

MINUTES***Regular Meeting of the Classified Senate of San Diego College of Continuing Education
Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, at 2:00 PM • Via ZOOM***

Present: Esther Anthony Thomas, Jennifer Bennett, Trenton Romero, Cynthia Giammarinaro, Neill Kovrig, Tammy Krasne, Rita Shamoon, Zuri Williams, Damella Abbott, Taya Simmone, and Carla Yumul, Kelly Henwood, Danielle Williams.

Absent: Patricia Lopezl kno

I. MEETING WAS CALLED INTO ORDER AT 2:00 PM

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

B. Approval of the Minutes: Kelly H. moved to approve; Damella A. seconded. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

II. STANDING ITEMS

- A. President's Report** – President Dr. Esther Anthony-Thomas reported on the multi-campus Senate retreat for NCCC Classified Senate, which was held at the VEBA Center. She noted that the retreat provided valuable opportunities for bonding and positive engagement. The main topics of discussion focused on creating healthy spaces and fostering a supportive, healthy work environment. Dr. Anthony-Thomas emphasized that the retreat featured strong advocacy for Classified Professionals throughout.

President Esther Anthony-Thomas informed the senate that Dr. Carter is inviting/asking if the Classified Senate member to attend the one-on-one meeting with VPs and Dr. King.

- B. Vice President's Report-** Vice President Trenton Romero reported that during the multi-campus Classified retreat, the conversation on 9+1 focused on exploring how it could be introduced and implemented within our district, as well as whether other community college districts in California have adopted similar practices. The importance of building support from classified professionals, the Academic Senate, and management was highlighted. The discussion remained in the preliminary stages, and no formal decisions were made. It was noted that, to date, only two community college districts Santa Clarita and Ventura have formally implemented 9+1.

Vice President Romero also emphasized the importance of reviewing our own history with this effort, as past attempts within the district were unsuccessful. He suggested that

analyzing what went wrong previously will help ensure that this time, the process cannot be dismissed as a repetition of earlier efforts. Additionally, he recommended examining the specific language used by other community college districts that have implemented 9+1, since some phrasing may appear to overlap with faculty responsibilities.

This process is still in its very early stages, and it was acknowledged that the road ahead will be long. The Vice President committed to keeping the Senate updated on the progress and stressed the importance of collaboration across all Classified Senates within the district to create a model that would work effectively for everyone.

- the Office of PRIE is requesting two Classified professionals to serve as members. Vice President Trenton explained that one option would be to open service opportunities to all Classified professionals, while another would be to focus participation within the Classified Senate in hopes of transforming it into more of an information hub. In this model, Classified Senate members serving on participatory governance or operational committees could return to report out on any important information or updates. This would allow the Senate to serve as a centralized space for sharing relevant committee insights. Trenton encouraged members to consider this and to share their thoughts with him via email.
- Vice President Trenton reported on a recent tour of the Textiles Department at the West City campus, which he attended with Patty, Carla, and Dean Myesha, along with the department's instructional assistant Lucila Hernandez. He noted that the visit was eye-opening, as the department was much more extensive and developed than he had anticipated, showcasing a wide range of skills and resources beyond the basics of sewing or fabric work. Trenton expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the program and shared that, upon Patty's return from her trip, he will be meeting with her, President Esther, and Dean Myesha to explore potential collaborations. The idea is to have Textiles faculty and students create items that could be featured at future events, such as an opportunity drawing during Spring Institutional Day or a silent auction at the STAR Conference. These efforts would not only highlight student work but also serve as creative fundraising opportunities to support Classified Senate scholarships and initiatives. Trenton emphasized that discussions are still in the early stages and will require further planning and communication.

III. BUSINESS FOR CONSENT/ACTION

A. Ceramics Collaboration (Mitza Lindsey)

- Treasurer Mitza Lindsey shared that the recent ceramics fundraiser was a success, raising just over \$600. After covering expenses of approximately \$181 to reimburse the Ceramics Department, the net profit totaled about \$420. She noted that this was a strong outcome and emphasized the importance of continuing to seek additional fundraising opportunities, as Senate funds have recently been used to cover various expenses. The current account

balance stands at \$4,820. Treasurer Lindsey highlighted the need to keep building the account to support future initiatives and thanked everyone for their efforts.

STAR Conference 2026 – June 11, 2026

- Vice President Trenton Romero informed the committee that the STAR Conference has been officially scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026. The president and VPs have it on their calendar now.

IV. ROUNDTABLE

A. Acknowledgement of Retiree Senators

- President Esther Anthony-Thomas shared plans for acknowledging retiree senators at the upcoming Convocation on August 25. She confirmed that a table will be set up to recognize those who have served in the Classified Senate and requested volunteers to help staff with it. During her remarks, she will invite all former senators to stand or raise their hand to be recognized for their service in representing their campuses. A small token of appreciation will also be available for them at the designated table. This acknowledgement aligns with this year's theme, "Strength in Unity," by honoring the dedication and contributions of past senators who helped strengthen Classified Senate's role across the district. While the Executive Team is often recognized, it was noted that senators may not always receive the same level of acknowledgment despite their essential contributions.
- Floreniza Yumul that she recently spoke with Mark Nesbit II regarding available GFU funds, which currently total approximately \$3,000. She suggested that a portion of these funds be used to purchase supplies specifically for Classified Senate business (e.g., pens, paper, and other needed items), so that the Senate has its own dedicated stock rather than relying on the general supply cabinet. She also proposed purchasing a Senate-branded tablecloth for tabling events to ensure proper representation and visibility, as well as Blazers with the Classified Senate logo to promote a unified and professional image. Mark confirmed that these purchases can be made from the GFU supply funds, pending agreement from the group.

B. Foundation Report – Hoopasteria

- Neill Kovrig shared that the Foundation's Hoopasteria event will likely be postponed until the spring, providing additional time to prepare.

C. Fundraising Efforts and Update

- Neill provided a fundraising update, Classified Senate's fundraising efforts, there will not be active fundraising this fall due to complications with current Convocation. Instead, planning will take place throughout the fall semester, with the goal of pursuing opportunities in the spring, including during Spring Institution Day.

D. SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat Planning

- It was decided that the Classified Senate Retreat will take place at the VEBA Center in Kearny Mesa. A poll will be sent out to Classified Senate members to select the date. President Anthony-Thomas will extend invitations to Chancellor Smith and selected members of the Board of Trustees to join the SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat.

E. Classified Senate Blazers Update

- Le Trent initiated a whiteboard session to begin developing the Classified Senate logo design. Floreniza Yumul noted that the goal is to have the logo finalized by Institutional Day.

V. OPEN FORUM

- President King will attend the Classified Senate Meeting on September 16, 2025.
- Kelly Henwood suggested reviewing some of the board points created by the senators during the EGC Retreat.
- Neill Kovrig informed the committee that AFT Classified Professionals recently received an email regarding the contract. He encouraged members to review the document, attend the September meeting, and participate in the vote. He also emphasized the importance of union membership in order to vote.
- Neill highlighted a key component of the contract a pilot program for a 36-hour work week, scheduled to begin in the fall following ratification. The pilot will serve as a test to evaluate implementation, identify potential challenges, and assess impacts across different units. He encouraged collaboration and open communication, noting that the 36-hour work week will affect all employees, though implementation may vary by department.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 3:12 pm