

Riverside City College Student Equity Committee



Meeting Minutes

April 3rd, 2026

Attendees

Monique Greene • Maurice Bowers • Tim Gutierrez • Natalie Vazquez • Jennifer Bielman • Abigail Uribe • Wendy McKeen • John Adkins • Hadia Bendelhoum • Ryan Joseph • Marjorie McPike • Corey Timberlake • Kristi Woods • Rosalina Hernandez • Ben Vargas • Tara Osekowsky • Sharon Walker • Courtney Carter • Blanca Garcia-Barron • Sal Soto • Kris Acevedo • Tommie Denson • Briana Boykin • Justin Borden • Terry Welker • Lorena Newson

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Lorena Newson.

Activity (The Stories We Carry)

- Committee participated in session led by Lorena, which required members to bring a cultural artifact (item, image, or symbol) representing each person in who they are and/or what they value. Members shared amongst their tables and at the conclusion of the activity, three members shared with the entire committee.
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Meeting Minutes Approval

- Review of minutes from November 21st and March 6th.
 - M/S – Sal Soto, John Adkins
 - Discussion was held concerning elements of the recorded minutes and clarification was offered by Lorena that we are in the process of developing a template to utilize for future meetings, addressing all concerns or questions presented.
 - Ben Vargas and Marjorie McPike abstained, all other members approving the minutes.
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SEC Updates

- Lorena shared that under the SEC, we have workgroups helping to complete the work associated with our Student Equity Plan, as well as subcommittees such as the HSI Equipo team and development for our newly acquired BSI designation (BSI taskforce); she is seeking interested volunteers to serve within these spaces.
- Luis Molina and Kenneth Samson were absent as they took 10 students to the 8th Annual Men of Color Leadership Conference, held at Mt. San Antonio College. The theme of the event was Hope, Healing, and Hustle: Stepping into Greatness in Community. The group will provide a debrief of their experience at our next meeting.
- The Pathways to Equity Conference will take place April 27th – April 29th in San Diego and a team will be attending and reporting out their experience at our next meeting.
- Black Student Success Week will take place April 20th – April 24th; we will host a watch party for daily webinars streamed from 12 Noon to 1 p.m. in the Umoja Homeroom.
- Final session of the SEC for academic year 2025/2026 will take place June 5th as a Celebration of Joy in collaboration with EMLI.
- African Diaspora Education Summit 2026 (September 24th – October 3rd) a team will be going to Ghana representing our college, incorporating African-centered educational andragogy with the hopes of improving performance indicators, providing holistic-transformative experience for African-American/Black descendants.

EMLI Presentation

- Dr. Justin Borden, Cohort #2, presented on his non-profit work, Roar Call for Regalia, offering insight on the importance of supporting students desiring to experience Commencement despite their economic challenges. Dr. Borden, with assistance from Meriel Anderson-McDade from the Career Closet, accepts donations of lightly worn undergraduate regalia and assists students with loaned regalia so they can be a part of the celebration held at RCC, culminating their academic success.

Metric Update

- The four workgroups convened to discuss their progress within their spaces and plan next steps to accomplish the identified short-term goals. Workgroups include Completion/Transfer-level, Persistence, Completion (Associate), and Transfer. Notes were collected to review the work to be implemented over the next 90 days.

Generative AI Presentation

- Classified Chair Jennifer Bielman presented on various AI elements for use within our various working capacities.
- Faculty Chair Monique Greene motioned to extend the meeting by five minutes; John Adkins seconded. Committee consensus approved.

ASRCC

- No student representative was present.

Faculty Spotlight

- Faculty Chair Monique Greene motioned for an additional five minutes to discuss Faculty Spotlight; John Adkins seconded with committee consensus.
- Monique shared there was a three-way tie for April nominees: Bryan Keene, Wendy Silva, and Tim Gutierrez.
- A vote was conducted for the nominees with following results:
 - Bryan Keene – 1
 - Wendy Silva – 8
 - Tim Gutierrez - 10
- **Outcome:** Tim Gutierrez was selected for April’s Faculty Spotlight.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. by Lorena Newson.

Next Meeting: May 15th, 2026 – Bradshaw Building Hall of Fame @ 10 a.m.