

Academic Senate Meeting | March 10, 2026 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Student Union 214 | [Zoom Link](https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/j/88213592749) (https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/j/88213592749)

Academic Senate Member Attendance

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

Members	Present
Jason Ball, Part-Time Faculty	Yes
Carol Barnes, Counseling	Yes
Lauren Becker, Consumer & Health Sciences	Yes
Allissa Blystone, Math & Sciences	Yes
Tyler Boogar, at-Large, <i>Parliamentarian</i>	Yes
Eric Budwig, Technology	Yes
Jenny Chaiyakal, at-Large	Yes
Jodie Della Marna, Library	Yes
Rendell Drew, at-Large, <i>President</i>	Yes
Cyndee Ely, Part-Time Faculty	Yes
Lee Gordon, Business & Computing, Vice President	Yes
Carly Gonzalez, at-Large	Yes
Joel "Bubba" Gonzalez, Athletics & Kinesiology	Yes
Ana Huynh, ASOCC Representative	No
Marilyn Kennedy, Literature & Languages, PDI Chair, <i>Secretary</i>	Yes
Mike Lannom, Curriculum Chair	Yes
Mickey Laux, at-Large	Yes
Kate McCarroll, at-Large	Yes
Irene Naesse, at-Large	Yes
Leland Paxton, Part-Time Faculty	No
Katherine Sheehan, Visual & Performing Arts	Yes
Jordan Stanton, Social & Behavioral Sciences	Yes
Vacant, at-Large	No
Vacant, at-Large	No

Guests (Optional & Voluntary Sign-In): Anna Butler, Laurie Campbell, Heather Dy, Nathan Falzon, Steve Fauce, John Fawcett, Rick Garcia, Jeanette Grimm, Kelly Holt, Rachel Kubrik, Vesna Kuo, Kalya LaBounty, Sara Martinez, Arabian Morgan, Larissa Nazarenko, Thuy Nguyen, Trustee Elizabeth Parker, Melissa Rowden, Jim Rudy, Andreea Serban, Justin Smith, Sheri Sterner, Angelica Suarez, John Taylor, Cora Volkoff, Maryann Watson

1. Preliminary Matters

A: **Call to Order**: President Drew called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

B: **Public Comments**: No public comments.

C: **Approval of the Minutes**:

Motion 1: Secretary Kennedy moved to approve the February 24, 2026, minutes, with minor changes; approved.

Motion 2: Secretary Kennedy moved to approve the March 3, 2026; minutes, with minor changes; approved.

D: **For the Good of the Order**:

Senator McCarroll announced the Writing and Humanities Tutoring Center Open House will be on Thursday, 9:00-10:30 AM.

Senator Becker announced the Fashion Department is hosting a pop-up event called "The Vault," organized by the 225 Media Events and Promotions class. Attendees are invited to stop by if they are interested in fabric, yardage, patterns, books, and sample products.

2. Consent Agenda

A: **Discipline-Based Equivalency Committee**:

1. **Theater Arts**: Cynthia Corley
2. **Pharmacy Technology**: Brian Beichner, Heather Moreno, Kristy Norfolk
3. **Polysomnography**: Jennifer Elias

Motion 3: Move to approve the consent items; approved.

3. Officer, Senator, & Committee Reports

A: President and Vice President Reports: No reports.

B: CFE Union/Bargaining Unit Report: No report.

C: Curriculum Committee:

Chair Lannom reported that the State Chancellor's Office had issued a memo regarding ADTs (Associate Degrees for Transfer). He will review the information further and report back with more detail next week.

4. Unfinished Business

A: Adult Education:

Overview: Sara Martinez, Director of the Adult Education Program, presented on adult education and non-credit instruction. She stated that OCC participates in a regional consortium with Huntington Beach Adult School, Garden Grove Adult Education, the Orange County Department of Education, and Coastline ROP to coordinate services for adult learners.

Adult education focuses on helping students advance their education, build literacy or technical skills, transition into credit programs, and improve employment opportunities and wages. Colleges offer several course types, including degree-applicable credit, non-degree credit, non-credit courses, and formerly not-for-credit community education courses.

