southwestern college
SCEA
education association

SCEA Rep Council Minutes
Date Thursday, September 10, 2026
Time: 11:45-1:00

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

Freddie Ball	Angelica Gonzalez	~~Yasmin Mossadeghi~~	Jenny Sabas	**Kevin Sweeney**
Peter Bolland	~~Veronica Guaracha~~	Katherine Ness Santana	Zahra Salehpoor	**Candice Taffolla-Schrieber**
April Brenner	Sophia Jimenez	~~Diana Newberry~~	Soraya Sandoval	Lisa Tiedmann
~~Rocio Casco~~	Kim Keach	Trishana Norquist	Mohamed Sharif-Idiris	Liliana Tolson
~~Allen Chu~~	Grazyna Kubis	~~Roxanne Ocampo~~	Jacqueline Simon	Cem Tont
Alba Constenla Torrado	**Emily Lohorn Carpenter**	~~Jamie O'Conner-Florez~~	Bruce Smith	Naomi Trapp-Davis
~~Russ Corpron~~	**Eric Maag**	Maria Olivas	Liza Smith	Jennifer Vo
Errysteinn Frondarina	Ashley Majoros	~~Justin Pinnell~~	~~Michael Speyrer~~	Ryan Wash
~~Sylvia Garcia-Navarette~~	Geoffrey Martin	Jessica Posey	**Gail Stockin**	Ruff Yeager

Guests: Josue Arredondo, Lisa Ballesteros, Erika Behrmann, Ariano Cano, Yessica Diaz Roman, Laura Gershuni, Alex Juden, Caree Lesh, Trishana Norquist, Brian Palmiter, Tobeka Robin, Alicia Rodriguez, Andrea Schnitz, Marina Schroeder, Brittany Zemlick.

No:	Item:	Presenter:	Status:	Time:
1	**Approval of Agenda**	**Taffolla-Schreiber**	**Action**	**1 min**
Approved by consensus with a change to item 5 from an action item to a first read.				
2	**Approval of Minutes (5-14-2026)**	**Taffolla-Schreiber**	**Action**	**1 min**
Approved by consensus.				
3	**SCEA President's Report**	**Taffolla-Schreiber**	**Information**	**3 min**
Three goals were established at the SCEA retreat: 1. Work to engage 100 faculty members in one PAC event, 2. To ask representatives to hold at least one meeting with your constituents each semester (fall and Spring) about Union information, and 3. To engage students at a higher level by working with student groups to attend their events, and for our constituents to attend their events.				
4	**Academic Senate President's Report**	**Lesh**	**Information**	**3 min**
Thanks were given to the SCEA President for helping to address the add code issue, and notice was given that participants for committee participation will be sent out soon.				
5	**SCEA Budget**	**Smith**	**~~Action~~ First Read**	**10 min**
The SCEA Treasurer presented the SCEA budget. Currently there is $76K in checking (primarily from dues) and $188K in savings for a total of $264K. It appears that a double deposit was made for the grant money received from CTA for the end of year event, and this will be investigated. A conversation is suggested to discuss the future of the SCEA funds to consider investing so the union can benefit from the possible interest being made. Representatives are asked to review the budget, share with constituents, and be prepared to vote to approve at the next Rep Council meeting.				
6	**Part Time Report**	**Lohorn Carpenter**	**Information**	**10 min**
An acknowledgement was given to previous part-time Rep Geoff Johnson for all of his work and support. **Item 1:** The first adjunct outreach event was held 9/9/2026 from 3:30-4:30pm. The event was visited by SWC Benefits specialists to explain the process of applying for health insurance as an adjunct. This session covered the basics of: Accessing your benefits & health insurance, Understanding your rights in the SCEA contract, Joining the union & opportunities to get involved. **Item 2:** September 24 is the deadline to complete forms for the SWC benefits for health insurance, etc. Part time faculty with 40% load qualify for health benefits. **Item 3:** Paid pregnancy leave will go into effect January 1, 2027 for both viable pregnancies and loss of pregnancy. Part time faculty and non-instructional faculty will have 14 weeks of paid leave available without having to exhaust				

their sick leave. For more information please reach out to the benefits experts in HR such as Shelley Carbajal <scarbajal@swccd.edu>

7	**AETA MOU**	**Taffolla-Schreiber**	**First Read**	**15 min**

Last academic year the SCEA discussed and approved the changes the District wanted to make to the AETA MOU regarding compensation. For background information, the first versions of the AETA MOU involved a $3,000 stipend or a full year of advancement on the salary schedule in terms of years of service. An audit from STRS revealed that the option for a year of advancement was not permissible. So, one year ago it was negotiated to keep the $3,000 stipend and rather than offering a year of service (which is a vertical change to the salary schedule) 15 units would be offered as hurdle credit (which is a horizontal change to the salary schedule). However, this does benefit anyone who already holds a terminal degree such as a Ph.D., or Ed.D. The work expected to complete the AETA program is 196 hours. STRS then communicated that offering two different types of compensation for the same work is not allowable. So without consultation, the District sent out an email that stated that the only compensation available for completion of AEt was the $3000 stipend. SCEA leadership filed a 'cease and desist' because the AETA compensation has been a historically negotiated item. We reached an agreement to appropriately compensate the hours of work (196) x the average lab rate which equates to $15,000. The $15,000 stipend will be paid over three years. One caveat to the MOU is that AETA mentors cannot receive a stipend as both a participant and a mentor simultaneously.

