

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Academic Senate Meeting | Nov. 19, 2024 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Student Union 214/Zoom Link: <https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/j/83950717582>

Academic Senate Member Attendance

Jason Ball, <i>Part Time Faculty</i>	Absent	Kate McCarroll, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Carol Barnes, <i>Counseling</i>	Present	Irene Naesse, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Lauren Becker, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Jeanne Neil, <i>Business & Computing</i>	Present
Allissa Blystone, <i>Math & Sciences</i>	Present	Leland Paxton, <i>Part Time Faculty</i>	Present
Eric Budwig, <i>Technology</i>	Absent	Lori Pullman, <i>Curriculum Chair, Parliamentarian</i>	Present
Jodie Della Marna, <i>Library</i>	Present	Loren Sachs, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Rendell Drew, <i>at-Large, President</i>	Present	Katherine Sheehan, <i>Visual & Performing Arts</i>	Present
Carly Gonzalez, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Jordan Stanton, <i>Social & Beh. Sciences</i>	Absent
Lee Gordon, <i>at-Large, Vice President</i>	Present	Lily Ei, <i>ASOCC Student Representative</i>	Present
Marilyn Kennedy, <i>Lit & Lang, PDI Chair, Secretary</i>	Present	Vacant, <i>at-Large</i>	Vacant
Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha, <i>Athletics & Kin</i>	Present	Vacant, <i>Part Time Faculty</i>	Vacant
Vesna Marcina, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Vacant, <i>Consumer & Health Science</i>	Vacant

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

Guests (Optional & Voluntary Sign-In): Shannon Quihuiz and Tara Giblin.

1. Preliminary Matters

- A. **Call to Order:** President Drew called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.
- B. **Public Comments:** President of the Hillel Club at OCC Maya Lessinger, Vice President of the Hillel Club at OCC Rebekah Sundukovskiy, Kitya Chea, and Professor Laura Behr.
- C. **Approval of the Minutes:** *Motion 1: Senator Kennedy moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2024, with minor changes; motion seconded; motion approved.*
- D. **For the Good of the Order:**

Senator Kennedy: I want to encourage the campus to focus on creating more campus dialogues among people who have divergent points of view. It would be healthy to have groups together in a neutral place to exchange ideas in a civil way; this would encourage intellectual empathy and understanding from various perspectives.

2. Consent Agenda:

No items under consent agenda.

3. Officer, Senator, & Committee Reports

A. Academic Senate President and Vice President Reports:

1. **President Rendell Drew:** Provided an update on the accreditation process, noting that the second campus-wide review of the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) is underway. The review focuses on content, with feedback due by December 4th at 5 p.m. He emphasized that the review should concentrate on providing information, rather than on grammar or style, which will be handled by Dr. Anna Hanlon and Dr. Sheri Sterner. President Drew mentioned that no responses have been received from the

Academic Senate regarding Standard 4 and encouraged members to review and provide input. He also highlighted that Dr. Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, President Emeritus, would join the discussion on academic freedom during the meeting, reaffirming the college's commitment to supporting academic freedom and free speech. President Drew will address these topics further under new business, particularly in relation to the film *Israelism: The Awakening of Young American Jews*.

2. **Vice President Lee Gordon:** Discussed the film *Israelism: The Awakening of Young American Jews*, emphasizing that the upcoming discussion should focus on the film's content rather than framing it as a debate on academic freedom. He also shared his admiration for *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut, his favorite novel, and recommended watching the documentary *Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck in Time*, directed by an Orange Coast College alumni, Bob Weide. Vice President Gordon invited students to attend a special session with Weide on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, in LLSS 300 at 8 a.m., where he will discuss his documentary and his experiences with Vonnegut. **Senator Kennedy:** Asked whether it would be acceptable to send students for extra credit, asking if the professor approved. **Vice President Gordon:** Affirmatively approved the use of extra credit for students attending.
- B. **Union/Bargaining Unit Report – CFE President Schneiderman:** Shared that the union had a meeting with the Vice President of Student services, and they are in support of faculty being able to share any view that they deem appropriate to students, in both their classrooms and in these types of events. The first thing we asked the Vice President of Student services is this: Is the campus taking a viewpoint neutral stance on these types of events for both students, student groups to present students or other faculty? Their answer was yes. We really believe that strongly that the way to get information out is not to shut down information but to have multiple viewpoints available for students to make decisions on their own and faculty to make decisions on their own. So, we strongly support Professor Ruzi or any other faculty member who wants to present.

