



**PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
District Academic Senate
District Academic Senate Meeting DRAFT MINUTES**

March 3, 2026 – 2:30PM to 4:30PM

Zoom Link: <https://peralta-edu.zoom.us/j/87228934289>

Present: VOTING – List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)

X	Leslie Blackie, DAS President	X	Thomas Renbarger, Merritt Senate President , DAS Vice-President Online – has exemption	x	Fatima Shah, DAS Treasurer, BCC Senate Vice - President
x	Jennifer Fowler, COA Senate President	x	Matthew Freeman, BCC Senate President	X	Laurie Allen-Requa , DAS Secretary, District DE Coordinator, Laney Biology Faculty, & Curriculum co-chair
x	Monica Ambala, Merritt Senate President		BCC DAS Representative (unfilled)	X	Eleni Gastis, Laney Senate President, Laney DAS Representative
x	Carla Pegues, COA Senate Vice-President	x	Bill Trego (Heather Sisneros Designee), Laney Senate Vice-President	x	Kimm Blackwell, Laney DAS Representative
X	Adoria Williams, Merritt DAS Representative	x	Didem Ekici, CoA DAS Representative		

Guests: List full name below, identify which constituency group each individual represents (place X in box adjacent to name when present)

X	Matthew Goldstein, past president	x	Marla Leech, co-Staff Development Officer	X	Lowell Benntt
X	Donald Moore	X	Chelsea Cohen, co-Staff Development Officer	X	Dan Lawson
X	Tina Vasconcellos	X	Doug Hawley	x	Matt Goldstein
x	Nate Flailing	X	Marla Leech		
x	Dan Lawson	X	Jeff (PFT)		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW UP ACTION
1. OPENING		
1.01 Call to order:		
1.02 Agenda Review and Approval	Adding agenda and minutes together	Moved by: Matt Seconded by: Jennifer # Yes: 12 #No 0: #Abstain:0 Motion: passes

**Roll Call Voting:
Agenda item: Agenda and Minutes Review and Vote**

x	Leslie Blackie, DAS President	x	Thomas Renbarger, Merritt Senate President , DAS Vice-President	x	Fatima Shah, DAS Treasurer, BCC Senate Vice - President
x	Jennifer Fowler, COA Senate President	x	Matthew Freeman, BCC Senate President	x	Laurie Allen-Requa , DAS Secretary, District DE Coordinator, Laney Biology Faculty, & Curriculum co-chair
x	Monica Ambala, Merritt Senate President		BCC DAS Representative (unfilled)	x	Eleni Gastis, Laney Senate President, Laney DAS Representative
	Carla Pegues, COA Senate Vice-President (absent)	x	Bill Trego (Heather Sisneros Designee), Laney Senate Vice-President	x	Kimm Blackwell, Laney DAS Representative
x	Adoria Williams, Merritt DAS Representative	x	Didem Ekici, CoA DAS Representative		

