

southwestern college  
  
 education association

**SCEA Rep Council Minutes**

**Date Thursday, April 23, 2026**

Time: 11:45-1:00

Zoom: <https://swccd-edu.zoom.us/my/jettazoomroom33>

Peter Bolland	Sophia Jimenez	Diana Newberry	Jenny Sabas	Candice Taffolla-Schreiber
April Brenner	Geoff Johnson	Jamie O'Conner- Florez	Soraya Sandoval	Lisa Tiedmann
Rocio Casco	Kim Keach	Maria Olivas	Mohamed Sharif-Idiris	Liliana Tolson
Victor Chavez	Grazyna Kubis	Antonio Barquilla Panadero	Jacqueline Simon	Cem Tont
Alba Constenla Torrado	Emily Lohorn Carpenter	Jacqueline Penhos	Bruce Smith	Naomi Trapp-Davis
Russ Corpron	Eric Maag	Justin Pinnell	Liza Smith	Marie Vicario
Sylvia Garcia-Navarette	Ashley Majoros	Jessica Posey	Michael Speyrer	Jennifer Vo
Veronica Guaracha	Yasmin Mossadeghi	Nghiep Quan	Gail Stockin	Ryan Wash
	Katherine Ness Santana	John Rieder	Kevin Sweeney	Ruff Yeager

**Guests:** Bill Coe, Don Dumas, Meg Eckles-Estrela, Caree Lesh, Alejandra Lucero Canaan, Kathryn Mayer, Robert Moreno, Brian Palmiter, Kimi Puen Eclar, Tobeka Robin, Alicia Rodriguez, Marina Schroeder, Dennis Selder, Ken Yanow.

No:	Item:	Presenter:	Status:	Time:
1	Approval of Agenda	Taffolla-Schreiber	Action	1 min
Approved by consensus .				
2	Approval of Minutes (4-9-2026)	Taffolla-Schreiber	Action	1 min
Approved by consensus.				
3	Academic Senate President's Report	Lesh	Information	3 min
<p><b>Item 1:</b> The FHP reports were due last week and are now out to the committee to be scored. The committee is still awaiting news about whether or not any hiring will take place. <b>Item 2:</b> The Academic Senate Report as well as the SCEA report are still being placed at the end of the Governing Board agenda which take place after voting takes place.</p>				
4	SCEA President's Report	Taffolla-Schreiber	Information	3 min
<p><b>Item 1:</b> Both Don Dumas and Robert Moreno as incumbents for the Governing Board, are asking for an early friendly endorsement from the SCEA faculty union. An early endorsement will be brought to the SCEA Rep Council for voting.</p>				
5	Early Incumbent Endorsement Dumas	All	First Read	15 min

Has completed six years on the Governing Board. Would like to find other sources of revenue to allow the College to have more flexibility to better withstand budget shortfalls. Understand and appreciates the contributions of faculty. Finding a good replacement for SWC's Superintendent President who is retiring is a priority. Dumas asserts that he wants everyone to know that one of his approaches to leadership in this role is to carry a sense of decorum on the board. He states that he values the decisions of the SCEA and hopes he can earn the endorsement. **Question 1:** Can you please speak to some of the faculty contributions that faculty have made, and also speak to why the Academic Senate and SCEA reports are not placed at the front of the Governing board Agenda. **Response:** Appreciates the work on program discontinuance to ensure viable programs for student success. He also spoke to the excellent work on increasing enrollment growth and how it is the instructors/professors who work with and interact with students on a daily basis that are the key factor in this growth. In regard to the placement of the reports he does not feel one way or another about it. Instead, he emphasizes the importance of open lines of communication