Motion 2: President Rendell Drew asked for unanimous consent to restructure the agenda of the meeting and move agenda item 5B under New Business to immediately after the Union/CFE report; motion seconded; motion approved unanimously. [Both Professor Ruzi and President Schneiderman could not stay later in the meeting.]

4. New Business

A. **Issues of Academic Freedom, First Amendment Rights, and the Showing of the Documentary Film *Israelism: The Awakening of Young American Jews*:**

President Drew: Explained that due to the controversy surrounding the film, he personally asked Professor Flavia Ruzi to address the Senate today, as she is organizing the event. He expressed a desire to hear her perspective on the matter.

Professor Flavia Ruzi: Thank you, everyone, and thank you for making an exception to the procedure, so that I could say a few words. I feel like our views, the organizers of the event, other faculty who are joining me on the panel during the follow up to the screening, have also sort of echoed these views, that we are very much committed to academic inquiry. We are committed to the view that Rob very eloquently articulated, that the answer to free speech that we find offensive or unpleasant in some way, for a variety of reasons, ideological or otherwise, is to generate additional free speech. This has been historically in the service of advancing knowledge, advancing, understanding, sharing our opinions in a civil and productive manner in the service of knowledge which, as a professor, as an academic I can, I find myself committed to increasingly right and relevantly to the particular historical moment that that knowledge is being produced in, so I find that it is both my responsibility as an academic to make room for that kind of

inquiry, and to encourage that kind of inquiry, while at the same time reiterating that as an instructor who routinely teaches literature connected to war, to history. In fact, the English 101 course that I'm taking a break from right now is focused on a text by a Jewish woman, Hannah Arendt, a political philosopher who writes about genocide studies, and whose thoughts we are applying to war crimes during the Vietnam War. Specifically, the Mai Lai Massacre in one of Tim O'Brien's books, *In the Lake of the Woods*. I feel that it's both my academic responsibility to my students, to my colleagues, and to the historical moment that we all inhabit, to have these kinds of conversations, and that learning begins often with discomfort. But that is the beginning of learning, not the end. We cannot stop at discomfort. We must power through discomfort, and have productive, meaningful academic inquiry, and show for lack of a better term, intellectual courage.

Vice President of the Hillel Club at OCC - Rebekah Sundukovskiy: We feel that this film is not accurately representing a conflict and also we're talking about the effects on the student body. This film has been shown and shut down on multiple other college campuses, four-year universities, and it has had negative effects on the Jewish population. People attacking the rabbis who are speaking when they come to talk about the event, attacking students outside, not feeling safe to talk about this, especially being a faculty-sponsored event, if your teacher is the one presenting these ideas to you and you feel that if you show opposition, your grade is going to reflect that. It doesn't create a forum for all of the communication.

Senator Naesse: I just wanted to share that I don't know how many people have actually seen the film. One of my philosophies is, if you ban it, I teach it. And so anything that's controversial, I am always going to take a look at it. The film follows three young Jewish people who are struggling with this relationship between what they learned growing up and what they are starting to see as they grow older, and it really as an instructor, reminded me so much of some of my conservative Christian students that come to class and learn about evolution for the first time. We need to remember that, like our Latinx population and other populations, the Jewish population is not monolithic. There are a variety of practices. There are a variety of philosophies, and there are a variety of beliefs, and this film is a film that documents the journey of a small group of people. And as we're thinking about DEIA, we need to remember that everybody's experience is valid even if it doesn't agree with our own experience, and I would highly encourage anybody who has not seen the film to watch it for themselves.

Motion 3: Senator Marilyn Kennedy moved to extend this agenda item by five additional minutes; motion seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Senator Kennedy: I do want to say to the people who came here today, I want you to know that I hear that you feel unsafe. And if these students don't feel safe, they need the campus to work on making them feel that way. Maybe there needs to be more activity on campus about that and more discussion. As co-chair of the Academic Freedom Committee, we are content neutral as well, and we support the rights to share controversial ideas and show films and to discuss them. I do want to encourage people to be sensitive to how people are feeling, because I heard from some people on campus that some people are afraid to wear Stars of David, etc., or are labeling people due to their beliefs as Christian or Jewish students. We should try and listen more to each other.

