

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Classified Senate of San Diego College of Continuing Education
Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, at 2:00 PM • Via ZOOM

Present: Esther Anthony Thomas, Jennifer Bennett, Trenton Romero, Cynthia Giammarinaro, Neill Kovrig, Tammy Krasne, Rita Shamo, Carla Grossini-Concha, Carmen Martinez, Beatriz Cruz, Jennifer Kennedy, Karen King, Ricardo Madueno-Montanez, Tracy Melvin, Damella Abbott, Carla Yumul, Kelly Henwood, Zuri Williams.

Absent: Danielle Williams, Taya Simmone, Stephanie McCrea,

I. MEETING WAS CALLED INTO ORDER AT 2:02 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 opened the meeting by discussing the possibility of taking a group photo with the CE Media Fest. There was considerable discussion about logistics, including identifying a suitable space that would allow equitable representation of all campuses. Various options were considered, such as Cesar Chavez and ECC campuses, noting factors like parking, accessibility, and convenience for participants. It was suggested that the photo could also be taken during the Classified Luncheon on October 30, especially since President King will be in attendance.

Dr. Anthony-Thomas emphasized the importance of strengthening engagement and connection among classified professionals through in-person meetings each semester, while still offering the convenience of joining via Zoom. She highlighted the goal of balancing accessibility with meaningful in-person interaction and suggested a potential “chew and chat” component with small fundraising efforts to enhance participation. The committee expressed general support for the group photo and agreed to proceed with planning. The executive team will review the calendar, consider campus preferences, and propose potential dates. The meeting will also be offered in a hyflex format to ensure participation from those unable to attend in person.

B. Vice President's Report – Vice President Romero reported that he attended the Passport to Success kickoff event held at CE Mesa two weeks prior, where he had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Classified Senate. He shared that it was a valuable experience to meet new classified professionals and represent the Senate at the event.

Romero also provided an update on screening committees, noting that there are currently not many active committees. However, one crucial committee is forming for the Associate Dean for ESL position. He mentioned that one classified professional has already expressed interest and invited others to reach out if they wish to participate.

III. BUSINESS FOR CONSENT/ACTION

A. Professional Development Update

- Carla Grossini-Concha shared several upcoming opportunities:
- **All African Diaspora Educational Summit:** Applications close **Oct. 28**. Contact Carla with questions.
- **NCORE Reflections Session:** Led by Sha Currington, **Thursday, Oct. 23, 1-2:15 p.m. at Mid-City**. Open to all. Food provided.
- **Community Conversations:** **Friday at ECC, Room 134**. Lunch at 12:30, discussion at 1 p.m. Topic: Tim Wise's convocation address and its relevance to CE.
- **CPEC 1.0 (Classified Professionals Equity Certification):** Starts **Oct. 31**, continuing weekly through Dec. 5. Open to all classified professionals; hybrid format.

Carla also noted upcoming changes expanding **Flex and professional learning** to include all employees (faculty, classified, and administrators).

IV. ROUNDTABLE

A. Foundation Report

- Neill Kovrig shared that the Foundation is currently reviewing and updating its policy manual and handbook. A special meeting will be held on December 3 for this purpose. The board recently welcomed Bobby Castro (County of San Diego) and is planning to add Kay Faulkner at the next meeting. The Hoop Hysteria fundraising event is still expected to take place in the spring.
- Neil also provided updates on the new AFT contract, noting that the 36-hour work week pilot is required under the new agreement and will likely begin soon possibly in November, with details to be shared by the District. He emphasized the importance of solidarity and clear communication, encouraging everyone to stay informed and refer to the contract rather than rumors.

B. SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat Planning

- Tammy Krasne shared that the retreat will take place on Friday, January 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., accommodating 20 attendees at VEBA Mission Valley. She noted that while the Mission Valley location does not offer cooking demonstrations (available only at Kearny Mesa), they are requesting well-being activity **selections**—such as

meditation or sound healing 30 days in advance. Tammy thanked everyone for their efforts in securing the date.

V. OPEN FORUM

- Patty Lopez shared that a holiday hangout is being planned in collaboration with Tammy Krasne. They are exploring venues such as The Gutter at the Lafayette Hotel or Punch Bowl Social, with plans to reserve lanes for bowling. The event will also include a fun “Steal the Gift” activity to celebrate the holidays and provide an opportunity for the Senate and members to socialize.
- President Esther shared that she met with Vice Presidents Dr. Carter and Dr. Omae to discuss classified staff concerns, including potential impacts from an EBT payment delay. Additional food distributions are being planned to support those affected. She also noted that workspace issues, such as Zuri’s desk, are being addressed by contractors, and funds are available to ensure ergonomic workspaces. Esther encouraged staff to continue sharing feedback anonymously if needed and announced that plans are underway for a holiday luncheon to foster community and inclusion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 3:00 pm