



**Minutes**  
**RCCDFA/CCA/CTA/NEA**  
**October 31, 2023**  
**Riverside City College Library Room 404 & Zoom**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Rhonda Taube (Riverside Community College District Faculty Association President)	
Emily Philippsen (Membership Chair)	
Lee Nelson (Treasurer)	
Sonya Nyrop (Secretary)	
Jeff Rhyne (Moreno Valley College VP)	
Jennifer Floerke (MVC FT Rep)	
Rhejean King-Johnson (MVC PT Rep)	
Virgil Lee (Norco College VP)	
Araceli Covarrubias (NC FT Rep)	
Diana Campuzano (NC PT Rep)	
	Mike Chavez (Riverside City College VP)
Garth Schultz (RCC FT Rep)	
David Martinez (RCC PT Rep)	
Marianne Reynolds (CTA [California Teachers Association] Staff Member)	
Faculty Guests	

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.
2. Motion to approve [minutes from October 24](#) (Campuzano/Schultz). Motion approved unanimously.

### 3. President's Report: Rhonda Taube

- a. The Inland Empire Labor Council gala went well, and the FA should consider attending this event annually as it allows for networking and team building. Executive Board members were able to connect with other union members, city council members, and candidates. The IELC split its endorsements between candidates Sabrina Cervantes and Angelo Farooq, who are both labor friendly. However, the CTA has endorsed Sabrina Cervantes, so the FA cannot endorse or campaign for the other candidate. Sabrina has done a lot for the District, especially veterans.
- b. The Benefits Committee is meeting on Friday, so there should be an update next week. Dariush and Rhonda are the benefits representatives.
- c. Rhonda met with Tammy Few and Susan Mills to discuss faculty participation in the Peer Online Course Review (POCR) as well as the online training camp, particularly on the issue of how associate faculty will be compensated for the camp. This training camp was created through the Distance Education Committees at the three colleges and has gone through each college's Academic Senate and the District Academic Senate. The camp is a 16-hour training for Canvas certification and will be required for all online instructors. The District is proposing that the training be completed by June 30, 2024. POCR is voluntary and not a mandatory part of the camp nor is it part of the IOI process.
  - i. Some faculty members have already received emails that they need to complete this certification, but it is unclear why all faculty who need this training were not notified.
  - ii. Full-time faculty do not get paid but receive FLEX credit, with four hours of the training camp being eligible for equity FLEX, but whether faculty will be able to use all sixteen hours towards FLEX is unclear.
  - iii. Ed Services believes that associate faculty who teach online should be paid for their at least a portion of their participation in the training. However, the process is unclear as this is under two different divisions (Ed Services and HR). Further discussion is needed.
  - iv. Rhonda looked through previous MOUs to see if any could apply to this situation. We have precedent from a 2017 MOU that compensated associate faculty to switch from Blackboard to Canvas, but that only applied to associate faculty who had previously taught in the Blackboard platform. An MOU draft from March 2020 stated that the District agrees to increase associate faculty duties/professional development to six hours, but this MOU

was never signed and appears to have slipped through the cracks during the pandemic.

- v. RCCD is not the only district requiring online certification and is accepting training from some other colleges/districts with similar programs.
  - vi. The faculty have numerous questions and concerns. For example, it is still unclear how chairs will be notified about which faculty members are certified to teach online. Some faculty wonder about their online courses being evaluated by IOI committee members without similar training. Furthermore, there seems to be a lack of understanding about online education as some administrators who have never taught virtually view Canvas simply as a platform rather than content/curriculum or pedagogy. Finally, faculty expressed concern that so much of the responsibility for meeting state/federal mandates falls on the shoulders of faculty.
  - vii. At the previous District Academic Senate meeting, the District DE dean was asked to present on the online teaching certification but felt uncomfortable being on the agenda and had the MVC DEC chair present instead.
  - viii. Having a dean of distance ed who is located at the District Office is another example of how the District is centralizing power; this is the only dean who is located there. A more meaningful relationship with faculty would be possible if the dean were located at the colleges.
  - ix. More information about the online teaching certification can be found on the [District website](#)
- d. Rhonda is on the hiring committee for the director of employee relations position. The District has also flown the civil rights investigator position.
  - e. The time for meetings with the Chancellor has been moved back to 4pm so that Mike can attend.
  - f. The Chancellor would like to get to 75% full-time faculty/25% part-time faculty. The District is at 54% full-time faculty this fall from 52% last semester, so the District is moving in the right direction but still has work to do.
  - g. Rhonda has received numerous questions about STRS and noncredit courses, so she reached out to Marianne Reynolds and Thea Quigley. The District does not appear to make a distinction for full-time faculty between credit and noncredit courses; the distinction is primarily made with associate faculty but only because they teach a partial load. Rhonda is waiting for further information.

- h. Tammy Few and Rhonda will be interviewing potential firms for the position of ombuds contractor.
  - i. Faculty are encouraged to read and provide feedback on the District's 25-year educational plan. The plan is being presented this Friday, November 2 at 2pm. It is interesting and frustrating that this 80-page plan was written by the district administration and a consultant and involved zero stakeholder group input. It is another example of top-down thinking from the District Office. Many faculty have reached out expressing their frustration and concern saying that the plan should incorporate the ideas of stakeholders who are likely to be here in the next 20 to 25 years.
4. Moreno Valley College
- a. Vice President's Report: Jeff Rhyne
    - i. No report
  - b. Full-Time Representative's Report: Jennifer Floerke
    - i. The IELC gala was an enjoyable event.
  - c. Part-Time Representative's Report: Rhejean King-Johnson
    - i. No report
5. Norco College
- a. Vice President's Report: Virgil Lee
    - i. No report
  - b. Full-Time Representative's Report: Araceli Covarrubias
    - i. No report
  - c. Part-Time Representative's Report: Diana Campuzano
    - i. No report
6. Riverside City College
- a. Vice President's Report: Mike Chavez
    - i. No report
  - b. Full-Time Representative's Report: Garth Schultz
    - i. No report
  - c. Part-Time Representative's Report: David Martinez
    - i. An associate faculty member was promised two classes for winter by the chair; however, they are not on the schedule because of an error made by the IDS. This is a difficult situation for the faculty member, but those sections have already been assigned and accepted by another faculty member. The chair is trying to find a class for this faculty member, and, as enrollment is steadily

increasing, there is a good chance that a section or sections can be added.

7. Membership Chair: Emily Philippsen

- a. No report

8. Treasurer: Lee Nelson

- a. Lee was not able to access the accounts online, so he reached out to the bank and discovered that the FA account had been hacked and \$40,000 was taken. The funds have been put back into the account as this was the bank's error for accepting unsigned/phony checks. A police report has been filed, and new accounts and checks have been created. Some checks are outstanding and will need to be rewritten.

9. CTA State Council Delegate: Jennifer Escobar

- a. Jennifer attended the CTA State Council meeting on October 20-22. A number of issues ranging from developing a policy regarding Artificial Intelligence to understanding the process of turning policy into education code (e.g., academic freedom) to clarifying issues regarding dual enrollment were raised in committees.
- b. [Senate Bill 765](#) will take effect next July and will remove the six-month waiting period after retirement, so retired educators could teach immediately post-retirement.
- c. Numerous grants, awards, and scholarships are available; the [CTA website](#) provides a complete list. Examples include the following:
  - i. [LGBTQ Safety in Schools Grant in honor of Guy DeRosa](#) (deadline May 31, 2024)
  - ii. [César Chávez and Dolores Huerta Awards Program](#) (deadline March 1, 2024)
  - iii. [Human Rights Awards](#) (deadline November 30, 2023)
  - iv. Local Chapter Grants including the "Local President Release Time for Organizing Program" and "Member Engagement Grant"
- d. CTA has an upcoming conference ([CTA's Four Ethnic Caucuses Present: The Solidarity Conference](#)) on December 8-10, 2023, in LA.
- e. CTA members can fill out the [budget survey](#).

10. Open Hearing: None

11. Closed Session: Four items were discussed.

12. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

**The next meeting will be at Norco College in CSS 217.**