CFE President Schneiderman: I want to compliment Professor Ruzi on her intellectual courage, because, as the students just said, there is discomfort, and there's concerns and worries and that Professor Ruzi has experienced the same thing, that people have made this very difficult on her as well. I would encourage students or anyone that this is about recognizing that having courage is sometimes uncomfortable and a little scary. I

encourage those students who dislike the idea about this movie to have the courage to show a movie of their own that maybe shows a different perspective, and allows people to think about this and understand that people on all sides of this of this issue have discomfort, and just to please be brave and have dialogue.

Professor Ruzi: I just wanted to add to what President Schneiderman was saying, and I wanted to inform the room that the same faculty who are on the panel for this particular screening for this particular event are currently also, while keeping in mind that the students themselves might not want to make themselves too publicly available right for targeting attacks if they feel unsafe, that we are currently planning another event that is explicitly designed to combat antisemitism. So, there will be a screening of a documentary currently being discussed. We welcome suggestions from the students who are invested in this, but again, who, perhaps because they feel unsafe, might not want to take the lead on it. So, we are happy to listen to suggestions from them, and we are currently working to plan another event explicitly designed to combat antisemitism and to inform students and faculty colleagues about antisemitism and details are forthcoming.

Vice President Gordon: I welcome Professor Ruzi's offer to screen a film that would deal with antisemitism. I want to discuss the substance of the film in question itself. The film's title is *Israelism, the Awakening of Young American Jews*, and there's really two parts to it. The first part is about the conflict between the Palestinian people and Israel. It's the second part of the title and the second part of the film that I'm addressing my comments to, young American Jews. The poster for the film at the top says, "The International Multicultural Center presents." To me that implies sponsorship. The film implies that Jewish religious educational institutions in the United States of America are indoctrination centers for the recruitment of child soldiers. If you don't believe me, just watch the film. I want to say that the message of the film is that Jewish educational institutions are instructing students to have a negative view of other people and that they are really doing things that are very objectionable. It's contrary to the experiences that I had in Jewish education in the United States of America. It's unrecognizable to the experience that my children had in their Jewish education in this state. It's totally different than the experience that my young grandchildren are getting today in Jewish religious education in this country. I think that the International Multicultural Committee, if that is the vehicle, or the various DEIA programs at Orange Coast College, which currently have only this film with respect to the issue of antisemitism, I think they have an affirmative obligation now to address the issue of antisemitism, not only because it's the right thing to do, because it's required by law. AB 2925 was passed because of the concern across the State of California that public colleges and universities in their DEIA-funded programs were not addressing antisemitism at all in a time when the reality is that hate crimes against Jews and antisemitism around the world, but including in California, are rising at a dramatic rate.

President Drew: I have to say as the Coordinator of the Multicultural Center that the Multicultural Center is a neutral agent, the one place on campus where students and the public can utilize that center for various type of events. We've had some controversial things before in the past, but the Multicultural Center is a neutral place for individual faculty and members to hold their events.

3. Officer, Senator, & Committee Reports, Continued

C. Professional Development Institute (PDI)—PDI Chair Marilyn Kennedy:

PDI Chair Kennedy announced that the PDI Sabbatical Subcommittee, chaired by Professor Arabian Morgan, reported that five faculty members will be granted sabbaticals for spring 2025. More information will follow, and Senator Kennedy thanked Professor Morgan for his work.

5. Unfinished Business

A. Academic Standards Committee Report – Chair Leland Paxton:

Chair Paxton reported that last spring the committee started up again through the Senate sponsorship of the Academic Standards Committee. It was spurred in part in looking at the generative AI and possible and probable impact on academic standards and integrity. We wrote the bylaws; we have members from across the campus, including committee senators, the Interim Dean of Math and Science put a call out to that division, and we got two additional members just recently.

We have been busy working on a survey for the Faculty and AI Survey. We recently sent it to the office of institutional effectiveness. They reviewed it, had very few comments but good comments, and I sent it back to the committee for their review today. I sent it to the President of the Academic Senate so it could be on the consent agenda for next meeting. The survey is really trying to get a feel for what faculty are feeling about the impact of AI. I surveyed the committee members to see why did they join, and what they would like to see come out of this committee. Most of them wanted to join because of Generative AI, that was really a catalyst, and generally about academic integrity.

I had shared with the committee that another community college in California, De Anza, has a whole page on the web site about academic integrity and we don't have anything like that. We are going to work on two tracks. One will be on academic integrity and our other track will be on trying to give some guidelines to the faculty on the best practices on generative AI.

