



GROSSMONT COLLEGE
College Council
Thursday, August 27, 2026
3-5 p.m.
GRIFFIN GATE

Meeting Notes

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, <i>Interim President</i>	☐ Joseph Anthony Cruz	☐ Colleen Moreno, CSEA
	☒ Valerie Reyes	☒ Julio Soto, AFT
	☒ Emilia Auton	☐ TBD, <i>Administrators Association Rep</i>
	☒ Eric Anzures	☐ Stacey Shears, VPSS
		☒ Joan Ahrens, Int. VPAA
		☐ Meya Alomar, VPAS
		☒ Tate Hurvitz, Int. Sr. Dean, CPIE
		☒ Ernesto Rivera, <i>Director of College and Community Relations</i>

ACADEMIC SENATE	CLASSIFIED SENATE	ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION
☒ Sharon Sampson	☒ Andrew Hellier	☒ Javier Ayala
☒ Richard Unis	☒ Bryan Lam	☒ Renee Nasori
☒ Karen Caires	☒ Brandi Tonne	☒ Maura Mehrian
☒ Lara Braff	☒ Michele Martens	☒ Abby Algarin

RECORDER	GUESTS
☒ Bernadette Black	Symone McDaniels, Karo Macias
<i>*Italicized = Non-voting</i>	

ROUTINE BUSINESS	
1. Welcome / President's Update	Pamela welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She reminded the members that information should be shared out with their constituent groups as it is important to get feedback from all groups to make the best decisions. Pam stated she wanted to make an amendment to the agenda by adding president's update as a standing item.

	She congratulated the Pride Center folks for their grand opening event. Congresswoman Sara Jacobs visited our CDC and stopped by the grand opening event as well. Pam reminded the group that the college received funding from Congresswoman Jacobs' office for a Student Parent Center. Pam reported building 51/55 is now open which is at substantial completion. There still is a punch list with things that need to be fixed. She acknowledged FMO and IT for their work. Pam noted over the summer, leadership spent time discussing what to focus on for the coming year, and it was noted the focus will be on the student journey -- access, success, and completion. One initiative they want to invest in is our adult learner. They also want to put a firm foundation around dual enrollment. Another goal will be offering two potentially baccalaureate degrees – Respiratory Therapy and Cyber Security. The college will be going out for a bond this fall. There will be advocacy for the bond as well as “Grossmont Votes” campaign. In May, College Council approved six faculty positions to move forward – ESL, Theater, Anthropology, Retention Counselor, Biology and BOT. Those strategic hires have been approved by Chancellor's Cabinet and will now go to DBC. There are also two vacant counseling positions which have been authorized to move forward. Pam noted they are continuing to look at the classified prioritization list and assess what is needed.
2. Establish Quorum (50%+1 of voting members)	Quorum was established.
3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda	There were no additions or deletions.
4. Approve Meeting Notes (5/28/26)	Motion to approve: Javier Ayala Second: Sharon Sampson The meeting notes were approved by Council.
5. Public Comment (3 min max per comment)	Pam reminded the Council that if they are a committee member and want to discuss an item, that it should be added as an agenda item. Public comments should be used for advisory or non-Council members. Karo shared a flyer on the kickoff event for Latine Heritage month which is scheduled September 15th from 11:00-12:00PM in the Main Quad. All were invited to attend and encouraged inviting students to the event.

DISCUSSION OF PRIOR AGENDA ITEMS / OLD BUSINESS

1.	
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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. Flag Raising Proposal – Latine Heritage Month	Ernesto shared the proposal to raise the flag for the Latine Heritage month, beginning on September 15th. This is the 10-year anniversary for the Latine Heritage Alliance. The flag raising would occur every year. Ernesto did research and found an artist from St. Louis who designed the flag and will reach out to them once approved. The proposal has gone to
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	Classified Senate and Administrators' Association. It is scheduled to go to Academic Senate next Monday. It was noted that we would be the first college to adopt this flag. It was suggested creating flyers and passing it out with a description, author, and what it means for educational purposes. There was also a suggestion to commemorate all flags with a plaque maybe in Building 10. Motion to vote via email next Tuesday: Brandi Tonne Second: Lara Braff Bernadette will send an email out next Tuesday asking members to submit their vote. Pam thanked the Latine Alliance for their work.
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NEW BUSINESS	
1.	