Non-Credit: Non-credit instruction falls within ten instructional areas defined by the Program and Course Approval Handbook. There are two types of non-credit courses: regular non-credit and enhanced non-credit, also known as CDCP (Career Development and College Preparation). Enhanced non-credit courses receive higher apportionment funding and must be organized into sequences that lead to certificates of competency or completion and prepare students for employment or college-level coursework. These include ESL, basic skills, short-term vocational programs, and workforce preparation. Non-credit courses for older adults (age 55 or older per the State), are offered in limited instructional areas and generate lower apportionment funding. OCC currently offers these courses in kinesiology and music, with additional courses under development for the fall.

Credit and Non-Credit Differences: Credit courses award units and degrees or certificates of achievement, while non-credit courses award certificates of completion or competency and focus on hours rather than units. Non-credit courses are repeatable, free to students except for possible materials or parking fees, and do not count against financial aid limits. Sometimes non-credit programs can serve as bridges to credit

pathways, such as success in credit courses like Math and English, or a move into a higher-age program like medical assisting, etc.

Future Outlook: Director Martinez encouraged faculty to consider developing a new non-credit course or program that is aligned with labor market needs, incorporates necessary culturally relevant information, and supports outreach and enrollment pathways. She invited faculty to visit the Adult Education Department Open House on April 16 which may include a student panel.

5. New Business

A: Board of Trustee President Elizabeth Parker on Board Efficiencies

President Drew welcomed **Board of Trustees President Liz Parker** and noted that she had reached out to him to speak directly with the OCC faculty.

Trustee Parker introduced herself and stated that she is on the Tax Board in Costa Mesa. She reported that after the OCC Senate reported its concerns about the Board Efficiencies, she wanted to share a little bit about how the Board got there and how she was supportive of the proposed Board Efficiencies:

She gave her professional background and some concerning situations with about fifteen or twenty county offices, including right here in Newport Mesa, which eventually revealed about a \$3 million plus dollar embezzlement. They had to figure out what happened. The agenda was loaded with so many things that they weren't focused to understand or ask any questions; they weren't concentrating on how this person in finance opened three extra checking accounts on his own, with only his signature.

Additionally, the Riverside County Superintendent, before he left, lined his pocket, his administrative assistant's pocket, and his vice superintendent's, and it supposedly was on the agenda. The agenda was three hundred pages long, and on that agenda were so many other items that when they asked the Board, Why didn't you see it, they said, Where was it? So that guided her perspective.

Then she stated her experience at the CCC District Board of Trustees in understanding the overlay of what happens when there are layers and layers that have to go to the Board, since she works alongside you all, and she trusts our system and process. Travel was one of her biggest problems when she got on the board. The travel was oppressive. She was bringing in resources, and she couldn't travel, even though her donors were paying for it, because she missed the deadline, which meant she missed, in one case, \$250,000 of a grant that could have gone into our Allied Health. She questioned the process, as there is the applicant, the immediate boss, the dean, a vice president, and a president.

When she was on the county board, it began to turn into an anti-public education board. She saw that they began to use their approvals to stop offering curriculum to the children they served, which were in juvenile justice, foster, dropped out, kicked out, bullied. She began to see what can happen when they don't offer an agenda on a practical sense, when you don't trust your leadership, your faculty.

Her first concern when she saw student travel and most of it is academic, your academic freedom. If we suddenly got board members here who decided they didn't like what you were teaching, and they didn't want your students to go to Baja, or they didn't want your students to go out to Joshua Tree, or didn't want them to go out to understand chemistry, that was going to be their right, because you put it on *their* agenda, and that was going to be a fight that she didn't want to have.

She first started here in 2010, when nobody was able to be hired, so the Foundation hired her as a consultant. Then she was hired in 2013, but she was still on the county board, and there were rumors that the trustees were messing up college accreditation. They were micromanaging; they were telling everybody what to do; they also didn't have stability at the Chancellor's role, and so that accreditation, that pointing out of that mismanagement on the Board came down into the colleges not getting clean accreditations.

It was in 2007, and then 2013, when she was finally an employee, and she saw what was going on, and they didn't clean up their act, and it was very clear they had so much on their agenda that not only were they micromanaging, but they were making the life miserable of classified faculty and managers without reason. That can't happen. So that's the perspective she came with, knowing how much we need to focus on, how much we need to trust, and then we have one employee, who is the Chancellor.