We're looking at the State Chancellor's office under vision 2030 and also something coming out of the District. We want this to be faculty driven, so that we would come up with ideas or things from AI detectors to different ways to use it in the classroom or not use in the classroom, and how we can assure academic integrity. Industry is really using it. Cal State Fullerton and UCI have really embraced AI and are far ahead of us in integrating it with their curriculum and programs. Something that we need to address.

President Drew: Mentioned that Senator Paxton is doing a great job moving forward on that committee.

Vice President Gordon: Expressed gratitude to President Drew for his leadership on academic standards and to Senator Paxton for his efforts. He also confirmed that the Senate has assigned the Academic Standards Committee responsibility for overseeing AI for the faculty.

4. New Business, Continued

B. Transparency Committee Purview and District Compliance with Shared Governance – Transparency Committee Chair Irene Naesse:

Chair Naesse raised concerns about potential District violations of the 10+1, which governs faculty involvement in decision-making. The concerns, previously discussed in

Senate meetings, involve District decisions on course families, travel, internal auditing, and hiring.

Chair Naesse clarified that 10+1 covers both *rely primary* and *mutually agreed upon* matters and emphasized that while faculty may vote on some committees, not all decisions are within the scope of 10+1, though shared governance often overlaps.

She highlighted concerns regarding District decisions on curriculum, specifically categorizing courses into families and changing registration requirements without input from faculty experts. She emphasized that four out of the five primary components of 10+1, which cover curriculum, travel policies, and professional development, were affected. She noted that these decisions impact faculty's ability to attend conferences and professional development activities, as well as academic programs that require student travel for competitions, all of which fall under faculty governance.

Chair Naesse raised concerns about the lack of responses to Senate representatives' questions regarding proposed policy changes related to internal audits. She noted that these changes contradict internal auditing guidelines and industry standards. The BP/AP committee was instructed to approve the changes by December, but the internal auditor has not been allowed to address the Senate regarding its questions and concerns before the vote. This issue pertains to governance structures that impact faculty roles and falls under the "other academic and professional matters" component of the 10+1.

Chair Naesse expressed concerns about a new hiring policy that allows the Chancellor to add up to three members to a committee to promote diversity, without clear criteria for their selection. She stated that this policy impacts faculty involvement in hiring, particularly for administrative positions, and affects shared governance. She referenced Accreditation Standards, specifically 4.2 and 4.6, which require inclusion, participation, and adherence to bylaws. Chair Naesse emphasized that the District may be violating both these standards and its own policies by bypassing faculty involvement in decision-making processes, potentially undermining the role of the Academic Senate as a collaborative partner. She highlighted that failing to provide answers to questions about proposed changes obstructs faculty involvement in shared governance. She pointed out that decisions regarding course families and registration requirements were made without faculty input or Curriculum Committee discussion, demonstrating a lack of commitment to shared governance. The Transparency Committee requested advice from the Academic Senate on how to proceed.

Senator Marcina: Thanked Chair Naesse for raising concerns about faculty hiring policies. She emphasized that the Senate holds a strong position on this matter, as faculty hiring policies are protected not only by the 10+1 but also by California Education Code. Specifically, Section [87360 \(b\)](#) requires that hiring criteria and procedures be developed jointly by the Governing Board and the Academic Senate. Any changes to these policies without Senate input would violate both Title 5 and the Education Code.

President Drew: Asked Chair Naesse if she has talked to other colleges and if they share the same or similar concerns. **Chair Naesse:** Stated that she has not had a conversation with other colleges. She was at the BPAP meeting when they were talking about the internal auditing changes and the other senators also seemed to have questions that were not being answered. Senator Kennedy knows more about those issues. **Senator Kennedy:** Acknowledged Chair Naesse's observations about some of the BPAP committee members' objections and concerns, including those from classified and staff members. She provided two updates: first, she was contacted by a Vice Chancellor to discuss changes to the travel policy. She requested that any meeting include GWC and

the Part-Time Union Rep who also had concerns, or that the policy itself return to the BPAP committee where it goes for review. Secondly, she briefly spoke with the auditor, who has personally been in communication with the Chancellor and learned that he is considering some of the concerns and issues, and she has asked him to rescind some of the proposed changes. However, the auditor has not had a formal meeting with him yet and is unsure when she will be able to speak with the Senate and until then she would not be able to discuss AP 6400.

