Foothill College

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Voltaire Villanueva. Roll call was taken by Secretary-Treasurer Robert Cormia, and a quorum was established.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Introductions

Each senator introduced themselves, noting their faculty, staff, or administrative assignments and their role on the Senate Executive Committee.

Senate Orientation

President Villanueva welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the Academic Senate's role in college governance. He discussed the "10+1" areas of faculty purview, emphasizing the Senate's role in curriculum, academic decision-making, and accreditation. He explained that under Title V, matters that fall under the 10+1 must involve faculty, while classified professionals and students also participate in governance through their respective senates.

Villanueva reviewed principles of shared governance, highlighting "effective participation" and the importance of collegial consultation with faculty. He emphasized consensus decision-making, reliance on faculty input, and the legislative framework guiding Senate responsibilities. He also noted the role of the Curriculum Committee and mentioned that today's agenda included grading policies.

Participatory Governance Principles

Villanueva stressed the need for transparency and feedback in decision-making. He underscored inclusive representation, noting that some Executive Committee members are not faculty but hold valuable voices. He reviewed the importance of adhering to the 10+1 responsibilities.

Committees and Governance Goals

The Senate oversees committees such as Curriculum and Teaching with Technology, and makes recommendations through MIPC (Mission-Informed Planning Council). Participation in governance committees such as Academic and Professional Matters (APM) is expected of Senate members.

Senate Operations

Villanueva explained procedures for conducting Senate business:

- A quorum is required (26 voting members; 14 present for this meeting).
- Voting options are yes, no, or abstain.
- Most votes pass by simple majority, though roll-call votes may be requested.
- Robert's Rules of Order are followed in a flexible manner; motions require a second, discussion, and then a vote.
- The Senate President only votes in the event of a tie.

He reminded senators that community agreements are essential, and members represent their divisions in decision-making, sometimes requiring alignment with De Anza's Academic Senate on districtwide matters.

Minutes and Records

Minutes are distributed to senators 72 hours before meetings. This year, minutes will not rely on recordings but will be reviewed at subsequent meetings. Villanueva emphasized compliance with the Brown Act, noting that decisions must not be made outside open meetings.

Executive Committee Roles

Executive Committee members are expected to serve on additional college committees. Senators should also share notes with their divisions promptly. A question was raised about the Academic Senate Digest, a newsletter issued in alternating weeks with Senate meetings.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Corrections were noted by Cormia regarding a senator's last name. Villanueva referenced the September 3rd summer cabinet meeting.

- Motion to approve both the June 2 and September 3 minutes (with corrections): Ben moved, David seconded.

- Motion to separate approval of the two meetings: Dolores moved, Fatima seconded. Motion to approve June 2 minutes with corrections: Ben moved, David seconded.
- September 3rd minutes were approved as moved by David and seconded by Ben.

David commented on the burden of parliamentarian procedures under Robert's Rules.

Break

A short break was taken from 2:55 to 3:05 p.m., with food and refreshments provided.

ASFC Report

Villanueva welcomed ASFC representation. The ASFC President reported on onboarding new officers, pre-quarter events including a retreat and ropes course in Santa Cruz, and the ASFC budget. Updates included the fitness center's operating schedule and the ASFC's role in partially funding the open gym. The Classified Senate will report at the next meeting.

Old Business

BP/AP 5055 Enrollment Priorities

This was a second read. The item originated with MESA's request for priority enrollment for its students. De Anza's Academic Senate has already approved the revisions. Senators asked about including Puente and Umoja. Dolores shared her experience with college decision-making, and John Fox asked who was serving on APM.

Ben raised concerns that, under the revised BP/AP, nearly all students could qualify for priority enrollment. Additional discussion followed on the history of enrollment priorities. The matter will return at the next meeting.

BP/AP 4230 Grading Symbols

This was a second read to remove "FW" (Failure to Withdraw) from transcripts. De Anza had already stopped using this grading symbol, citing confusion about its purpose.

Committee Appointments

Villanueva presented the 2025–26 committee appointments. Vacant positions were highlighted in yellow. Senators discussed additions, and Lynette asked about including Student Learning Outcomes. Faculty were encouraged to share the updates with their divisions. Several committee and workgroup rosters were updated.

Motion to approve the committee appointments: John Fox moved, Dolores Davison seconded. Motion carried.

Student Equity Plan 3.0

Dean of Equity Ajani Byrd and Associate VP of Student Services Laurie Scolari presented the Student Equity Plan 3.0. The plan addresses achievement gaps, equity goals, and placement priorities, building on the Foothill 2020 Blueprint for Success. Ajani reviewed the 10 sections of the plan and emphasized that it does not add new work but consolidates existing efforts.

John Fox noted that the College is already engaged in much of the plan's work. Discussion included alignment with current practices and concerns about possible reductions in federal funding support.

Aspen Institute – Unlocking Opportunity

Villanueva introduced the College's participation in the Aspen Institute initiative, which focuses on connecting programs to sustainable careers and student success. Senators discussed the role of outside support in advancing this work at no cost to the College.

Foothill 2030 Blueprint for Success

Updates to the Foothill 2030 Blueprint, completed over the summer, were shared. The full plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval next week.

District Allocation Model

Villanueva provided a brief overview of the District Resource Allocation Model and its implications for Foothill and De Anza.

Senate Transitions

Cormia announced his decision to step down as Secretary-Treasurer after two six-year terms. He thanked the Senate for the opportunity to serve.

Villanueva opened the floor for nominations. Amber La Piana volunteered and was elected to complete the remainder of Cormia's term (moved by Voltaire, seconded by Dolores).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 13, 2025**.

Office	First Name	Last Name	9/29/2025
APPR Senator	Stephan	Schnell	No
APPR Senator	vacant		
ASFC	Kayla	Nguyen	Toyon
BSS Senator	Filsun	Jama	Toyon
BSS Senator	John	Fox	Toyon
Chair of Teaching with Technology	Allison	Lenkeit Meezan	Toyon
Classified	Vanessa	Santillan-Nieto	Toyon
CNSL Senator	Fatima	Jinnah	Toyon
CNSL Senator	Jue	Thao	Toyon
Dean of Equity	Evan	Gilstrap	Toyon
DRC/VRC Senator	vacant		
Executive Vice President	David	Marasco	Toyon
FA/Comm Senator	Hilary	Gomes	Toyon
FA/Comm Senator	Kristin	Tripp Caldwell	Toyon
FacAssoc	vacant		

HSH Senator	Brenda	Barrientos Calero	Toyon
HSH Senator	Rachelle	Campbell	Toyon
KA Senator	Don	MacNeil	Zoom
KA Senator	Katy	Ripp	Zoom
LA Senator	Amber	La Piana	Toyon
LA Senator	Suzy	Quezada	Toyon
LRC Senator	Jeremy	Peters	Toyon
LRC Senator	vacant		
President	Voltaire	Villanueva	Toyon
President's Cabinet	Ajani	Byrd	Presentation
President's Cabinet	Stacy	Gleixner	Toyon
Prof. Dev.	Carolyn	Holcroft	Absent / proxy
PT Representative	Lynette	Vega	Absent / no proxy
PT Representative	Michael	Chang	Toyon
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert	Cormia	Toyon
STEM Senator	Brendan	Mar	Toyon
STEM Senator	Rachel	Mudge	Toyon

Student Learning
Outcomes
Coordinator

Dolores

Davison

Toyon

Vice President of
Curriculum

Ben

Kaupp

Toyon