

Senate

NOCE Academic Senate Minutes May 14, 2026

The special meeting of the NOCE Academic Senate was held on Thursday, May 14th, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., in room 402A (Anaheim Campus), staff lounge (Wilshire), and room 118 (Cypress Center), and as a videoconferencing meeting for approved attendees who submitted an emergency cause or just cause form. The President being the chair and the Secretary being present.

Call to Order: Senate President Michelle Patrick-Norng called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Present Members: Cynthia Azarcon, Liliana Balasi, Jennifer Carey, Carlos Diaz, Luz Fernandez-Marquez, Sara Franko, Yvette Krebs, Tina McClurkin, Khanh Ninh, Jennifer Oo, Michelle Patrick-Norng, Megan Reeves, Bryan Reyna, Souzan Sahakian, Afraim Sedrak, Julie Shields, Alli Stanojkovic, Ivan Stanojkovic and Matt Van Gelder.

Remote Voting Members: Erin Sherard, Casey Sousa, and Courtney Williams.

Guests: Kim Tang, Valentina Purtell

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda, motion by S. Franko (seconded L. Balasi) approved by unanimous consent.
- II. **Announcement and Public Comments** (limited to 3 minutes per person, 15 minutes total)
 - a. **Valentina Purtell**
 - Shared that she will present an informational item at the District Consultation Council meeting on Monday, May 18, regarding NOCE entering an exploratory phase to better understand the requirements and process for attaining community college status. She thanked the Academic Senate for its prior support and noted that Academic Senate Vice President Candace Lynch will join her for the presentation. Valentina also shared that the item will be placed on the President's Cabinet agenda on Wednesday, May 20, and invited Senate members to attend the DCC meeting if their schedules allow.

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

- a. **CTE Management Structure, Action (20 min) – Valentina Purtell**
 - Valentina Purtell and Kim Tang presented information on the previous, current, and proposed CTE management structure, focusing on the desire to replace the Program Manager role with a Director, Educational Partnerships and Programs

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position. The proposed role would provide leadership and strategic oversight, support pathway and partnership development, program innovation, and CTE growth. Recruitment would ideally begin in the summer.

Discussion focused on the benefits of adding a Director role, faculty hiring and responsibilities associated with the anticipated program growth, regional pathway alignment, and the role of faculty in pathway development. Faculty also raised questions about whether the position would set a precedent for other NOCE departments and whether the braided funding sources would be sustainable long-term in light of the current state and local budget.

Motion to support the proposed CTE management structure, A. Sedrak (second J. Shields). During the meeting, the vote was believed to be tied, with 8 in favor and 8 opposed, and the Academic Senate President, serving as the tiebreaker, voted no. Following the meeting, the vote count was reviewed and corrected to 8 in favor (Cynthia Azarcon, Liliana Balasi, Tina McClurkin, Khanh Ninh, Bryan Reyna, Souzan Sahakian, Afraim Sedrak, Julie Shields), 7 opposed (Carlos Diaz, Yvette Krebs, Jennifer Oo, Megan Reeves, Casey Sousa, Alli Stanojkovic, Matt Van Gelder), and 4 abstentions (Jennifer Carey, Luz Fernandez-Marquez, Sara Franko, Ivan Stanojkovic). Because the corrected count was not tied, the President's tiebreaking vote was not factored into the final result, and the motion carried. The corrected vote count was shared with the Senate body and Executive Leadership Team by email the evening of May 14th.

b. 2027-2028 Academic Calendar, First Read (10 min) - Michelle Patrick-Norng

- Presented the 2027-2028 Academic Calendar for a first read. She noted that the calendar will return in September for Senate consideration and possible support. Members were encouraged to review the draft calendar and send any feedback to Michelle Patrick-Norng so it can be shared with the Academic Calendar Workgroup.

c. Committee Appointments, Action (3 min) - Michelle Patrick-Norng

- The following committee appointment was presented:
 - Danielle Bloom, DE Committee, 2-year term

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- **Motion:** J. Cary moved to support the committee appointment as presented.
- **Second:** S. Franko. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Ivan Stanojkovic, Secretary