

# ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Academic Senate Meeting | Jan. 30, 2024 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Student Union 213/Zoom Link: <https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/j/89711704637>

## Academic Senate Member Attendance

<b>Karen Baker, Math &amp; Sciences</b>	Present	<b>Kelly Holt, at-Large</b>	Present
<b>Jason Ball, Part Time Faculty</b>	Absent	<b>Marilyn Kennedy, Lit &amp; Lang, Secretary</b>	Present
<b>Carol Barnes, Counseling</b>	Present	<b>Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha, Athletics &amp; Kin</b>	Present
<b>Eric Budwig, Technology</b>	Absent	<b>Irene Naesse, at-Large</b>	Present
<b>Irving Chavez Jimenez, at-Large</b>	Present	<b>Jeanne Neil, Business &amp; Computing</b>	Present
<b>Eric Cohen, Consumer &amp; Health Science</b>	Present	<b>Lori Pullman, Curriculum Chair</b>	Present
<b>Sean Connor, at-Large</b>	Present	<b>Sara Qubbaj, Part Time Faculty</b>	Present
<b>Eric Cuellar, at-Large</b>	Present	<b>Loren Sachs, at-Large</b>	Present
<b>Jodie Della Marna, Library</b>	Present	<b>Katherine Sheehan, Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b>	Present
<b>Rendell Drew, at-Large, Vice President</b>	Present	<b>Jordan Stanton, Social &amp; Beh. Sciences</b>	Absent
<b>Cyndee Ely, Part Time Faculty, Parliamentarian</b>	Present	<b>Temporary Semester Vacancy, Senator-at-Large</b>	Vacant
<b>Lee Gordon, at-Large, President</b>	Present	<b>Vacant, ASOCC Student Representative</b>	Vacant

**Please see the Voting Tally Chart after these minutes for individual members' votes.**

**Guests (Optional & Voluntary Sign-In):** No sign-ins.

## 1. Preliminary Matters

- A. **Call to Order:** President Gordon called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.
- B. **Opportunity for Public Comments:** None.
- C. **Approval of the Minutes:** *Motion 1: Senator Kennedy moved to approve the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes with a minor change; motion approved.*
- D. **For the Good of the Order:**

**Senator Cuellar:** Extended his gratitude toward Senator Cohen. He facilitated a partnership between CLEEO Project and Think Together after school program in Costa Mesa. They have had ten middle school students studying culinary arts. They will continue to expand their learning at OCC. This is an opportunity to maintain the standards of our brand in good standing with the community that we serve.

**Senator Baker:** Has heard from various areas of the campus that approved positions for instructional support have not been filled. It seems to be a hiring issue, as the two positions that she brought up last semester are still lingering. There is no information as to why those positions are not being filled. **Classified Senate President John Fawcett:** Mentioned that classified professionals are one step behind faculty hiring, as it seems to be that people are leaving and those positions are not being filled.

## 2. Officer, Senator, & Committee Reports

### A. President and Vice President Reports:

#### **President Gordon:**

- Reported that the Executive Board met twice during winter intersession.
- Thanked VP Drew for organizing the Academic Senate Retreat at the Waterfront campus last week on January 25.
- Discussed the agenda items of Flex Day, academic freedom, and the recent surge of COVID and other respiratory illnesses.
- Stated that he looks forward to working with the newly appointed Acting VPI Tara Giblin.
- Congratulated Theresa De Los Santos on becoming the new OCC MESA Director. She has done an outstanding job as Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction. He knows she will do well assisting the underrepresented STEM students.
- Congratulated Tyler Boogar on being named Acting Dean of the Math and Sciences Divisions. He looks forward to his return to the Academic Senate in fall.

#### **Vice President Drew:**

- Reported that the Academic Senate Retreat on Thursday, January 25, was a success. He thanked those who attended, including OCC President Angelica Suarez, who spoke on how the collaboration between the senate and administration is unique. The style of the retreat was an open-ended dialogue, and a total of eighteen people attended. The topics addressed included the 10+1, the last fall plenary, developing resolutions, the DEIA Grant, the proposed January state budget, academic freedom, and faculty hiring. He thanked CFE representatives Rob Schneiderman and Bob Fey for presenting on the proposed budget. He thanked Beatriz Rodriguez Vaca for coordinating lunch. VP Drew briefly reviewed the draft state budget. He hopes to bring a guest speaker from ASCCC to a future retreat.