She read OCC Senate's minutes, and she understood there are concerns to make sure that the Board still has access to the faculty, access to the Presidents, and access especially to make sure that we understand what the Chancellor is doing.

Her perspective of being outside, and being up and down the state, is understanding the horror that happens when it's overstepped. The CCCD Board is trying this, and for three years we've been talking as a Board about this. We had two board members, one of which unfortunately passed away, the other who refused to agree with the accreditation, so they sued the accreditor, saying, What you did and told us we were doing wrong, we're going to sue you to take that off. Instead of saying, What did we do, and how did we mess this up, and why didn't we support our colleges getting clean accreditations?

We are here now, and the accreditation standards have shifted. They've taken away some of the oversight that the accreditation does on the trustees. That could get reinserted. Right now, all our colleges have received the highest, cleanest accreditation in a very long time.

She asked for the Senate's questions and concerns, acknowledging that when the Board reduces numbers everybody's kind of worried about deadlines. The idea is really to streamline deadlines and to work within them, like curriculum. She learned a lot about curriculum when she brought in money to open a whole new program and support some of the classes. She had to go to the Chancellor's office, then set up a board of experts. She understands about how tight deadlines are to get this in a program and to get students recruited and get it in.

President Drew asked for questions from the Senate.

Senator Boogar said he understood the value of reducing bureaucracy and agreed that some Board approvals can create long lead times. He expressed concern about

the items that still require Board approval now that meetings are being reduced from two per month to one per month. Would new faculty or dean positions still need Board approval? Might monthly meetings place even more strain on the approvals that remain? **Trustee Parker** responded that classified hires do not require Board approval in the same way and can be ratified after the fact, but faculty and educational administrators remain a concern under the new structure. The Board had discussed the possibility that monthly meetings could create delays, especially when months stretch to five weeks, and said special meetings can be called if needed so approvals happen in time. She acknowledged that personnel and MOUs are among the key areas the Board is still watching closely as the changes take effect. **Senator Boogar**: There are times when we have a classified position that's been vacant for six months, and the office is floundering, and now all of a sudden we have the candidate, and in a week we have to make the Board deadline, but we're not going to make that because of the length of time it takes to do reference checks for some reason. All of a sudden, we're saying they can start in seven weeks. **Trustee Parker**: Classified doesn't have to get approved by the Board. It never was in writing. It just has to be just ratified after the fact. **OCC President Angelica Suarez** clarified that faculty and educational administrators, including deans and vice presidents, are now hired by the Chancellor and can begin work once identified, with Board action occurring later as ratification. She said that change should help address concerns about waiting for the next monthly board meeting. **Senator Boogar** said that even with that clarification, he remained concerned. The hiring process already feels very slow, and the college's hiring system is abysmal, with exceptions rarely made even when struggling with vacancies. His concern is practical rather than theoretical, as candidates are often selected but administrative timing still delays their start dates. **Trustee Parker** acknowledged that concern and pointed to the hiring of a new Vice Chancellor of Human Resources as part of an effort to improve the process. The District had been losing strong candidates because other institutions hired more quickly, sometimes in four weeks instead of three months. Her hope is that hiring will become more streamlined and collaborative, with anticipated hires placed on agendas early enough that approvals or ratifications do not create unexpected delays.

Senator/PDI Chair Kennedy thanked Trustee Parker for attending to speak to faculty and said she understood the concern about fraud, in part because she had uncovered fraud herself when first serving as PDI chair. The immediate transparency was essential, so she was able to discover the issue. As to the BOT attempting to impede faculty travel, she has only been asked about two conference applications in all the years she has served as PDI Chair, and those were quickly resolved without delays. However, if items no longer appear on Board agendas, faculty may not know when funds are being misused until well after the fact. Additionally, her division was especially concerned about moving to one board meeting per month, as OCC is a large college in a large district, and reducing the number of public agenda items or opportunities for

public oversight and review can create a perception of diminished transparency, even if that is not the intent.

Point of Order: Senator Sheehan reported that the Zoom chat had been disabled. , **Parliamentarian Boogar** stated that written comments in the chat were not allowed under the Brown Act.

OCC President Suarez added that faculty and educational administrators can now start work once identified and then go to the Board later for ratification, which she said should help address concerns related to once-a-month board meetings.

