

Approved Minutes, Academic Senate, March 9, 2026

1. Call to Order, Villanueva

Villanueva called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call, La Piana

Present in Toyon: Chan, Chang, Davison, Gomes, Gray, Herman, Jama, Kaupp, La Piana, Mar, Lenkeit Meezan, Mudge, Nguyen, Peters, Rideaux, Santillan-Nieto, Tripp Caldwell, Villanueva

Zoom: Vennarucci, Vega, Gilstrap, O'Loughlin

Absent: Gleixner, Scolari, Middleton, Thompson

Proxy: Kaupp for O'Loughlin and Ripp

Guests: Whitley-Putz

3. Agenda Adoption

Agenda approved by consensus.

4. Public Comment

Davison announced that the three Academic Senate Officer positions for next year are uncontested. At the first meeting during Spring quarter, Senate will vote by acclamation for Villanueva for president, La Piana for Secretary/Treasurer, and Vega for Part-Time Representative. Villanueva called for faculty volunteers to serve on a district-wide committee concerning the revision of BP and procedures for academic freedom and freedom of speech. Davison explained that De Anza circulated a draft of a proposal with the Academic and Professional Matters committee, which resulted in the formation of the districtwide subcommittee.

5. Academic Senate Scholarships, Rideaux and Santillan-Nieto

Rideaux suggested revising descriptions for the Academic Senate scholarships to include language that aligns with the district's status as a sanctuary district.

Santillan-Nieto highlighted the difference in GPA requirements for the scholarships; the required GPA for the transfer scholarship is 3.5 while the required GPA for the other scholarships is 2.5.

Davison provided historical context for the likely reason behind higher GPA requirement.

Rideaux motioned to adjust the language of the senate scholarships to reflect FHDA's status as a sanctuary district and lowering the GPA requirement for the transfer scholarship to align with the GPA requirements of the other senate-funded scholarships.

Davison seconded; motion unanimously approved.

6. Chief of Police Update, Acosta

Faculty expressed concern about the lack of communication regarding police-involved incidents that occurred in the library questioned the practice of posting on social media about these incidents that have not otherwise been communicated to the campus. Questions were asked about whether there is a policy about what gets communicated to the campus and, if so, how that communication occurs.

Acosta apologized for the lack of transparency and referenced the federal Clery Act, but noted that there is not a district-wide policy regarding the communication of police activities.

A faculty member highlighted the lack of health services on campus and the need to call police for health-related emergencies. The presence of police makes students uncomfortable and creates optics that make it appear that students are in trouble with the law.

Acosta agrees that the lack of health services is an issue and that health services by phone is not sufficient. He explained that the police are called to provide assistance to the person in need while waiting for the paramedics to arrive, to support the paramedics once they are on the scene, and to manage crowds. Police are trained as first responders and can help with medical emergencies.

Discussion of familiarity with proper procedures if a student is having a medical emergency. Acosta will try and facilitate training for faculty and campus personnel and offer of meeting with the new Acting Chief.

Faculty expressed desire for timely communication of incidents and security-related issues. Acosta referred faculty to the blotter on the police website with the caveat that reporting is about one month behind.

Meeting Adjourned.