



Resolution 2026.4.2 - The Counseling Faculty Role on Campus: Counseling Senators Miriam Pacheco & Anthony Reuss
(On Behalf of the SDMC General Counseling Department): Updated April 27, 2026

Move: Stojimirovic

Second: Arguelles-Ibarra

Whereas Counselors are faculty with specific qualifications, emphasizing their distinct role on campus is necessary in order to recognize Counseling as an essential and unique academic discipline; 1

Whereas Counseling Faculty, as with other disciplines, are requesting that other departments respect the autonomy to define their own role, which ensures: alignment with professional counseling standards and accreditation expectations, protection of ethical and clinical responsibilities, maintenance of academic freedom and disciplinary integrity, clear professional identity for students and stakeholders;

Whereas the Counseling Faculty’s role is to work with students who pursue degrees that involve all departments on campus, no department has the authority to request faculty members from other departments for appointment or membership within their unit;

Whereas the scope of counseling faculty work—including teaching, supervision, research, service, and advocacy—should be determined by the competencies and professional frameworks that govern the counseling field. External redefinition of these roles without meaningful consultation risks undermining the counseling programs integrity, professional identity, and student preparation;

Be it resolved that the college collectively acknowledge the role of Counseling as an academic discipline, recognizing Counseling Faculty’s expertise, authority, and shared governance rights over matters within their discipline;

Be it further resolved that the Academic Senate affirms that faculty hiring should be initiated by Mesa discipline faculty only, and no department on campus can request Counseling Faculty placement without consultation.

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1. California Community Colleges Chancellors Office, “*Minimum qualifications for faculty and administrators in California Community Colleges*”, 06/2025,

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Presented to the SDMC AS: April 13, 2026

Approved by the SDMC AS: April 27, 2026

Vote Delineation on Page 2:

APPROVE: 30 + 5 Proxy Votes

Carlyne Allbee
Thomas "Tommy" Babine
Henry Browne
Jennifer Cost
Nellie Dougherty
Ian Duckles
Erin Evans
Veronica Gerace
Andrew Hoffman
Alex Holowicki
Geoff Johnson
Dante Jones
Jesse Keller
Mariam Kushkaki
Sam Lee
Jonathan "Jon" Linton
David Lizarraga
Thekima Mayasa
Ryan Mongelluzzo
Danica Moore
David "Das" Odasso
Mychal Odom
Miriam Pacheco
Scott Plambek
Anthony Reuss
Michelle Rodriguez
Jessica Sardo
Irena Stojimirovic
Richard Unis
Michael Williams

5 Proxies APPROVE:

Arguelles-Ibarra (Proxy to Dougherty)
Choi (Proxy to Duckles)
Frost Moreno (Proxy to Kovats)
Bruce Naschak (Proxy to Cost)

Scott Suarez (Proxy to Evans @ 4:09PM)

Oppose:

Roger "Rusty" Nichols

Ngoc "Kim" Tran

Abstain:

Justin Estep

Karen Wait (Proxy to Johnston)