Senator Chaiyakal asked for clarification on the changes overall, as it sounded as if two different changes were being made at once: (1) first, shifting matters away from public Board approval and into administrative action, and (2) second, reducing the number of Board meetings. She stated that it was not clear why those two changes had to happen together and suggested that the Board could have tried streamlining approval categories first while still maintaining twice-monthly meetings. **Trustee Parker** said the Board had, in fact, spent several open sessions working through exactly what should remain on the agenda and whether a second monthly meeting was still necessary once the agenda was trimmed. She said the feedback they received from administrators and staff support roles was that a second meeting without enough substantive business would not be helpful. She added that the Board plans to evaluate the new structure after April and urged faculty to tell her what feels constrained, whether around transparency, access, or timing. She emphasized that public comment remains important, that reports have not been eliminated, and that items such as student travel are now being moved into scheduled semiannual, quarterly, or annual reports rather than individual approvals. She said nothing had simply disappeared; instead, some items had shifted from action items to reporting cycles.

Senator Boogar said he supported removing burdensome approvals such as travel, but his larger concern was maintaining checks and balances among faculty, classified professionals, administration, and the Board. He said that while public comment still exists as a path for raising concerns, moving from two board meetings per month to one effectively cuts standard opportunities for public comment in half. Given that there have already been instances where not everyone who showed up to speak was allowed to speak, he said he worried this change could further reduce the public voice. **Trustee Parker** said that was a fair concern and pointed to past situations in which the Board had called special meetings when it was clear an ordinary agenda could not accommodate the volume or importance of public comment. She said she would be open to discussing ways to extend time when needed and to make sure all voices are heard. **Vice President Gordon** added that when large numbers of people are prepared to speak, it may be better for the Board to schedule a special meeting rather than crowding out public comment during a regular meeting. The Senate would likely feel

comfortable requesting that kind of meeting when necessary because the optics of people being crowded out are not good. **Trustee Parker** agreed and said visibility and accessibility also matter. She noted that the Board's virtual meeting format needs improvement and said she would be asking for improvements as well as a policy change to allow public speakers to participate remotely from home. She said that change would be especially important for employees who teach during meeting hours and cannot easily attend in person. She added that it is important for the Academic Senate and union representatives to continue having meaningful opportunities to raise concerns directly.

Senator Naesse asked whether items that had been shifted from the consent agenda to annual or semiannual reports would still be released publicly or would go only to Board members. **Trustee Parker** stated that the intent is for those reports to appear as part of the public agenda, with full reports provided at the appropriate intervals. **Senator Kennedy** added that she was glad to hear that Trustee Parker and the Board were working toward Zoom meetings. She also clarified that faculty travel itself had already been sped up way before these efficiency changes and that these changes would not affect PDI faculty travel in speed of approval; the main difference now is that travel will no longer appear on a Board list where faculty or PDI can review to monitor the use of its funds or any misuse of funds until well after the fact.

Senator Becker said the document previously circulated about Board Efficiencies was difficult to follow because it described what was changing and not changing without clearly showing where authority now sits. She said it would be more helpful to have a simple list showing what is approved by the Chancellor, what the Chancellor has full autonomy over, and what still goes to the Board. Some of the concern about transparency comes from the fact that some decisions are shifting to "Chancellor only," which can feel unsettling if the Chancellor's perspective does not align with that of the Board or campus constituents. **Trustee Parker** responded that she understood the value of a clearer visual explanation and said she is an Excel girl, and that she could work directly with Senator Becker to better understand what kind of chart would be most useful for clarification. While some authority has moved to the Chancellor and quite a bit to the college presidents, faculty should contact her directly if they believe the Chancellor is not doing the job properly, since the Board's one employee is the Chancellor and accountability there remains essential.

President Drew inquired as to how special board meetings are scheduled, since Trustee Parker had mentioned them as a possible solution. **Trustee Parker** explained that under the Brown Act, Title 5, and related government code, emergency meetings can be noticed in as little as 24 hours when there is a genuine emergency, such as a safety crisis. Special meetings that are not emergencies require 72 hours' notice. She said those meetings can be used when issues need faster attention or when the Board wants to allow more public participation, and she emphasized that the Board hopes to

schedule such meetings early enough that people have time to understand the issue and prepare comments.