A. [Continued] Issues of Academic Freedom and First Right Amendment and the Showing of the Documentary film, *Israelism: The Awakening of Young American Jews* - President Rendell Drew:

President Drew: We have Senate Emeritus President Arismendi Pardi, and I want to ask him to chime in here in a minute. When we talk about academic freedom, the main definition that we're still utilizing is the one that was developed by the American Association of University Professors and that is an old definition. We even talked about this at the Plenary, that it needs to be updated, but the essence of it says, with academic freedom, it's the freedom of a teacher or researcher in higher education to investigate and discuss the issues in his or her academic field, and to teach and publish findings without inference from administrators, Board of Trustees, political figures, donors, or other entities.

Academic freedom does protect the professor and the right of the faculty members to speak, to speak freely when participating in institutional governance as well as to speak freely as a citizen. We all know that the First Amendment in the Constitution is freedom of religion, freedom of speech. It expressly protects the freedom of speech, the press, peaceful assembly, and petition to the government. So, you have your rights. You don't lose your rights under the guise of academic freedom. You don't lose your Constitutional rights, but under academic freedom, according to what I've researched, that is a peer thing that is decided by your peers. How does academic freedom apply to extramural speech? This is arguably the most controversial and the most challenged aspect of academic freedom as it does not necessarily relate to disciplinary expertise. And so, with the Association of University Professors policy, it calls for faculty members to be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens, but faculty members' special positions impose special obligations. When they're speaking on public matters, they should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint and show appropriate respect for the opinions of others. They're regulated once again by the collective, our faculty peers and others. We determine what constitutes disciplinary competence.

According to the local Senate Handbook that I recently read through, it's the local Academic Senate President's duty and responsibility to ask the Senate to deliberate, on policy and procedural questions and matters that we're talking about, but also to create an environment to encourage the free exchange of information and to be respectful of those who express divergent and even unpopular points of views in today's discussion of the showing of the film.

Vice-President Gordon: President Drew speaks well and effectively on the issue of academic freedom, but that is a derivative issue to the substantive issue that I thought we were going to discuss, which is this: Why has the well-funded DEIA effort at Orange Coast College never addressed antisemitism until the showing of this film? That is a completely different question than academic freedom. I wanted to talk about antisemitism. Why hasn't Orange Coast College ever addressed antisemitism? Does Orange Coast College acknowledge that young American Jews at Orange Coast College do not feel safe? And what, if anything, is Orange Coast College going to do to

help them feel safe? That to me is the substantive issue, not academic freedom, which we could put on the agenda anytime, and we could talk about for days.

President Drew: Whether you're Black, Latino, White, or Jewish, it is not right, and I want that to be heard loud and clear. That is the reason why AB 2925 is law because it is clear that DEIA-funded programs in colleges and universities in California were not addressing antisemitism. We can agendize issues like this and address them.

C. District Auditor - Rachel Snell: Item postponed.

6. Adjournment

President Drew adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Minutes Approved: November 26, 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 Approve Minutes 11/12/24	Motion 2 Restructure of the Agenda	Motion 3 Extend agenda item 5B by five minutes
Ball, Jason: Part-Time Senator (2024-2025)	Absent	Absent	Absent
Barnes, Carol: Counseling Senator (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Becker, Lauren: Senator at-Large (2024-2027); 11:34 am	Aye	Aye	Aye
Blystone, Allissa: Math & Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Budwig, Eric: Technology Senator (2023-2026)	Absent	Absent	Absent
Della Marna, Jodi: Library & Learning Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Drew, Rendell: President, Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Carly Gonzalez: Senator at-Large (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Gordon, Lee: Vice President, Senator-at-Large (2022-2025)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Kennedy, Marilyn: Secretary, Lit. & Lang. Senator (2022-2025)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Legaspi, Jodie: Athletics and Kinesiology Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Marcina, Vesna, Senator-at-Large (Fall 2024); 11:34 am	Aye	Aye	Aye
McCarroll, Kate: Senator-at-Large (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Naesse, Irene: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Neil, Jeanne: Business and Computing Senator (2022-2025)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Paxton, Leland: Part-Time Senator (2024-2025)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Sachs, Loren: Senator-at-Large (2022-2025); 11:32am	Aye	Aye	Aye
Sheehan, Katherine (2024-2027); 11:34 am	Aye	Aye	Aye
Stanton, Jordan: Social & Beh. Sciences Senator (2022-2025)	Absent	Absent	Absent
Vacant: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	----	----	----
Vacant: Part-Time Senator (2024-2025)	----	----	----
Vacant: Consumer Health Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	----	----	----