prior to Governing Board meetings. **Question 2:** The VPBFA has stated that SWC is in a strong financial situation, and will even receive COLA this year. What is your commitment to making sure that SWC’s physical campus has the resources required to meet student needs. **Response:** Dumas suggests that grants are not an external source of revenue he is considering, rather something more akin to a charging station for electric trucks at the Otay Mesa HEC campus. There are also efforts to acquire real estate next to some of the satellite campuses to create housing, and then to lease the bottom floors to companies such as Chipotle. In regard to SWC students who are working and care givers, wrap-around resources must continue and the information about the availability of these resources must be better communicated to both faculty and students. A motion was made and approved to extend time by five minutes. **Question 3:** In your opinion, what are the two most important and ongoing obstacles that you believe faculty are facing at this time. **Response:** Adjunct faculty pay is atrocious, and this is one of the main reasons he suggests he would like to secure outside revenue sources, so that offers of full time employment can be made to help increase support. Second, healthcare benefits need to be improved, and he states that while he thinks part time faculty get the same healthcare as full time, he wants to improve these benefits. **Question 4:** While there have been open lines of communication, what seems to be lacking is collaboration and faculty being made to feel an integral part of the shared governance process. How can you help to ensure that the future SWC Presidents incorporate faculty input into decisions. **Response:** Dumas apologizes that faculty are feeling this way and asserts that he will speak with the current President about this situation, and he acknowledges that it is important that faculty feel that their opinions are not only valued and appreciated but also sought out. He asserted that he would also work on asking this question to the next Superintendent President during the hiring process.

<b>6</b>	<b>Early Incumbent Endorsement Moreno</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>First Read</b>	<b>15 min</b>
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Moreno is running for reelection because he loves SWC and what he does on the board. He states SWC has been part of his life since he was 18 years old as a student and he wants to give back to the school who helped him grow from a student to a man, from a husband to an elected official. He states that he wants to give back to the faculty and staff and students because of all it has done for him. He is working on communicating more with faculty, staff, and the Academic Senate, and is currently doing this by holding open office hours that are being held at the Higher Education Center National City (HECNC). **Question 1:** What do you believe are the two more important issues/obstacles faculty are facing at this time? **Response:** One ongoing issue faculty are facing is inauthentic bot students. While the issue is not fully resolved, it is getting better. He acknowledges that this has been causing stress and worry for our students and faculty. He would like to see improvement in this area. Another issue is morale with pay. Faculty need to be compensated better because they teach the future generations, and students can’t become who they want to be without faculty. **Question 2:** How much influence do you believe you have with the Governing Board, and how much influence do you think you have for influencing decisions on the board? **Response:** Moreno claims he does not think he has much influence, and cites that he thinks decisions have already been made, but this will not stop him from raising issues, and he asserts that he still has a duty to present his perspective that represents faculty, staff, and students. He argues that his view helps to create balance, but acknowledges that he along with Trustee Soto are often the ones who think with an open mind and ask questions. Moreno asserts that he is comfortable voting yes or no, regardless of what the majority consensus may be. SCEA President Taffolla Schreiber and Academic Senate President Lesh clarified that Moreno’s perspective on the board has been influential for causing decisions to be slowed down for better discussion and input from constituents. Part-time Rep Geoff Johnson also pointed out that trustee Moreno has been the most supportive board member for the March in March.

<b>7</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Exec and PAC</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>5 min</b>
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The Political Action Committee (PAC) will meet with SCEA Exec next week and will bring a recommendation to Rep Council for the vote. If the incumbents align with the SCEA and its goals, an endorsement can help support their election. A suggestion was made that a short questionnaire be made for the Governing Board members so that their responses can be recorded for leverage in bargaining.

<b>8</b>	<b>Bargaining Update</b>	<b>Eckles &amp; Yanow</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>15 min</b>
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**The Non Economic Articles:** Articles 15 (Part Time) and Article 4 (Workload) were brought to the table for issues such as consistency in scheduling with time and workload. Intercession was also discussed and a request was made for more transparent language about how courses are scheduled in these time periods. New language was discussed for vesting pertaining to faculty who teach in more than one discipline or take on special noninstructional assignments. **The Health and Welfare Articles:** Part-time faculty do get health benefits, however, the request is for part time faculty to also receive dental and the option of purchasing vision coverage. A request was also made for full time faculty to get an increase of health benefits to 100%.

<b>9</b>	<b>Part Time Report</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>10 min</b>
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**Item 1:** Keep an eye out for letters about a statewide push for increased office hours and increased health benefits. **Item 2:** It is part time appreciation month. A newsletter is being made, so if possible, when communication is sent out, please be sure to write in about the achievements of our adjuncts so they can be shared. **Item 3:** Geoff Johnson is running for the Director of Part Time South for the CCA so please vote to support his election.

<b>11</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>			
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**Next meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026**