Trustee Parker offered that she is here to try to do a great job representing the needs of faculty and others who work in the trenches, because that voice is needed. .

President Drew thanked Trustee Parker on behalf of the Academic Senate for engaging in a collegial conversation and said the District needs more of that kind of dialogue. He also reiterated that Trustee Parker had initiated the visit herself, which was much appreciated.

B: Accreditation Debrief:

Dr. Sherry Sterner provided an accreditation debrief and thanked the Academic Senate and campus community for their collaboration over the past three years in developing the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER). She said that the Senate played a key role through participation on the Accreditation Coordinating Committee and by providing feedback throughout both the planning and writing phases. The visiting accreditation team commented that they felt they understood Orange Coast College before arriving on campus because the institution's values and practices were clearly reflected in the report.

She said that the President's Office was hosting a campus appreciation event with pizza later that day to recognize the collective effort that went into the process.

She explained that the team stated the college met all accreditation standards and recommended no compliance findings to the Commission. She noted that the team acknowledged ongoing work related to Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in online instruction and documentation, which could result in an institutional improvement recommendation rather than a compliance issue. She explained that such recommendations do not affect accreditation status. Based on the team's language, she said the college could expect an eight-year accreditation term with a midterm report if the Commission agrees with the recommendation. She also noted the possibility of a commendation recognizing the college's strong continuous improvement processes, including program review, SLOs, AUOs, and planning practices supported by disaggregated data.

OCC President Suarez added that the accreditation team expressed strong praise for the campus during the visit; they were impressed by the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, and more impressed after meeting faculty, staff, and students. The team highlighted the college's enthusiasm, collaboration, and environment. All three colleges in the district performed well in accreditation and Orange Coast College may receive a commendation, which she noted is uncommon and reflects the strength of the college's work and relationships.

Dr. Sterner shared that the team repeatedly commented on the collaborative culture and enthusiasm they observed during interviews and open forums. She said the final decision from the Accrediting Commission is expected following its June 3–5 meeting, with official notification likely within two weeks afterward. She thanked faculty, staff, and administrators who participated in interviews and accreditation work; the visit was widely viewed by the team as a positive and welcoming experience for the college.

6. Adjournment

President Drew adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

7. Minutes: Approved March 17, 2026

MINUTES: First draft written by Senate Support, Nicole Ichiki. Revision of first draft and Senate-approved drafts written by Senate Secretary Marilyn Kennedy, who 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, District Internal Audie Director, and OCC faculty as per OCC Senate bylaws.



ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Senate Members & Voting Tally Chart	Mot 1: Approve Feb. 24, 2026, Minutes	Mot 2: Approve Mar. 3, 2026, Minutes	Mot 3: Approve Consent Agenda
Ball, Jason: Part-Time Senator (2025-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Barnes, Carol: Counseling Senator (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Becker, Lauren: Consumer & Health Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Blystone, Allissa: Math & Sciences Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Boogar, Tyler: Senator-at-Large; Parliamentarian (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Budwig, Eric: Technology Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Chaiyakal, Jenny: Senator-at-Large (2025-2028)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Della Marna, Jodi: Library & Learning Support Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Drew, Rendell: Senator-at-Large; President (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Ely, Cyndee: Part-Time Senator (2025-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Gonzalez, Carly: Senator-at-Large (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Gonzalez, Joel "Bubba": Athletics & Kinesiology Senator (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Gordon, Lee: Business & Computing Senator; Vice President (2025-2028)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Kennedy, Marilyn: Literature & Languages Senator; Secretary (2025-2028)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Lannom, Michael: Curriculum Chair; Non-Voting E-Board (2024-2027)	---	---	---
Laux, Mickey: Math & Sciences Senator-at-Large (2025-2028)	Aye	Aye	Aye
McCarroll, Kate: Senator-at-Large (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Naesse, Irene: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Paxton, Leland: Part-Time Senator (2025-2026)	Absent	Absent	Absent
Sheehan, Katherine: Visual & Performing Arts Senator (2024-2027)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Stanton, Jordan: Social & Behavioral Sciences Senator (2025-2028)	Aye	Aye	Aye
Huynh, Ana: ASOCC Representative; Non-Voting (Fall 2025)	---	---	---
Vacant: Senator-at-Large (2023-2026)			
Vacant: Senator-at-Large (2024-2027)			

