

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Classified Senate of San Diego College of Continuing Education Tuesday, July 15th, 2025, at 2:00 PM • Via ZOOM

Present: Esther Anthony Thomas, Jennifer Bennett, Trenton Romero, Cynthia Giammarinaro, Neill Kovrig, Patty Lopez, Tammy Krasne, Rita Shamoon, Zuri Williams, Damella Abbott, Taya Simone, and Carla Yumul, Ricardo Madueno, Beatriz Cruz, Carmen Martinez, Jennifer Kennedy, Kelly Henwood

Absent:

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

A. Approval of the Agenda: Zuri W. moved to approve; Damella A. seconded. Motion carried. The agenda was approved.

B. Approval of the Minutes: Trenton R. moved to approve; Rita S. seconded. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

II. STANDING ITEMS

- A. President's Report** – President Dr. Esther Anthony-Thomas informed the committee that the SDCCE Classified Senate has been invited to a Multi-Campus Classified Senate Retreat, scheduled for Thursday, August 7. The retreat is organized by the CCC Classified Senate and aims to bring together representatives from CE campuses.

Neill Kovrig recommended inviting CE senators to participate. Esther extended this invitation to all senators. She and Vice President Trenton Romero will be attending the retreat, which will be held at the VEBA Center. Lunch will be provided, and the retreat will offer a space to connect and collaborate with Mesa, Miramar, and City College Senates on statewide initiatives and more. Carla and Beatriz expressed interest in attending, and Damella will confirm her availability.

- B. Vice President's Report-** Vice President Trenton Romero provided an update on the upcoming Classified Senate retreat scheduled for Thursday, August 7. The event aims to bring together classified professionals from Mesa, Miramar, and City Colleges for a collaborative districtwide discussion.

- The retreat will focus on the proposed **“9+1” framework** for classified professionals, modeled after the “10+1” academic and professional matters framework used by faculty. This initiative seeks to formalize the classified role in institutional decision-making by outlining participation in areas such as:

- Student success
- Accreditation
- Degree and certificate processes
- Institutional planning and other matters where classified staff contribute
- While classified professionals already contribute to these areas, the goal is to codify their role through Board Policy or similar governance structures.
- It was also noted that a similar proposal was introduced about a decade ago during Chancellor Constance Carroll's leadership but did not pass. The current effort aims to revive and advance this important conversation at the district level.

III. BUSINESS FOR CONSENT/ACTION

A. Ceramics Collaboration (Mitza Lindsey)

- Treasurer Mitza Lindsey shared that the recent collaboration with the Ceramics Department was a great success, allowing both departments to raise funds.
- The leadership team met last week and reached a consensus to split the funds evenly between the two departments. Although there was some initial discussion about allocating a larger portion to the Ceramics Department, it was ultimately agreed that an equal distribution would benefit both groups fairly.
- Carla Yumul was asked to provide the total amount that will be allocated to each department.
- It was noted that the amount raised exceeded initial expectations and had a positive impact on both departments involved. The final amount will be collected from Carla and deposited into the appropriate accounts.

B. 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.
- While June 18 was initially considered to align with the Student Services Department's calendar, it was determined that the proximity to the Juneteenth holiday might reduce attendance due to the use of floating holidays by staff.
- In the interest of maximizing participation, the committee agreed to move forward with the June 11 date.
- Once the EGC team is consulted, they will be officially notified of the confirmed date.
- It was also noted that Carla Grossini-Concha received positive feedback from several individuals who appreciated the June 11/12 timeframe in past years.

IV. ROUNDTABLE

A. Acknowledgement of Retiree Senators

- President Esther Anthony-Thomas acknowledged the retiree senators and those transitioning into new roles. She expressed appreciation for the commitment of Classified Senate members who dedicate time to actively participate in shared governance.
- 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.
- To help address this, Esther is planning a gesture of appreciation. She is considering either certificates or plaques as a form of recognition, with the final decision and details kept confidential until they are presented directly to recipients.
- A brief discussion was held on whether plaques are more meaningful than certificates. Members were invited to share their opinions.
- President Anthony-Thomas would like to present these recognitions at Convocation.

B. Foundation Report – Hoopasteria @ Jackie Robinson YMCA

- Neill Kovrig shared details about an upcoming event titled “Hoopasteria,” a 24-hour basketball tournament scheduled for the weekend of October 10–11.
- The event will be held at the Jackie Robinson YMCA, located near ECC off Imperial Avenue.
- The Foundation is currently seeking participation and support in the following areas:
 - Forming or joining teams
 - Volunteering during the event
 - Providing general event support
- Additional details will be shared following the Foundation meeting scheduled for the following day.

