GROSSMONT COLLEGE

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College Council
Thursday, March 26, 2026
3-5 p.m.
GRIFFIN GATE

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: The College Council is the apex governance body which provides guidance and recommendations to the College President regarding institutional policies, planning, and processes in support of the college mission. It engages all college constituency groups (students, faculty, classified professionals and supervisors/administrators) and the governance system as a whole through the maintenance of clear governance practices and policies, coordination of committee work across functions, and a commitment to continuous improvement and consensus building. The constituent-based representatives of the council serve the college by maintaining a broad, college-wide, and student-centered view of the needs of the institution – both in the weighing of the input from its committees and in bringing forward items for consideration and discussion. In all matters within its purview, it will maintain a focus on the goal of equitable outcomes for all students as a key value informing decision-making.

CONVENER (NON-VOTING)	ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF GROSSMONT COLLEGE (ASGC)	ADVISORY (NON-VOTING)
☒ *Pam Luster, Interim President*	☐ Lu Tri Vi Huynh	☐ *Colleen Moreno, CSEA* ☒ *Proxy: Julie Bennett, CSEA*
	☒ Joel Sanchez	☐ *Julio Soto, AFT*
	☐ Nathaniel Harris	☐ *TBD, Administrators Association Rep*
	☐ Eric Anzures	☒ *Courtney Willis, Int. VPSS*
	Proxy: Valerie Reyes	☒ *Joan Ahrens, Int. VPAA*
		☒ *Meya Alomar, VPAS*
		☒ *Tate Hurvitz, Int. Sr. Dean, CPIE*
		☒ *Ernesto Rivera, Director of College and Community Relations*

ACADEMIC SENATE	CLASSIFIED SENATE	ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION
☐ Sharon Sampson ☒ Proxy: Natalye Harpin	☐ Andrew Hellier ☒ Proxy: Debora Hanssen	☐ TBD
☒ Richard Unis	☐ Bryan Lam ☒ Proxy: Janice Fischer	☒ Sara Varghese
☒ Jeff Waller	☒ Brandi Tonne	☒ Nancy Saks
☒ June Yang	☒ Michele Martens	☒ Javier Ayala

RECORDER	GUESTS
☒ *Bernadette Black*	Niko Crumpton, Loren Holmquist, Victoria Rodriguez, Jessie Sadr
Italicized = Non-voting	

ROUTINE BUSINESS	
1. Welcome	Dr. Luster welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
2. Establish Quorum (50%+1 of voting members)	Quorum was met.
3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda	No additions/deletions.
4. Approve Meeting Notes (2/26/26)	Motion to approve: Jeff Waller Second: Michele Martens The meeting notes from 2/26/26 were unanimously approved.
5. Public Comment (3 min max per comment)	No public comments were made.

FOR CONSENSUS *	
** On College Council, consensus is reached when at least three-fourths (75%) of voting members present are in agreement, and if there are no more than two members from any one constituency who disagree, then consensus to move recommendation forward to President is reached.*	
1. Proposal on Composition of Faculty Staffing and Classified Staffing Prioritization Committees – 2nd Read and Action	Joan Ahrens (chair of Faculty Staffing): Joan stated at the last meeting, there was a request to see the current membership side by side with the proposed membership. She shared a copy of that to the group and reviewed it with them. Currently there is an imbalance on the committee and the goal is to have representation from all divisions. The proposed co-chair would be the Academic Senate president or designee. The committee includes reps from each division, one classified professional, and the ASGC president or designee. Richard asked if Sharon Sampson was made aware, as the Academic Senate president, and Joan responded that she was. Courtney Willis (chair of Classified Staffing): Courtney reviewed the proposed composition for classified. The co-chair would be the Classified Senate president or designee, and the composition would include two classified reps from each division, and one faculty member. Sara asked about including an ASGC rep, and it was agreed to include an ASGC rep which aligns with faculty staffing. Richard asked why there was only one faculty member, and it was noted that currently, there is overrepresentation of faculty on this committee. We have operational needs, especially in student services and administrative services, and need more input from classified professionals. Plus this aligns with having one classified on the faculty staffing committee. Motion to approve: Brandi Tonne Second: Jeff Waller Both proposals were approved to move forward. Michele inquired about the feedback that was provided by Bryan Lam on the charge of the Staffing committee and where those responsibilities will go, and Pam responded that per the discussion at last meeting, this discussion should go to PIEC.