**President Gordon:** Thanked VP Drew for his work on the retreat.

## 3. New Business

### A. Flex Day:

**Senator Kennedy:** Commented that Flex is not meeting the needs of some faculty on district accommodations, as responses from Flex are not returned and resolved in a timely manner (sometimes taking over a month to respond), not allowing those faculty on accommodations an opportunity to do makeups in a timely manner, thus impacting those faculty members' abilities to participate in Flex and consequentially lose those experiences and their pay. If our campus is committed to DEIA, this is neither an inclusive nor an accessible process for those faculty. Senator Kennedy stated that her review of the CFE MOU for the Flex Coordinator clearly stipulates three LHEs for the coordinator, and the Flex Coordinator has indicated that she needs more time. This may be necessary and that should be examined in the future; however, the MOU does say that the Flex Coordinator has to do everything, and therefore some of the tasks may be delegated, as other committees delegate. In PDI, for example, there is a lot of work to do, and it is delegated so faculty that do not get impacted. **President Gordon:** Stated this will be agendized next week and we will make sure to invite the Flex Coordinator.

**VP Drew:** We need to discuss the policies and procedures on how to obtain Flex Credit for activities one such as the most recent Academic Senate Retreat as that didn't occur, as requested. **Dean John Taylor:** Stated that he was not aware the Flex Committee was going to be asked any questions at the current meeting. They would appreciate more notification and clarification. As the Dean that sits on the Flex Committee, he made himself available to answer any questions today. He stated that the issue was regarding make-ups. **President Gordon:** Restated that the issue was about accommodations more than make-ups, as there are faculty on accommodations and we don't want immunocompromised faculty to have to show up to attend Flex Day during the Covid surge as they are not clear on the policies. This issue will be placed on the agenda for next week as an accommodations issue. **Senator Kennedy:** Reported as per the recording, the Flex Coordinator attended the E-Board meeting where she was part of the Flex issue discussion and it was announced by the Senate President that the issue would be placed on this agenda. **President Gordon** verified that this was so.

## **B. Academic Freedom/Free Speech:**

**Senator Kennedy (Academic Freedom Committee Co-Chair):** Stated that the Academic Freedom Committee is reviewing an article from the *New Yorker Magazine*, called "[The Future of Academic Freedom.](#)" The article makes a strong case about the necessity of academic freedom considering this time we are in and what is happening in the Middle East, across campuses, and the importance in understanding the nuances in all aspects of that, including time, place, manner, public rights, student rights, faculty rights, and everybody's rights. The District has policies. The Academic Freedom Committee may be meeting to discuss this more. If the Senate has any suggestions or ideas about what they would like to see them do, we would be more than happy to hear those ideas. **VP Drew:** Said to be careful with what you ask for in regard to academic freedom as there is a need for revision and changes from the 1940 statement, and there is discussion at the state level about this. **Classified Senate President Fawcett:** Added that the Chancellor had asked them if they had observed any heated speech or aggressive behavior, and they said they had not. **Senator Kennedy:** Commented that the Chancellor sent an excellent letter on January 9, 2024, with great detail, going over the policies, Constitution, and academic freedom as it stands right now. It looks like it is close on the mark as per her research and communications with FIRE. There will probably be people who disagree strongly or who find another person's opinion offensive. That is always okay. There are lines we are concerned about crossing. That is where we are right now because we do not want a campus where people are personally threatened. That is not the same thing as having an opinion. Let's say that somebody has a different opinion about the Middle East than I do. The odds are that will happen everywhere we go, all the time. We have to learn how to conduct ourselves in ways that respect each other's points of view without making people feel unsafe or afraid or crossing the line into that kind of behavior. This campus honestly has done an excellent job of that over the years. We have had a few missteps, but if we keep on the track we are going, with the old rules from 1940, they pretty much cover what we can and cannot do. **VP Drew:** Added that since 1940 when the American Association of University Professors came up with that definition in their statement of the principles of academic freedom and tenure, it has continued to serve as a standard definition as what we are talking about for most educators. It is reference and guidance. The context and the demographics of higher education, the reality is, has changed significantly with the change of demographics. He will do more research on how to move forward. It prohibits educators from weaponizing the rights to academic freedom. We do not want policies that would harm anyone such as protected classes or anyone.

### C. Covid Surge:

**President Gordon:** Commented that he taught a class over the winter intersession and found a high number of students that were very ill and a larger number of absences. Some came to class where they could make others sick. They were sick far higher than what he is used to getting in pre-Covid times. The data is clear with respect to the Covid surge and increased transmission of other respiratory illnesses. The faculty are the frontline of this. He shared a personal experience when a student could not speak because she was so sick and she got very close to him to talk. He wanted to bring this item to the Senate to seek ideas of what the response and protocol should be.