A participant brought up that leadership in Professional Development who coordinate AETA were not properly consulted during the MOU update process. One issue that has resulted from this is that the budget to compensate AETA participants comes from Professional Development and that budget has not been augmented to adequately compensate participants. As a result, the number of participants has to be reduced from 30 to 12. At this rate, AETA will not be sustainable. Another issue is that mentors will not be able to apply for three years and this is a detriment to the program because they will not be able to participate while their training is fresh.

The current AETA MOU indicates that both parties must ratify the MOU. This will be brought back to the next meeting for a vote.

8	**Organizing Update**	**Lohorn Carpenter & Sweeney**	**Information**	**10 min**

Item 1: Information was provided about an ICE interaction with City College students where one student was arrested and another was pursued on campus and took refuge in a Dean's office. A request was made for union members to be aware that this will be weighing on students and to consider if another SCEA statement should be made about support for no ICE on campus. **Item 2:** Next week on W 9/16 SCEA will hold the "Day of Action" event at the ChulaVista campus outside of the Student Union. Ice Cream will be passed out, and information disseminated about prop 3, and SCEA endorsed Governing Board Candidate Robert Moreno. **Item 3:** Follow @scea_pac & @swc_scea on Instagram!

9	**PAC: Area 4 Challenger Selena Ellis-Vizcarra**	**Maag & Taffolla-Schrieber**	**First Read**	**20 min**

Item 1: PAC Update: SCEA set a goal for 100 members to participate in Political Action Committee (PAC) events. Two things being worked on is support for Prop 3 (11% of this fund goes to community colleges equating to 27 million dollars a year) and SCEA endorsed candidate Robert Moreno. This year the Political Action Committee is asking Reps to participate and spread the word to your constituents about the four pillars of engagement:

1. Social Media: Interact with scea_pac instagram posts by liking, commenting, and sharing. Interact with SCEA endorsed candidates' Social Media posts
2. Postcard: Join an SCEA Postcard Party to help create hand written mailers. Two Postcard events will be held from 5:00-7:00 pm at Balboa South (209 3rd Ave, Chula Vista, CA 91910. RSVP in advance and your first drink is on us!
3. Canvassing: Participate in SCEA PAC Canvassing events, and help spread positive information about endorsed candidates and Prop 3. Canvassing will take place the first four Saturdays of October (10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24) from 10am-2pm. Participants will meet at Kimball Park (E 12th Street, National City, Ca 91950, Avenue A Parking Lot. Please RSVP.
4. Community Engagement: Represent SCEA PAC endorsements at local community events within candidate areas by wearing an SCEA PAC T-shirt and a candidate button for Robert Moreno, and display yard signs. The first event is the Chula Vista Arts Festival, Saturday September 26 from 12pm-6pm, Chula Vista City Hall (276 4th Street). Click here for a full listing of other available community events sponsored by National City. RSVP for the PAC events and to receive a shirt.

SCEA will be providing many incentives for participation in the canvassing events such as T-shirts and a chance to win gift cards. If any of the posts for the 2026 campaign get 100 likes or more, anybody on the off-campus email chain to be added to Instagram will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. $100 gift card will also be raffled off to the rep who reaches the most houses during canvassing. Finally, the Rep who gets the most people from their departments to attend will be entered to win a $100 giftcard. Please be sure to RSVP.

A candidate for seat four is asking for endorsement name Selena Ellis-Vizcarra.

Item 2: Discussion with Area 4 Challenger Selena Ellis-Vizcarra
Question1: As much as you can give us, can you walk us through what infrastructure you have in place or plan to have in place for your campaign?
Answer: I am in Area 4, where I have lived for 22 years. I am known as a school site council participant and PTA member. My plan is to work through the elementary school events where there are over 800 families.
Question 2: What pressing issues do you believe need to be addressed by The Governing Board at SWC? In other words, what are your priorities as a candidate?
Answer: Financial transparency, to be on budget on time, to follow the rules. Going through this process, what gets lost are the students and what faculty do for the students. Sweetwater Union High School does a good job of preparing students, and we need to concentrate on getting faculty, staff, and the community on the outside to have a good connection so we have a good understanding of what the workforce, small business, and community needs. From the faculty side, the Governing Board needs to better understand what the faculty need in terms of support. I spoke to the Board about the bot issue and understand the implications they had on enrollments and the theft of financial aid.
Question 3: What do you think your biggest weakness will be stepping into this new role if you are elected to the seat?
Answer: My biggest weakness is my naivety regarding the politics and how the relationships in place work together. I need to understand the regulations and rules. I see that some people are voting in a group without understanding the issues, and my weakness is not having a lot of background on things, but how I take care of that is talking to people to understand what the faculty and staff need. I am a quick learner, and my job is to be out in community engagement and hear what people need to help with my decisions on things.
Question 4: What do you value most about teachers' unions and what troubles you most about teachers' unions?
Answer: Selena shared a personal story about a colleague who needed union support at her school and how the union saved her. She stated the union is safety, benefits, and protecting the integrity of being a teacher. What troubles me about unions is if they ever came to a situation where they weren't backing their constituents and became too politically motivated or connected and not paying attention to the constituents they are supposed to be protecting.
Question 5: What most excites or intimidates you about the potential to serve on the SWC Governing Board?
Answer: What excites me is evolving in this process. I know Robert's Rules, I am on two or three boards, I run a board at work, and I can see that there is probably a better way to do things. Community members have mentioned they don't know Southwestern College. The job of the board is to elevate Southwestern College and make it more noticed in the news for all of the amazing work being done at the institution. A trustee should be a guardian, and the oversight for the administration, president and budget, and a cheerleader.

Please take this information back to your constituency groups and be prepared for a vote on endorsement for Ellis-Vizcarra at the next meeting.

10	**Adjournment**			
Next meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2026				