2. Facilities Committee Prioritization List and Recommendation	Loren Holmquist (chair of Facilities): Loren shared the committee's prioritization list and reviewed each item with the Council. The Teaching and Learning Center was removed from the list as it will go to IEPI. Also, the last request for welding lab lights was removed as the work was completed by the district electrical maintenance department. Michele stated they have noticed a lot of automatic doors not functioning and asked if FMO was aware. Loren responded that they were and finally got the PO with the company who has started the work this week. In regards to the ice machine request for Earth Sciences, Sara stated that Basic Needs area has a giant ice machine that she can lend out if that helps get more requests funded. Pam stated that they can look at its viability. Pam stated that we are in budget development for next year and assessing our resources. Motion to approve: Jeff Waller Second: Brandi Tonne Joan stated that there is typically a cap on AUP requests which we haven't been clear on. Hopefully some of the larger items can be taken care of by the bond. It was suggested that the Facilities committee comes up with a cap recommendation. Loren will take that back to the committee. The prioritized list was approved. Once projects are approved, the department will be notified.
3. Budget Committee's Prioritization List and Recommendation	Meya Alomar (chair of Budget): Meya reviewed their prioritized list which included seven requests. It was noted that the Academic Senate submitted a budget augmentation request however since this is ongoing, it was removed from this process. Academic Senate also had a reassigned time request, however, that should go through the reassigned time process and not the AUP. Motion to approve: Jeff Waller Second: Brandi Tonne The prioritized list was approved.
INFORMATION	
1. Strategic Hires: • Basic Needs Coordinator (New) • Student Services Assistant Sr.-Counseling (CL-00410) • Dean of Exercise Science, Nutrition and Health, and Athletics (Reorg)	The linked strategic hires were shared for information. A reorg has been submitted to change the Associate Dean of Athletics to the Dean of Exercise Science, Nutrition and Health, and Athletics. Pam met with those who would be impacted and all were in support. Exercise Science has faculty who coach and teach; this reorg will now have them all in one division.

2. Slice of PIE	Tate stated that it is important for College Council to engage with broad institutional research data on a regular basis as it is how we demonstrate informed decision making. Slice of PIE will be a standing item to provide data on a regular basis. The first data presented was on completion data and progress towards completion. Tate shared data on the first-time student journey and reviewed the breakdown for the last three years. It showed we are making progress in percentage of students. Tate then reviewed the persistence rate which showed an overall slight increase from 69% to 73%. He also reviewed the persistence to next spring by districtwide units attempted. In terms of the data, Jeff asked if they had any idea if a student meant to be here more than one semester. Tate noted that this data doesn't show intention, but there are ways we can look into that with student's stated goals and educational plans. Ernesto indicated he would be interested in learning if any of these students are community learners. Courtney added that our high school students do persist and that we can break it out by CCAP. Natalye added that it is important to look at trends of dual enrollment students. Debora asked if there is a way to separate degree seekers to non-degree seekers, and Tate noted yes, and that this data includes all of them. Jeff noted that we need to be careful on how we interpret data. Victoria added that in the past, we have evaluated different programs to see their impact on course success and persistence and hoped to get some of that data again. Tate added that capturing student data on basic needs is another great opportunity. Joan stated that a lot of work goes into pulling special requests from the researchers. If we are going to ask for their resource, in return, we need to know what is being done with those requests in terms of continuous improvement. It was recommended that the requestor presents their information at PIEC. In closing, when sharing data, it is important to not make assumptions and to question what is being presented. This is an opportunity for us to engage.

CONSTITUENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (2 minutes maximum)	
1. Constituency Updates: ASGC, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Administrators Association	**ASGC:** ASGC acknowledged IFTAR night celebrating Ramadan and break the fast with delicious food. They also mentioned Club Rush on 3/11 was a success. Urinetown was a great play and they enjoyed the Paint and Sip for women's history as well. ASGC attended the ASACC in Washington DC, and will be attending SSCCC general assembly this Friday with two resolutions regarding AB1705 and emergency aid. ASGC's general election runs from 3/23 – 4/20, voting from 4/28-4/29, and results posted by 5/1. ASGC thanked Dr. Rodriguez for funding the Research club. **Academic Senate:** Senate is actively engaged in the BDP review process of two applications. The minimum qualifications were submitted and reviewed by the Curriculum Committee to ensure alignment. They continue to explore the development of a mediation process and to strengthen participatory governance.