**Classified Senate President Fawcett:** Received notifications from the LA Health Department that about three weeks ago, Covid was up 49% and then the following week it was up 60%. They were concerned about it. He added that one of the issues is the lack of testing. **Senator Ely:** Suggested that we review a lot of the Covid policies that were in place when it first got started and see which ones need to be restructured and reincorporated currently. It has also been noted that during Covid, we allowed the pass/no pass option to go all the way up until the class ended. That is in direct conflict with our paperwork and our policies. If you look at our catalog and our class schedule, that is not the policy. We had a lot of students last semester who were changing to pass/no pass on the last day of the class, after she had told them that the date passed a long time ago. We need overall a good review of all of the policies and procedures that were put in place during Covid to see which ones need to be continued or revamped. **VP Drew:** Requested that we invite the Health Center Director. **President Suarez** added that we should also consider inviting Director of Human Resources Rebecca Morgan. **Senator Chavez Jimenez:** Stated that we consider inviting Stephanie Phonsiri who is in charge of the excused withdrawal petition to provide a refresher on what goes into that decision. **Senator Naesse:** Noted that we should have masks and other resources available in the classroom for students that are ill. **President Gordon:** Commented on the lack of Flex make-ups or accommodations because that assumes a *reactive* position, rather than a *proactive* position, specifically for Flex Day. We had Flex during Covid. That was done remotely and this is supposed to be a faculty-driven process. He stated that he doesn't understand why there isn't an option right now for those who wish to opt out of physical attendance of Flex without having to physically be there. If there's a Covid surge, he doesn't understand why that isn't already in place. **Senator Ely:** Stated that she walked into her classroom and noticed that it had not been cleaned. She understands that there is a staff shortage and budget constraints, but even putting spray and paper towels for faculty to clean would help. A good vacuum and wipe down would help. We need to revisit the M&O procedures, too. **Senator Cohen:** Stated that we should try to make more accommodations for students, not to say, "come in" and give them a mask, but to say, "do not come in at all" and they are not penalized. Faculty can still provide the material remotely. **President Gordon:** Added that faculty are more equipped and prepared now to do that than four years ago.

## 4. Adjournment

**President Gordon** adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

## 5. Minutes: Approved February 6, 2024

**MINUTES:** First draft written by Beatriz Rodriguez Vaca, Administrative Assistant to the Senates. Revision of first draft and Senate-approved drafts written by Senate Secretary, Marilyn Kennedy, who also distributes the final Senate-approved version to the Chancellor, Board of Trustees

members and secretary, union presidents, GWC and Coastline Academic Senate presidents, OCC College President, and faculty as per OCC Senate bylaws.

Senate Membership & Voting Tally Chart	Motion 1 Minutes 12/12/23
Baker, Karen: Math & Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	Aye
Ball, Jason: Part-Time Senator (2023-2024)	Absent
Barnes, Carol: Counseling Senator (2021-2024)	Aye
<del>Boeger, Tyler: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)</del> (on leave, acting dean)	Absent
Budwig, Eric: Technology Senator (2023-2026)	Absent
Chavez Jimenez, Irving: Senator-at-Large (2021-2024)	Aye
Cohen, Eric: Consumer Health Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	Aye
Connor, Sean: Senator-at-Large (2023-2024)	Aye
Cuellar, Eric: Senator-at-Large (2021-2024)	Aye
Della Marna, Jodi: Library & Learning Senator (2023-2026)	Aye
Drew, Rendell: Vice President, Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye
Ely, Cyndee: Parliamentarian, Part-Time Senator (2023-2024)	Aye
Gordon, Lee: President, Senator-at-Large (2022-2025)	Abstain
Holt, Kelly: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye
Kennedy, Marilyn: Secretary, Lit. & Lang. Senator (2022-2025)	Aye
Legaspi, Jodie: Athletics and Kinesiology Senator (2023-2026)	Aye
Naesse, Irene: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye
Neil, Jeanne: Business and Computing Senator (2022-2025)	Aye
Qubbaj, Sara, Part-Time Senator (2023-2024)	Aye
Sachs, Loren: Senator-at-Large (2022-2025); 12:07pm	Absent
Sheehan, Katherine (2021-2024); 11:50am	Absent
Stanton, Jordan: Social & Beh. Sciences Senator (2022-2025)	Absent