C. Fundraising Efforts and Update

- Neill provided a fundraising update, with a reminder that a group of members had expressed interest in participating during last month’s meeting.

- A follow-up message will be sent within the next week to schedule a Zoom planning session to discuss ideas for Convocation and other fundraising efforts for the upcoming semester.
- The group hopes to bring back successful initiatives from previous years such as candy grams which were well received by the campus community. These activities are intended to re-engage members and spark renewed interest in fundraising.
- It was noted that one past challenge was the timing of Convocation, often scheduled near the end of the month, when fewer people had cash on hand. This sometimes impacted ticket or raffle sales. With improved planning and earlier communication, it's hoped this can be addressed.
- Additionally, with the financial account now set up, the group may explore using QR codes or digital payment platforms like Venmo to streamline transactions and improve participation.
- **Voucher-Based Fundraising Proposal**
- A proposal was introduced to consider fundraising for equivalency testing fee vouchers (e.g., GED and HiSET), which cost approximately \$250 per student for the full exam series. In the past, funding was available to cover these costs, but it's unclear if that flexibility still exists.
- This proposal aims to support foundational skills students in high school equivalency programs and was suggested as a potential external fundraising initiative. While not a traditional scholarship, it was noted that this could be a compelling and impactful ask for donors. The group agreed it could be worth including in future fundraising goal discussions.
- **Program Highlighting and Thematic Fundraising**
- Building on past efforts—such as highlighting the Ceramics program during a previous fundraiser and plans to feature the Textile program in an upcoming campaign—it was suggested that future fundraising efforts also spotlight specific programs.
- For example, highlighting the high school equivalency program (related to the voucher proposal) could:
 - Raise awareness of the diverse programs offered by Continuing Education
 - Help connect the fundraising effort with a clear, meaningful story
 - Encourage broader institutional engagement and pride
 - The idea is to continue aligning fundraising themes with CE programs, not only to support students financially but also to **elevate visibility and appreciation** for the work being done across departments.
- This suggestion will be considered in future planning discussions for fundraising events and campaigns.
- **SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat Planning**
- A discussion was held regarding the selection of a venue and date for the upcoming retreat. It was noted that VEBA offers two possible locations: Mission Valley and Kearny Mesa. Input is needed from the group to determine a preferred site and finalize the event date.
- There was agreement that identifying potential dates is a priority, as venue availability will depend on this.
- A suggestion was made to send out a poll or vote to collect everyone's availability and select the most suitable date.

- Once the date is confirmed, it will be easier to determine which venue is available and appropriate.
- Esther noted that she has additional information regarding Province House and will share it with Tammy for consideration as an alternative venue option.

D. ASE (HSDP/HSEP) Website

- Kelly Henwood provided an update on the ongoing website redesign led by the PIO office, with a focus on improving the high school programs section. This includes both high school diploma and equivalency (GED/HiSET) programs.

Phase One Completed:

- The first phase of the redesign has been completed, significantly improving user experience.
- The previous site had navigational and clarity issues, which often discouraged prospective students.
- The new layout is more intuitive and better supports student engagement.

Phase Two in Progress:

- The team is preparing for Phase Two, which includes additional usability tweaks.
- The Steps to Enroll section will be moved higher on the page, above videos, for greater visibility.
- A new FAQ section is being finalized. Input is encouraged, especially from those who are student-facing and familiar with common questions. Suggestions can be sent to Dean Rashvan or the presenting senator.

Testing Center Site Updates:

- Work has also begun on improving the website for the High School Equivalency (GED/HiSET) Testing Center, overseen by Dean Maureen Rubalcaba.
- The updated site will include guidance on how students can order official certificates, since these must be obtained through the California Department of Education, not the college's Admissions and Records Office.

Class Search Improvements:

- A dedicated course search tool has been added to the high school programs website to help students more easily find class schedules, instructors, and offerings—particularly useful when the district's main class search proves difficult to navigate.

Outreach Opportunities:

- If front desk or student services staff are interested in a mini-presentation on the updated website and its features, they are encouraged to reach out. Presentations have already been offered at Mid-City and Chavez campuses.

E. Classified Senate Blazers Update

- Treasurer Mitza Lindsey provided an update regarding the Classified Senate blazers. A blazer style had been selected, and work had begun on a logo design for embroidery. However, the individual assisting with the logo has since withdrawn from the project.
- As a result, the logo will need to be redesigned from scratch. The team is currently seeking someone with design experience who can assist with creating a new logo for the blazers.
- Members interested in supporting this effort were encouraged to reach out.

V. OPEN FORUM

- President Esther Anthony-Thomas shared that President King has expressed interest in attending one of the Classified Senate meetings during either the Fall or Spring semester.
- More information will be provided once a date is confirmed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 3:16 pm