



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Classified Senate of San Diego College of Continuing Education Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, at 2:00 PM • Via ZOOM

Present: Esther Anthony Thomas, Jennifer Bennett, Trenton Romero, Cynthia Giammarinaro, Neill Kovrig, Tammy Krasne, Rita Shamoon, Carla Grossini-Concha, Carmen Marinez, Beatriz Cruz, Chao Xion, Crystal Quezada, Isabell Mattar, Jared Osornio, Tiara Sanders, Jennifer Kennedy, Karen King, Ksenia Cavo, Nathaniel Pitcher, Ricardo Madueno-Montanez, Silvia Nogales, Stephanie McCrea, Tracy Melvin, Lily, Damella Abbott, Taya Simmone, and Carla Yumul, Kelly Henwood, Danielle Williams.

Absent: Zuri Williams

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 Anthony-Thomas shared a brief report, noting her appreciation for the senators' vital contributions to the Classified Senate. While the executive team often receives recognition, she emphasized that the senators are the foundation of the organization, and their work deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated. She explained that small awards had been purchased as tokens of appreciation but had not been properly labeled, and she would like to ensure that senators receive them in a meaningful way. Suggestions were welcomed on how best to present these tokens whether at the upcoming retreat, paired with small baskets, or through another thoughtful gesture. President Anthony-Thomas stressed the importance of recognizing both current and former senators for their efforts, as Classified Senate work is performed without release time yet plays a critical role in shared governance. She reiterated her commitment to making sure senators feel seen, valued, and respected for their contributions.
- B. Vice President's Report**- Vice President Romero provided an update on committee participation, thanking members for their feedback and encouraging continued involvement. He shared that he has extended the invitation to serve on participatory governance and operational committees to the wider classified body and noted that openings remain on the Facilities and Safety Committee as well as the Technology

Committee. Members interested in serving were asked to contact him directly. In addition, new screening committees are forming, including one for the Administrative Technician position in ESL, where an additional classified professional is being sought. Romero also reviewed the updated hiring workflow, which now consists of seven steps, beginning with management's request for a position and moving through approval by the President's Cabinet, posting, screening, EEO review, and ultimately candidate selection. He highlighted that HR has worked to simplify and make the process more transparent, giving classified professionals a clearer sense of how hiring decisions move forward. Romero encouraged members to review the workflow document he shared and to reach out with any questions.

III. BUSINESS FOR CONSENT/ACTION

A. Professional Development Update

- Carla Grossini-Concha shared updates on professional development opportunities. In response to the strong feedback from Tim Wise's convocation keynote, a series of Community Conversations will be held to continue the dialogue. The first session is scheduled for September 26 at Chávez, followed by October 24 at ECC, a November session at Mid-City, and an online option. These sessions will provide space to discuss highlights from the keynote and are open to all employees. Carla also noted that the new CBA, once ratified, will allow professional development hours to be applied toward salary advancement, with activities such as Community Conversations, CPEC, OTAN classes, and certifications potentially qualifying. Hours will be tracked similarly to tuition reimbursement. She also referenced the Caring Campus initiative and the classified professional development block grant, noting that there may be an opportunity to fund a Cultural Humility Certification course in spring facilitated by Dr. Veronica Kiefer Lewis and Dr. Tony Santa Anna, pending Classified Senate approval. Carla mentioned that classified professionals interested in the certification should reach out to her by late October or early November, so she can gauge interest and explore covering participants under a lump sum.

B. Dr. King Updates and Q&A

- Dr. King provided an update on the ECC Theater renovation, confirming the project is on schedule. She shared that the former Neighborhood Housing Association Child Development Center space will now become the main entrance to the ECC campus, making navigation clearer for visitors. Phase one includes the theater renovation and relocation of the Ceramics Department, which will move to the area adjacent to the "C" buildings. Silvia Nogales noted that this phase is currently in the design stage. Dr. King encouraged members to view the live construction progress via the ECC Theater Renovation website, which offers livestream and time-lapse updates. The theater is expected to open in early 2027. She also mentioned that planning will soon begin for the Mid-City and West City campus expansions. Finally, Dr. King reminded members about opportunities to join her

for “Walks with the President” and highlighted the option to provide anonymous feedback, which she has found valuable and constructive.

IV. ROUNDTABLE

A. Foundation Report

- Neill Kovrig reported that the Foundation has moved to a bi-monthly meeting schedule, with the next meeting scheduled for October 15. The Foundation is currently finalizing its employee handbook and policies to align with the classified contract regarding vacation, sick leave, and other benefits. The Hoop Hysteria fundraiser, originally planned for October, has been postponed until spring. He also shared that the District is preparing to launch a \$100 million capital campaign, with training sessions (“fundraising boot camps”) being held to support the effort. More details will be available after upcoming sessions in October and November.

B. SDCCE Classified Senate Retreat Planning

- Tammy Krasne provided an update on the Classified Senate retreat. Patricia sent out a poll to determine the best date, with October 17 and October 24 (both Fridays) emerging as top choices. Tammy will submit the request through VEBA to confirm venue availability.

V. OPEN FORUM

- Rita Shamoon suggested that if there are items members do not feel comfortable bringing forward individually, they could be presented collaboratively as Classified Senate. This way, the group can raise questions or concerns together without placing pressure on individuals. Others agreed with this suggestion.
- President Anthony-Thomas reminded the Classified Senate of the upcoming contract ratification vote and encouraged all members to participate.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 3:06 pm