1.04 Public Comment		
2. Standing Items		

<p>2.01 VC Academic Affairs – Dr. Vasconcellos</p>	<p>Instruction: Tenure reception March 10th – 11 people and at board meeting. Laney and Merritt share 214 classes in 33 disciplines. Process being launched to determine which of the COR’s will be ‘the ONE’. Will use this COR for the whole district not just L&M. Discipline faculty will choose which COR’s will be selected. Faculty will not create NEW because we don’t have time for new proposals – these are due in fall 2026, so things are ready by Feb 2027. Will prioritized: eliminating COR’s not offered in ‘X’ years, which are articulated for both UC and CSU. Develop this into a rubric (maybe VPI’s can help) Discipline meetings will start ‘yesterday’, really April but will probably roll into summer. Admin will find ways to pay people for summer work. Outreach: Curriculum committee’s should know, personal invitations to discipline folks. Probably use same model as used for BUS/MATH/ETC. May start with chairs then expand to faculty if needed. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Email T.Vasconcellos if questions. Student Services: Team of 3 interpreter services, permeant employees, Technology: Moving data ware houses built by former Peralta employee. Data quality is always questionable. Moving to Oracle cloud and Oracle AI from inhouse where house into Oracle by April/May. Ai feature that PD will need to come out on. Shopping carts for courses, shopping carts don’t show students more fees such as units, transportation, health ,etc. Class materials and textbooks NOT included. Students can then see if there are residency issues or other mislabeling issues. In system can’t use credit cards, NelNat will give students option to use CC’s, but need to figure out how to pair with PeopleSoft. Reimagine Apply: new CCC apply, new application system for students, may go live in Sept to switch in Spring 2027 otherwise would be in June so fall would be split between two systems</p>	
<p>2.02 DAS Treasurer Spring Plenary</p>	<p>Budget overview produced \$20,243.07. F25Plenary total was \$26,000. \$10,100ish available now. Already spent \$8,013.63 (includes mileage, parking, etc.). Can send another person or pay for registration fee. DAS may be able to pay for another event.</p>	
<p>2.03 Staff Development Officers</p>	<p>Spring Speaker series is on BoardDocs. Recharge podcast has been interviewing faculty: how do you ‘recharge a battery’. Flex day March 11th, district wide meetings was a good idea but could not make work this semester. Will do in fall. Representatives from each of the task forces will be at each campus to report out. BCC is only college that doesn’t 5 sabbatical recipients are going to the Board next week all went to Chancellor for review. Both the applications and the reviews.</p>	<p>:</p>

2.04 OESS	Faculty and Student survey work, Accessibility changes we need to be in compliant mid-April, POOCR and DE in Peralta, AI in course policies	
3. Discussion and/or Information		

<p>3.01 SAS coordination across the colleges</p>	<p>Nate Flailing Frances Moi SAS Coord at Merritt, Elissa Jaw BCC, COA is proctoring Chem exam. AIM = accessible information Management (changed to this in 2022). We have this in our portal (a person in the wheel chair). District wide there is ONE application and ONE intake for all four campuses. Some campus specifics for services.</p> <p>Accommodation letter comes from specific campus to faculty on their respective campus. Testing accommodations also campus specific. Alt media has different media specialists. Notetakers recruitment also different. Merritt give \$100 gift card to student. Due to confidentiality, students must request that letters go to faculty. Online vs f2f will determine accommodations as well. In some classes UDL a big part, so students don't need accommodation letters. If students already met with counselors, students can send a quick email/call to counselors to send letters to students. Each college has a slightly different process. Accommodation letters at Laney are programmed to send at the start of each semester so if a student drops, a faculty may still get a letter. Some funding comes from meeting accessibility needs as well. When students have completed an intake (doesn't matter which campus), they can get accommodations at any campus. However, they do need to 'meet with' a counselor at every campus they are taking classes at. 'Meet with' means an email, phone call, or meeting. Law requires 'meaningful' contact with counselor at each campus. If student offers an accommodation letter from a different date or location and ASKS for accommodations, the faculty are legally obligated to comply to the best of their ability. Faculty are encouraged to send students to SAS for updates to information, but we cannot MAKE students go. Offered: extended tutoring time, test time extension, note takers, etc.</p> <p>Questions: Access to canvas, what does this entail? Alt media specialists will need access to Canvas class as a 'tutor' so that the specialist can print or make the content accessible.</p> <p>Question: 3 campuses (Connexed) can make appointments online; Merritt students need to email or call.</p> <p>Counselors recommend that students meet with them as soon as they have registered for classes.</p> <p>SAS statement in the syllabus is important so that student request accommodations early because things can take time to set up.</p> <p>Accommodations are not retroactive, so if a letter comes in mid-semester, students can't request to go back.</p> <p>If a student provides an IEP, those are a different set of laws, so the student needs to go to SAS for accommodations and not 'modifications'.</p> <p>AB 2821 – effective Jan 1, 2026 – once a year our district is supposed to provide mandated training on disability laws.</p>	
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<p>3.02 Policy for Tech innovation process</p>	<p>Developing process for if new tech is piloted, how do we go from innovation to expansion. Is this a thing that Librarians deal with? Question: would this be an AP? Is it just clarifying policies. Is there an LTI process, it is in the minutes and agendas. This could also be formalized so that software/tech/purchases can have clear guide. Comment: for LTI's needed rational of why using and reports on usage. Send survey about what faculty want/use, then get a report on how actually use. Desire for different LTI's have popped up in professional development committees for funds. If involves \$, needs to be extremely transparent and publicly accessible. Any decision goes to PBC anyway. Development needs an SOP but does it need to be AP? Can be added to district tech for April.</p>	
<p>3.03 Faculty prioritization list approved at PBC</p>	<p>We are getting 12 faculty positions in the district. With more next year. Presented to PBC, chancellor has approved recommendations, chancellor would like these positions to move into HR and have hired and starting in august. Senate presidents need to start hiring committees, and scheduling of meetings. This will probably expand into summer. For some of these positions there may be specific needs of desirable qualifications to meet the needs of departments. AP 7121 – faculty hiring administrative procedure. Anthro – coa, gen coun – bcc, psyc - laney</p>	
<p>3.04 Scheduling panel question development</p>	<p>Removed from agenda – panel is only going to happen at one college</p>	
<p>3.05 Peralta Transformation plan</p>	<p>Senate transitions need to go through process and approved by May 2027, so a new senate could start by fall 2027. Set up constitutional convention of last week Aug in Fall 2027. Need to not overlap with shared governance summit. Save a date before summer. BOT has not voted on this yet, so may not need a 'save the date'. Review of AP & BP, so have a list of which ones mention the structures of the 4 colleges that will need to be updated with transformation. Admin restructure AP&BP, EVP = exec vice presidents instead of VPI, VPSS, etc. There is also a list that mentions those administrators. This is a first draft because we don't know what the administrative structure will be yet. Part of unification taskforce but also for accreditation of colleges. Incoming: list of high-level transformation, unified administrative, unified faculty structure, etc. These list are attached to agenda. Shared with reunification and will go to the administrative cabinet. Senate presidents at shared gov summit Friday feb 27(check date) share out of each committee. The areas of taskforces posed a question to the group to come up with ideas of recommendation the task forces need to review. YTBD where slides from shared gov. meeting will be shared.</p>	