INFORMATION	
1. Strategic Hires: • Clerical Assistant, Athletics (IA-00024) • Administrative Assistant I, Academic Senate (CL-00525) • Computer Helpdesk and Web Support Specialist (CL- 00582) • A&R Assistant Senior (CL-00224) • Custodial Supervisor (SU-00029) • Financial Aid Advisor (CL-00244) • Financial Aid Assistant (CL-00422) • Scholarship Specialist (CL-00136) • Library Technician II (CL-00581) • Tutoring Center Specialist (CL-00351) • Associate Dean of Nursing (MG-00151) • Administrative Assistant III – Counseling (CL-00495) • CDC Assistant Sr. (IA-00049) • Custodian (CL-00085) • Student Services Specialist / Career Services (CL-00350) • CDC Aide (CL-00445)	Pam shared that these strategic hires have moved forward since the Council's last meeting in May. As a reminder, strategic hires are shared as information only.
2. Slice of PIE	Tate reviewed enrollment data on the adult learner. He reminded the group that this is meant to be a snapshot of some high level data that is relevant and worthy of discussion. The data was grouped by headcount by age group at term start; persistence – fall to fall; and data for the 25-29 age group only for attempted units and completed units. Enrollment for the 25-29 age category has been relatively flat, even though the adult learner age groups have seen increased headcount. Persistence rates have seen modest increases across all adult learner groups. For our 25-29 year old students, we have seen a steady increase in the percentage of students taking 12-15 units. At the same time, the percentage of students who successfully complete 12-

	15 units has increased at a rate that exceeds the growth in headcount. The takeaway here is that when they are here, they are taking big unit loads and are succeeding. Other suggestions included looking at data on demographics and online vs. on campus classes. There was further discussion about providing the resources students need. One suggested conducting a survey to find out what resources are needed. We need to prioritize our resources and we should include students in that dialogue. One student indicated they spoke to an adult learner student and their biggest need was the availability of night classes. Lara asked what the student climate survey revealed and Tate indicated that information will be shared out at the planning forum in September. It can also be included as the next slice of PIE for College Council. There was also discussion about doing a better job on getting the needs from the community. As part of our strategic planning work, Tate noted they are reaching out to partners in the community (business, education, social service) and hosting forums and conducting survey work. Additionally, Sharon noted that signage on campus needs to improve as the adult learner navigates their way on campus. Pam noted this is part of the bond. The campus planning forum is scheduled on 9/11. Immediately after, Ernesto noted there will be a kickoff for Grossmont's 65th birthday. Pam added that they will be looking at the calendar for the year and embed Grossmont's 65th birthday into already scheduled events.
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DISCUSSION	
1.	

CONSTITUENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (2 minutes maximum)	
1. Accreditation Steering Committee Update	Tate reported that we are in the middle of our accreditation cycle. Our ISER was submitted a semester ago. The team members provided two core inquiries – one for the completion of nonfaculty evaluations and RSI (regular and substantive interaction) in the online course environment. He noted email reminders have been sent to managers to complete evaluations. Maura asked if the evaluation process has been looked at as it is lengthy and repetitive. It was noted that is a negotiated item. As for RSIs, this is a federal mandate. If they aren't meeting the standard, then they cannot give credit of that course to the student. The ACCJC team did a random review of our online courses and we did not meet the standard (85%). The site visit is scheduled 9/23 and 9/24/26 where they will ask us to demonstrate what steps we took to ensure that we meet the standard. They did a second random pull of online classes from last semester and we won't know those results until the visit. He noted there was work over the summer to build additional resources for faculty. We are continuing with

			the acknowledgement that faculty have reviewed the RSI standard which is not a new process. There will be a conversation about the spot check process at Academic Senate next Monday. This is an internal process that mirrors the accreditors process. Tate reviewed the agenda for the site visit. The morning of 9/23 will include a meet and greet. They will then meet with the Academic Senate executive committee from 10:00-11:00am, and with the chairs from 11:00-12:00pm regarding RSIs. It was noted that the implementation of RSIs is on the faculty but it is also a collective effort. He noted that if we get a recommendation for compliance, there will be a second review in 18 months. In the afternoon they will meet with a group regarding evaluations and from 2:00-3:00 there will be a campus open forum. On 9/24, the exit forum is scheduled for 10:00am in Griffin Gate. The team's report will then go to ACCJC in January and a final recommendation will be provided then.
2. Constituency Updates: ASGC, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Administrators Association			ASGC: Joseph Anthony Cruz Academic Senate: Sharon Sampson Classified Senate: Andrew Hellier <u>Administrators Association</u>: Javier reported that all governance committees are fully staffed with AA reps. He added that if a committee has a vacancy, to please email Admin Association. They are working on an AA newsletter. They will also be tabling at the VEBA health fair.
3. Budget Committee (BC)			
4. Facilities Committee (FC)			
5. Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee (PIEC)			
6. Professional Development Committee (PDC)			
7. Classified Staffing Prioritization Committee (CSPC)			
8. Faculty Staffing Prioritization Committee (FSPC)			
9. Student Success & Equity Committee (SSEC)			
10. Technology Committee (TC)			
FOLLOW-UP			
Who	Item		Timeline

Participatory Governance:

[College Council Website](#)

[Governance Handbook](#)

[College Council Recommendation Form](#)

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 24, 2026, 3:00-5:00PM, 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.