

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Classified Senate of San Diego College of Continuing Education Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at 2:00 PM • Via ZOOM

Present: Esther Anthony Thomas, Jennifer Bennett, Trenton Romero, Cynthia Giammarinaro, Neill Kovrig, Rita Shamoon, Carla Grossini-Concha, Carmen Marinez, Beatriz Cruz, Ricardo Madueno-Montanez, Tracy Melvin, Damella Abbott, Carla Yumul, Zuri Williams, Danielle Ninness, Mitza Lindsey, Taya Simonne.

Absent: Danielle Williams, Stephanie McCrea.

I. MEETING WAS CALLED INTO ORDER AT 2:03 PM

A. Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved.

B. Approval of the Minutes: Minutes were approved.

II. STANDING ITEMS

A. President's Report – President Esther Anthony-Thomas reported on a productive meeting held with Chancellor Smith and the college presidents. The discussion included a roundtable format where multiple institutional priorities and concerns were shared.

- President Anthony-Thomas informed the Senate about a Classified Leadership Conference scheduled for early June in Riverside. Chancellor Smith and Dr. King have agreed to fund two attendees. Additional participants would require alternative funding sources such as fundraising or other identified resources. Members were encouraged to express interest soon to allow adequate time for travel processing. Conference details and a Save the Date will be shared.
- She also provided an update on discussions related to SPA unionization and its potential impact on the Classified Senate. Executive leadership has met multiple times to address concerns, particularly the importance of maintaining the Classified Senate as a governance body. President Anthony-Thomas shared that Classified Senate is not explicitly included in the Education Code, raising long-term sustainability concerns.
- Chancellor Smith expressed strong support for the Classified Senate and acknowledged its value. He indicated he would be sending district-wide communication to explain the context of SPA unionization and reaffirm the importance of Classified Senate representation for all classified professionals. Efforts are underway to move forward with a **9 + 1 framework** to strengthen Classified Senate's role.

- President Anthony-Thomas also shared guidance from Chancellor Smith regarding the 36-hour workweek pilot. He encouraged classified professionals to think creatively and apply innovative approaches, similar to those used during COVID, to ensure the pilot's success. Emphasis was placed on maintaining productivity while supporting work-life balance.
- Dr. Anthony-Thomas invited interested members to participate in a small subcommittee to support the advancement of the 9 + 1 framework locally. She emphasized the importance of collective support to ensure the Classified Senate remains an integral part of the institution. She also shared that the Classified Senate presidents will meet again on Friday for an extended meeting, during which best practices and recommendations will be shared to help move the process forward.

B. Vice President's Report- Vice President Romero reported that the Campus Climate Survey has been extended and will remain open through Friday, the 21st. He encouraged all members to complete the survey, noting that the feedback is important for both district and institutional leadership.

- He also shared that he and President Anthony-Thomas met with Dr. King and the executive team, during which the idea of forming a travel or professional development support committee was discussed. Upon reviewing the Classified Senate bylaws, Vice President Romero noted that a Professional Development Committee already exists and may cover this function. He stated he would follow up to clarify the scope and invited feedback from members on whether additional support mechanisms for conference travel and professional development would be beneficial.
- Vice President Romero further announced that the DEIA Committee, led by Esteban, is seeking one classified professional representative. Interested members were asked to email him to express interest. He noted that meetings are expected to be held on Fridays and that additional details and dates can be shared upon request.
- Vice President Romero also shared that the Classified Senate officers met the previous week and discussed opportunities to strengthen communication and collaboration between the Classified Senate and the Academic Senate. He noted interest in exploring a joint senate meeting, potentially held once per semester or once per academic year, to discuss shared issues and build relationships. He shared that similar meetings may have occurred in the past during convocation.
- Additionally, Vice President Romero proposed the possibility of cross-representation, such as inviting an Academic Senate representative to Classified Senate meetings and sending a Classified Senate representative to Academic Senate meetings. The goal would be to increase transparency, maintain open lines of communication, and ensure both groups remain informed of one another's work. He invited feedback from members on these ideas and noted that comments would help guide next steps.

- Vice President Romero also reminded members that while the Classified Senate is not governed by the Brown Act, meetings are intended to be a safe and respectful space for open discussion. He encouraged members to share concerns, issues, or topics relevant to Classified Senate work, emphasizing trust and confidentiality within the group. He acknowledged that members may not always feel comfortable speaking publicly and encouraged them to reach out directly to himself or President Anthony-Thomas for support or assistance in elevating concerns through appropriate channels.
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III. BUSINESS FOR CONSENT/ACTION

A. Professional Development Update

- Carla Grossini-Concha provided an update on Professional Development, announcing the first planning meeting for the STAR Conference. She shared that an invitation was sent earlier in the day and noted that the meeting will take place tomorrow at noon via Zoom. The initial meeting will focus on early planning discussions, including the conference theme, proposed classes or sessions, conference swag, food, and other elements that contribute to celebrating the event. Members who are unable to attend were encouraged to send a representative from their area if possible. Carla noted that additional meetings will follow and that invitations will continue to be shared with classified professionals and professional development leads.

IV. ROUNDTABLE

A. Foundation Report

- Neill Kovrig provided Foundation updates, announcing a special Foundation meeting scheduled for December 3 to address implementation of a personnel handbook for Foundation employees. He noted that the handbook closely aligns with existing district contracts and handbooks and is intended to ensure consistency, clarity, and employee protection. The meeting will also include consideration of several Foundation policies for adoption. Neill shared that Kay Faulkner Boger, former board member and community representative, will be joining the Foundation Board. He also provided an update on Hoop Hysteria, the Foundation's inaugural fundraiser, which was moved from October to April 12 to allow additional planning time. The event has shifted from a community team tournament to a celebrity basketball game to be held at the Jackie Robinson YMCA, with an emphasis on sponsorships and community engagement. Proceeds will support the Basic Needs Program and pantry, highlighting the broader impact these services have on students and their families.SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat Planning

- Mitza Lindsey provided the Treasurer's Report, noting that the Classified Senate currently has a balance of \$5,700. She reported that \$400 was allocated from the budget to support the upcoming holiday celebration, including grab bags with holiday memorabilia, small goodies, lane rental for the event, and appetizers. Lindsey encouraged members to arrive early to allow time for fellowship before the scheduled activities. No additional budget items were reported at this time.

V. OPEN FORUM

- Patty Lopez shared that

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 2:59 pm