

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 7th, 2026

Time: 8:30am

Location: Google Meet

Attendees

Ana Townsend, Andrew Min, Anthony Snyder, Aubrey Conover, Audrey Keefe, Aurie Clifford, Benito Sanchez, Carolyn Redman, Chris Apodaca, Christina Harbour, Christopher Rodriguez, Cody Watts, David Bea, David Parker, Donovan Wagner, Edgar Soto, Ellie Hutchinson, Eric Strong, Francine Tupiken Ruelas, Himelda Davidson, Irene Robles-Lopez, Isaac Abbs, Jade Peña, Janelle Volkenant, Jason Brown, Jennie Peterson, Jill Stokes, Jonas Camp, Juanita Bonillas, Katie Joyce, Keri Hill, Kristy Snowden, Lizette Arellano, Lucy Simpson, Magdalena Castillo, Maricruz Ruiz, Melissa Stoddart, Miguel Mora, Natalie McConnell, Nick Riley, Robert Lane, Sarah Jayne, Seana Chaves, Susan Ho, Suzanne Desjardin, Tina Neil, Vanessa Romero

Meeting Overview

- The Council received updates from college leadership, including campus transitions, shared governance efforts, and upcoming budget considerations.
 - Human Resources, Facilities, and Finance provided operational and fiscal updates, including staffing changes, budget season preparations, and benefits outlook.
 - The Council approved a motion to reschedule the July Staff Council meeting from July 3 to July 10.
 - Updates were shared regarding benefits planning, accessibility compliance requirements, and upcoming policy review timelines.
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Call to Order

The January Staff Council meeting was called to order by the Chair, Cody Watts, following a brief welcome and opening remarks.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Vanessa Romero. A quorum was established.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of the December meeting minutes was deferred due to technical issues. The December minutes will be distributed together with the January minutes for review and approval.

Reports

Chancellor's Office

No representative from the Chancellor's Office was present.

President's Office

Dr. Aubrey Conover provided updates on recent staff and program relocations involving the El Rio and El Pueblo Learning Centers. Appreciation was expressed for IT and Facilities teams for supporting these transitions. Dr. Conover also shared updates on shared governance volunteer participation and encouraged staff involvement at campus welcome tables to support students at the start of the term.

Provost's Office

No representative was present. Written updates were made available with the meeting agenda.

Information Technology

No formal report was presented. The representative offered to respond to questions if needed.

Human Resources

Tina Neil reported that Human Resources is entering budget season and is preparing salary budget estimates. Updates were provided on progress with the NeoED platform, including external job postings and training opportunities for hiring managers on the new hiring request process.

Facilities

Benito Sanchez announced the appointment of Anthony Snyder as Campus Operations Director for Facilities. An update was also provided regarding a recent fire incident at the

downtown campus, with appreciation expressed for the collaborative response that enabled the facility to reopen in time for a scheduled national event.

Finance

Dr. David Bea reviewed the publication of the annual audited financial reports and noted upcoming Board of Governors discussions. He outlined the start of budget planning meetings with employee groups and emphasized that the upcoming fiscal year is expected to be challenging. In response to questions, Dr. Bea shared that employee benefit premiums and deductibles are expected to increase moderately, with efforts ongoing to minimize employee impact.

Employee Organizations

ACES

Jason Brown reported that ACES leadership had not met since the previous Staff Council meeting and is currently developing budget priorities.

Faculty Senate

No report was provided.

Committees and Working Groups

Benefits Working Group

Janelle Volkenant reported that the December meeting was canceled due to the holidays. The group continues to focus on transitioning to a new Employee Assistance Program provider and advising on benefit cost management.

All College Council

The Council discussed the need to revise All College Council bylaws to better define responsibilities and improve effectiveness. A plan is being developed for presentation to the Board by May.

New Business

Staff Council Bylaws

The Vice Chair position remains vacant. Interested representatives were encouraged to contact the Chair.

Professional Development Event

Members were reminded to complete the professional development survey distributed in December to help inform planning for a summer staff event.

July Meeting Date

The Chair proposed rescheduling the July Staff Council meeting from July 3 to July 10 due to the July 4 holiday observance.

Motion: To move the July Staff Council meeting from July 3 to July 10.

Second: Vanessa Romero.

Vote: Approved by quorum.

Open Forum

David Parker provided clarification regarding the downtown campus incident, noting Facilities staff contributions. He also shared updates on upcoming Administrative Procedure and Board Policy review timelines and announced interim updates to accessibility requirements for electronic materials to ensure compliance with updated standards.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular Staff Council meeting is scheduled for February 6.