	Classified Senate: Michele reported they finally filled the Treasurer seat on the e-Board – Lisa Brlas. They are currently looking at the student appreciation pop ups and restructuring it to make it more of a joint effort. She noted 10 delegates will be attending the Classified Leadership Institute and thanked Pam and Victoria for the funding. **Administrators Association**: Javier reported they are looking at participatory governance across the district to make sure everyone is fully represented. They are also starting their bargaining with the district. See newsletter here.
2. Budget Committee (BC)	Meya reported the next meeting is scheduled for April 9th. She has been meeting with deans to go over their budget worksheets and thanked everyone for their time. She noted the importance of knowing what staff we have so they can project in their payroll forecast. It was reminded that operationally, at the program and division level, when working on the budget worksheet to focus on the 4000, 5000, and 6000 object codes.
3. Facilities Committee (FC)	Loren noted they rescheduled their next meeting to the second week in April. Patrice Braswell attended the last meeting who presented on ADA and A.R.C. programs. Nancy stated that the OTA students, as part of their assignment, was to do an ADA assessment and came up with three recommendations. Sara stated the student government received concerns about ADA doors, and that was sent to Loren. She thanked Loren for responding back to the students with a plan.
4. Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee (PIEC)	Tate stated they completed the work of setting 1-, 3-, and 5-year targets for KPIs. At the planning forum on April 24th, they will look at the KPIs and work in groups to identify those big KPIs we want to focus on the most. Also, they are going to deploy a student climate survey in late April. The AI Taskforce is looking at board policies and procedures which will make its round to constituency groups. Tate heard back from our review team for accreditation and received two core inquiries – one for RSI and the other for nonfaculty evaluations and have six months to correct. It was noted that RSI is a federal standard in which 85% of online classes have to meet, which we did not. The team will again pull online classes in June for this semester. In September, they want to see an indication of what we are doing to meet the standard and what practices we have put in place.
5. Professional Development Committee (PDC)	Victoria mentioned they got accepted for an IEPI grant and will receive $250,000 to work on building an infrastructure for professional development. They talked about having a more centralized area for PD so everyone has access. They also talked about hiring a director of PD, especially now that the flex calendar will include classified professional development. This will also help support a Teaching and Learning Center. A PRT team will be assigned to the college who will guide us and provide a menu of options.
6. Staffing Committee (SC)	This committee has been dissolved.
7. Classified Staffing Prioritization Committee (CSPC)	Courtney reported they will have their prioritized list ready for next month's College Council meeting.

8. Faculty Staffing Prioritization Committee (FSPC)	Joan stated they will have their prioritized list ready for next month's College Council meeting.
9. Student Success & Equity Committee (SSEC)	Victoria reported they selected three different strategies from the Student Equity plan that they want to focus on for 26/27. Those strategies included de-stigmatizing the use of basic needs; creating a campaign so that faculty will submit course materials to the bookstore so students can use vouchers as a resource; and looking at what a business process analysis would look like for an early alert system. They are also thinking about hosting a summer equity planning retreat.
10. Technology Committee (TC)	Niko stated they reviewed the rankings and will present at next College Council meeting. They also were shown the new BP/AP for AI for a first read. They had a presentation on texting potential and a workgroup is looking at how SARS can be better used.
11. Accreditation Steering Committee	
12. Other	Pam stated that every year after commencement, a survey was deployed for feedback. For the last couple of years, it was recommended removing the acknowledgment of Distinguished Faculty as the day should focus on students. Distinguished faculty are acknowledged in other venues such as convocation and the awards ceremony. Therefore, Pam stated that they will still walk in commencement but the acknowledgement will be removed from the program.

FOLLOW-UP		
Who	**Item**	**Timeline**

Participatory Governance:

College Council Website

Governance Handbook

College Council Recommendation Form

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2026 @ 3:00PM, Griffin Gate

Committees are to establish norms

In order to create valued outcomes, a commitment to participation, dialogue, and the pursuit of value in the form of useful output by all is necessary. It is acknowledged that there are power dynamics in a room. Work must be done to create the equitable and inclusive environment sought for effective and active participation. To do so, council/committee members will establish behavioral norms that include the following meeting rules of engagement, make use of meeting tools, and respect the roles of each member.

Engagement Norms
In participatory government, a high level of collegiality, respect, and civility is expected. Those expectations include the following rules:

1. Free flow of conversation and raising hands when needed.

2. Thumbs up/Thumbs down/Thumbs sideways to convey individual council members vote toward action items.

3. Parking lot for ideas and possible future action items.

4. Summarize talking points with similar language for constituency representatives to take back to their respected constituency and taking the last 5 minutes of the meeting to do this.

5. Estimated times for each agenda item is up to the Convener of the council.

6. No rank in the room, but those that wish can use salutations.

7. Please keep dialogue respectful.

8. Reminder – body language.

9. Once a semester we have a social gathering.

10. Starting and Ending the meeting on time.

11. Respect each other.

12. Repeating what was voted on after the vote.

13. Education/background from other committees to make appropriate decisions.

14. Use of technology/cell phones is only in an emergency, and to be mindful and professional of the meeting.

15. Norms will be revisited once a semester for now.

Virtual Norms (Established April 2020):

1. Consensus / voting: (a) state item for vote in the chat, (b) record votes in chat grouped by constituencies.
2. Use the raise hand feature in the participant window when you wish to speak.
3. Mute microphone when not speaking.
4. Record the meetings for note taker to use as needed.
5. Consider ways for guests to observe (i.e. use “Registration” feature for meetings. Keep the chat area reserved for voting and advisory members.