4. Action Items		
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<p>4.01 Merritt Senate Anti-Unification Res.</p>	<p>Public comments: Lowell Bennett: in favor of resolution the financial reasons presented so far has not provided the big picture. Details have been only about first two years and doesn't include the transition cost which has been sighted at \$10-\$10.5million.</p> <p>Dan Lawson: Academic senate voted in Dec to approve this resolution. Academic never been presented with financial information about the merger. Started as neutral and for. Question: what is the financial justification for merger? There is some benefit in the first year because we get the funding for both colleges. But that may be the only financial benefit of the whole plan. Then break even after that. Merritt invited Dept. Chancellor to come and make a presentation. Dept. Chancellor has refused to present at Merritt Senate. He has presented to Laney and the other colleges. Resolution is opposing merger until it is shown that financial benefit to Merritt and the district. If do not, support resolution, at least send a district rep to Merritt senate, to present financial information of benefit.</p> <p>Matt F: opposed to resolution because of inconsistencies of communication and unclear what an independent evaluator of financial. BCC faculty senate is going to discuss supporting the 'prune to grow' data driven process. We do support colleagues at all colleges to ask questions and to get presentations made at meetings.</p> <p>Follow up: DAS vote to encourage somebody to make a presentation to Merritt academic senate, so need to deal with this resolution first.</p> <p>Leslie: jan 28th there was a presentation at Merritt college counsel(not senate) on financial, in fall 25 there was an information discussion, there was information distributed but not specific presentation.</p> <p>Presentation to unification task force in dec, dec 19th a presentation at planning and budget committee</p> <p>Eleni: Laney not support resolution. We've worked on own process on this topic. Encourage all members to ask college president and academic senate to get support and questions answered.</p> <p>Dan Lawson: Information has been provided in other venue, and has been viewed by Senator. It is not appropriate that need to go to other meetings to collect the information and ask the questions. In general, administrators come to Merritt senate meetings. Important that VC Nelson attend to the Merritt Senate meeting when requested. This limits senators the ability to vote and discuss the information.</p> <p>Matt F: This resolution doesn't have any action items sending VC Nelson specifically to Merritt College. This resolution is about opposing the merger of Merritt</p>	<p>Approval moved by, Kimm B seconded by Matt F.</p> <p># yes: 1 #no: 12 # abstain: 0</p> <p>Motion: does not pass</p>
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	<p>College not about getting VC Nelson to visit the college.</p> <p>Leslie: Resolutions need to be very clear and precise when making requests. 1st resolution is for financial information provided. 2nd part is that the Merritt senate did present to the DAS.</p> <p>Post-Vote comments:</p> <p>It is important that Merritt Senate take this back and assess the resolution. Create a resolution about requesting a presentation by VC Nelson. Also, important that the different voices can be heard at meetings. Can have anonymous surveys for example like at Laney to get all the questions without fear of being 'against' the grain.</p>	
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Roll Call Voting:

Agenda item: 4.01 Merritt Senate Anti-Unification Res.

N	Leslie Blackie, DAS President	Y	Thomas Renbarger, Merritt Senate President , DAS Vice-President	N	Fatima Shah, DAS Treasurer, BCC Senate Vice - President
N	Jennifer Fowler, COA Senate President	N	Matthew Freeman, BCC Senate President	N	Laurie Allen-Requa , DAS Secretary, District DE Coordinator, Laney Biology Faculty, & Curriculum co-chair
N	Monica Ambala, Merritt Senate President		BCC DAS Representative (unfilled)	N	Eleni Gastis, Laney Senate President, Laney DAS Representative
N	Carla Pegues, COA Senate Vice-President	N	Bill Trego (Heather Sisneros Designee), Laney Senate Vice-President	N	Kimm Blackwell, Laney DAS Representative
N	Adoria Williams, Merritt DAS Representative	N	Didem Ekici, CoA DAS Representative		

Items for next agenda		
Announcements	Tenure reception 4-6pm next Tuesday at District Atrium. COA BOT study session in April 28th Two official BOT in march.	
4. CLOSING		
6.01 Next meeting	Next meeting March 17, 2026.	
6.02 Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 4:27PM.	

Abbreviations:

- v. DAS – District Academic Senate
- v. PCCD – Peralta Community College District
- v. BOT – Board of Trustees
- v. DAC – District Administrative Center
- v. AP – Administrative Procedure
- v. BP – Board Policy
- v. CIPD – Council on Instruction, Planning, and Development

- v. BCC, CoA/COA, LC, MC – Abbreviations for Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College, and Merritt College.
- v. (College abbreviation)AS – That college's Academic Senate.
- v. (College abbreviation)CC – That college's Curriculum Committee.
- v. CCN – Common Course Numbering
- v. CE – Career Education
- v. DE – Distance Education
- v. MQ – Minimum Qualifications
- v. FSA – Faculty Service Area
- v. FTEF – Full-time Equivalent Faculty
- v. FTES – Full-time Equivalent Students
- v. SCFF – Student-Centered Funding Formula
- v. LTI – Learning Tools Interoperability

Title 5 §53200 DEFINITIONS [Source: <http://www.asccc.org/communities/local-senates/handbook/part1>. Retrieved 10/28/11.]

Academic Senate means an organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters.

Academic and Professional matters means the following policy development matters:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites.
2. Degree and certificate requirements.
3. Grading policies.
4. Educational program development.
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.
6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles.
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes.
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities.
9. Processes for program review.
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon.

Consult collegially means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following:

1. **Rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate**, OR
2. The governing board, or its designees, and the academic senate shall reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations.

§ (SECTION) 53203 POWERS

- A) The governing board shall adopt policies for the appropriate delegation of authority and responsibility to its college academic senate.
- B) In adopting the policies described in section (a), the governing board or designees, shall consult collegially with the academic senate.
- C) While consulting collegially, the academic senate shall retain the right to meet with or appear before the governing board with respect to its views and recommendations. In addition, after consultation with the administration, the academic senate may present its recommendations to the governing board.

D) The governing board shall adopt procedures for responding to recommendations of the academic senate that incorporate the following:

1. When the board elects to rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate, the recommendation of the senate will normally be accepted, and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted.