

**GROSSMONT COLLEGE**  
**Classified Senate**  
**Friday, April 15, 2022**  
**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**  
**Hybrid – Griffin Gate and Zoom**  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91415678244>

**Meeting Summary**

**VISION:** Provide classified staff a voice to participate in the initiation, development, and evaluation of all District policies and procedures that support educational programs and services for students at Grossmont College.

**MISSION:** Grossmont Classified Senate promotes the valuable contributions made by classified professionals in creating an environment that will lead to the greatest level of student success. The Senate encourages the exchange of ideas, understanding and, cooperation between classified staff, faculty, administrators and students, in the best interest of enriching the educational environment.

**2021-2023 Classified Senate**

<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</b>	<b>SENATORS</b>	<b>SENATORS</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michele Martens-President	<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Hellier	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel Bakker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rochelle Weiser-Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryan Lam	<input type="checkbox"/> Nadia Almaguer
<input type="checkbox"/> Bernadette Black-Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Dana Mints	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Murray
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant -Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danielle Feliciano	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Cline
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Emerson-Past President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graylin Clavell	<input type="checkbox"/> Shardai Zaragoza
Guests: Alexis Popko Dawn Heuft Debora Curry Janice Fischer Jeanine Spraul Juliana B	Guests: Kelly Jackson Maryam Rastvan Michelle Miles Ondrea Mesquita Stefanie Beason Yousuf Allahwerdi	

**Routine Business**

1. Welcome	Michele Martens welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Public Comments	Rochelle stated that Student Affairs is working on commencement and right now, Victoria Curran is handling the process of identifying a student speaker. The college invites students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher to apply to be the commencement speaker, and Victoria is looking for volunteers to be a part of that selection committee to review applications and sit through the interviews. The interviews are scheduled next Friday and will be via Zoom and in Griffin Gate. She received 65 student applications. Maryam added that the invitation went to 800 students. Rochelle stated people can reach out to Victoria Curran if interested.
3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda	There were no additions or deletions.

4. Approval of 3/18/22 meeting minutes	The 3/18/22 meeting minutes were approved.
5. President's Report	<p>Michele reported that the college is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The celebration will be held in the Main Quad with a lot of fun activities. In honor of the college's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, we are also gathering random acts of kindness over the semester and only received a handful so far. A random act can be something simple as sending an email or doing a small kind gesture. She encouraged people to participate noting that every act counts.</p> <p>Michele also stated that we are scheduled to have "The Real" with President Whisenhunt which will be held in person in the college conference room and via Zoom. A survey will be sent out to classified professionals to gather questions they might have of the president. Questions can range anywhere from what her plans are to improve enrollment to what she likes to do for fun. The goal is to get to know the president more as a person.</p>

**For Discussion**

<p>6. CLI Follow Up</p>	<p>Michele indicated that CLI is a yearly statewide institute for classified professionals to learn more about Senate and what Senates do statewide, what executive boards do, and how to become leaders as classified professionals. It's a great opportunity to get to know our peers statewide as well as classified professionals within our district. If you are interested in attending, Michele encouraged them to submit their application by 5:00pm today. Right now, we have the ability to send five classified professionals and there are currently seven applications. However, Michele encouraged those to still apply if interested. The selection committee will convene to select the participants.</p> <p>Cindy Emerson added that it's a great opportunity for those individuals who want to grow within the college as a senator. It provides a lot of information on understanding the structure of senate, and it provides the opportunity to meet other people across the state who are in the same positions. She noted that participants will learn about leadership within education and how a senate functions.</p> <p>Michele added that when she attended last, she learned that colleges that have strong Classified Senates are doing better holistically on their campuses. We need to build up our membership and participation as we lost four senators and six members who were participating on governance committees, so it's important to come together even stronger than ever to build Classified Senate. The new eBoard is working on building what Cindy Emerson had developed when she first became Classified Senate president, and we need to continue to build upon that foundation. Michele will send out the application again and encouraged people to sign-up.</p>
<p>7. Treasurer Vacancy</p>	<p>Michele emphasized the need to fill the Treasurer vacancy on the eBoard. The position is not just about the money; it's about being a part of the executive board and contributing in Senate. The previous treasurer also assisted with creating flyers and surveys. If interested, please contact the eBoard members.</p>
<p>8. Listening Circle Update</p>	<p>Michele stated that there was discussion about holding a Listening Circle to provide a space for people to come together to discuss any matters they are dealing with since it's been a challenging semester. We were holding April 22<sup>nd</sup> however the eBoard is stretched thin and so are the mental health professionals so we are going to reschedule. The eBoard members are working on events like the student engagement, Caste book study, 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, planning for "The Real" with president Whisenhunt, along with assisting with Classified Employees week. The week will include a lot of professional development opportunities, a keynote speaker, and prizes. The events are scheduled Monday through Thursday and will be offered at different times each day so everyone has the opportunity to attend. Friday will include in person events such as kickball, painting, and a taco truck (tentatively). You do not have to be present to win the big prizes but you do have to be registered; therefore, Michele highly encouraged everyone to register.</p>
<p>9. Hire Committees and PG Committee Openings</p>	<p>Michele stated that there are several openings for classified reps to serve on participatory governance committees. Those are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget Committee – Term runs through June 2023;</li><li>• PIEC – Terms runs through June 2023;</li><li>• Professional Development Committee – Term runs through June 2024.</li></ul> <p>She added that beginning June 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be an open seat on all</p>

	<p>governance committees since terms rotate. Everyone was encouraged to consider applying to serve on a committee. Stefanie Beason expressed interest in volunteering but was concerned about time. Rochelle informed her that she serves on the Professional Development committee as ex-officio member due to her position.</p> <p>Graylin added that he serves as a recorder for one of the governance committees and sits as a member on another and feels like the voices are dying, and not just classified. We have the same people sitting on these committees and are overworked. He emphasized the importance of having classified voice on these committees and we need people to step up. You will be adding your input on issues and circumstances on campus. There were many people who had given a lot of hours to make sure classified has a seat at the table. If we cannot get more people to participate, we are going to lose that seat. Rochelle agreed, noting it is super important to have these seats filled. Classified professionals bring a unique perspective. We work in all areas outside the classroom and see students in a myriad of areas. Classified staff are likely the first person a student encounters on campus and most likely the first person they interact with when they are in distress. Michele added that classified professionals may also be the last contact for students when transferring or graduating.</p> <p>Cindy Emerson promoted PIEC noting that Joan Ahrens and Danielle Feliciano are co-chairs. PIEC handles the institutional effectiveness of the college and they are in the hands in everything the college does. Members will learn how the college functions and encouraged people to sign up. When you sit on governance, you represent all classified professionals.</p> <p>The following search committees are in need of classified representation as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sr. Buyer (District/Purchasing) – 1 rep</li> <li>• HR Technician (District) – 1 rep</li> <li>• Financial Aid positions (Grossmont) – 1 rep</li> <li>• Custodial Supervisor (Grossmont) – 1 rep</li> </ul> <p>Michele explained the responsibilities of serving on search committees which included meeting with the committee, developing interview questions, reviewing applications, and interviewing. The call outs for these positions closes today. Michele emphasized the need to have volunteers so we don't lose the classified voices on these committees and will resend the link to sign up.</p>
<p>10. Pop Up Event Update / <a href="#">Volunteer Sign In Sheet</a></p>	<p>Rochelle shared the flyer that Shardai created for the student engagement event scheduled on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-3:00 and April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00pm in the Main Quad. This falls during midterms and finals for some students. There will be games, snacks, and drinks. The president's office also offered to donate towards 10-\$20 Amazon gift cards for prizes. The link to the sign-up sheet was embedded on the agenda and shared with the group, and all were encouraged to sign up. The times are in half hour increments and they would like to have at least two people present for each slot. Michele added that if we have enough volunteers, she would like to extend the events for another hour.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	
<p>11. Committee Report Outs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Council</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>College Council</u></b>  Ondrea Mesquita reported that most of the meeting focused on the governance</p>

- Budget
- Facilities
- Student Success and Equity

handbook and committee's responsibilities and duties. Graylin added that they went over edits for Staffing, Budget, and PIEC; reviewed strategic hires; the president spoke on the faculty approved list for hiring which included Dream Center Counselor, Visual Arts instructor, Biology instructor, Mental Health Counselor, and Theater Arts instructor. These positions are to increase the FON. College Council will be reviewing more governance committee's edits at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The technology prioritization list was also shared which included laptops for biology, 3D ultrasound system, the spring licensing request, and the ESL self-guided, self-placement software which were approved to move forward. There was also a reminder about the Caste book study. Pearl Lopez shared that five faculty will be attending the Senate plenary session in April. Michele reminded the group about the Chancellor/Classified Employee of the year award, the CLI opportunity, and classified professionals week May 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as hosting the first classified senate hybrid meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy asked why we have to increase FON if our enrollment is dropping, and why classified positions are declining. Rochelle responded that FON is a requirement from the state that we can only have a certain percentage of PT and FT faculty and when that number is out of whack, the college and district can get into trouble. She added that the percentage is noted in Title V. Graylin added that the state gave the district extra money to fund these new faculty positions.

**Budget Committee**

Graylin reported that Bill reviewed how we are doing currently with our current year's budget. He shared that academic salaries are up 4%; classified salaries are up 3%; benefits are up 4%; supplies are up 117%; rent and utilities are up 35%; and capital outlay is up 94%. We are still under budget this year. The percentage of the budget spent to date is 62.5%. The hold harmless ends 2025/26. For hold harmless, the state took information from the FTES during 2017/18 school year to see what we have to get to by 2025/26 so we aren't hurting for money. He added that benefits is 88% of our budget compared to last year at 94%.

Also, in reviewing the governance handbook, one of the recommended changes for the Budget committee is that they want to identify themselves as a prioritization committee for one time allocation requests. The committee started examining examples of resource allocation models from other colleges. Volunteers from the committee were identified to be a part of a work group to review these models and formulate questions, guiding principles and timeline for the campus. Further, Bill gave an HEERF deadline update noting that the deadline to spend the institutional funds was extended to June 2023. Some of these funds have been used to purchase technology software, licenses, PPE, and cleaning supplies. Michelle Miles asked what the proper route is to request PPE, specifically, for fall protection. It was suggested going through your dean. Michele asked if the committee reviewed the technology requests that came in however Graylin stated that those requests are separate from the budget committee. The Technology committee's purpose is to focus on the actual needs regardless of budget; same for the Staffing committee. It was clarified that technology and staffing prioritizations go to College Council followed by a recommendation to the president.

**Facilities Committee**

No report.

**SSE**

Michele reported that they focused mainly on the Equity plan which is due in November. People shared progress and provided feedback. Members were put into smaller groups to examine the barriers of student success. Cindy added that the workgroup chose specifically to focus on Black/African Americans and Latinx for the Equity plan and realized that the different actions they would take to support these groups would really help other groups as well.

**Next Classified Senate Meeting: May 6, 2022**

**[Visit the Classified Senate Website Here](#)**

**The next book selection is coming soon!**