

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

March 20, 2026

Dear Academic Senate,

I humbly submit my candidate statement to serve as your Academic Senate President for a two-year term beginning fall semester, 2026.

As you know, I currently hold the position of Academic Senate President for spring 2026. Prior to that, I served as Co-President from spring 2023 until fall 2025. During my tenure in this position, I grew as an institutional leader through my work with faculty, classified, administration, and, of course, our students. I learned important insights into how we function as Los Medanos College and how that fits into larger district-wide work in a multi-college district. I am grateful to the faculty body who voted for me to represent their voices in institutional spaces that include state-wide plenary meetings with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC).

When I reviewed my previous statement from October 2, 2023, my priorities were:

- Invigorating faculty participation in institutional spaces
- Collaborating across the Classified and Student Senates to support each other
- Expand on our commitment to being an anti-racist institution and actively build infrastructures that support this
- Support the disciplines and curriculum that are under attack and being banned nation-wide

As I believe heavily in self-reflection and debriefing from labor around extensive work, I considered all these priorities and what was delivered for the faculty body.

- Through extensive efforts with our Nexus co-leads and encouragement from department chairs and committee leads, our faculty participation is at a more robust level since the college went remote in 2020. We have faculty interested in serving as Academic Senate representatives on committees and even more newer faculty members transitioning into these roles after their first year at the college.
- Collaborations across the Classified and Student Senates have led to important efforts around local General Education (GE) changes and protecting student learning spaces both in the Center for Academic Support and in the Math Tutoring Lab.
- Our efforts to remain an anti-racist institution and actively build infrastructures that support this is one that we continue through initiatives with our Institutional Development for Equity and Access (IDEA) committee and the Office of Equity and Inclusion.
- In a time when many disciplines and curriculum are under attack nation-wide, we have support from our Curriculum Committee to build courses that center equity, diversity, culturally relevant teaching practices, and discipline specific topics related to fields such as LGBTQ+ Studies, Gender Studies, and Ethnic Studies (to name just a few). In a time where faculty positions are at risk due to budget crises across the state, President Ralston funded new hires in disciplines such

as Journalism and English as a Second Language. These are college-wide efforts that benefit our entire student population.

As I tried to consider my priorities for this new two-year term, I felt disheartened. We are in a time of reduction not only as a college but as a district. These reductions have extreme consequences for our Classified professionals especially. This is just consideration of our local communities, notwithstanding the larger world events happening around us. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and, dare I say, hopeless.

I am a passionate leader, and, when I lead, I seek council from colleagues around me. A wise mentor reminded me of all that was accomplished through working together. After speaking with them, I saw my future as Academic Senate President, if elected to this position again. My priority is to keep us unified as a faculty Senate, both locally and in our district, and working with the other Senate bodies, Classified and Student. We must work together to sustain ourselves during difficult times moving forward.

I am also a historian. Thus, I turned to the Senate archives for answers or inspiration moving forward. I came upon meeting minutes from March 14, 2011. The Academic Senate was discussing budget cuts and how they negatively affect students. Future topics included productivity versus success rates. The realities that we are experiencing now are not different from those of our past.

Reviewing these and other minutes reminded me how important our work is as an Academic Senate. We continue to face similar challenges. However, the way we approach these challenges is of utmost importance. This includes having elected faculty members who are passionate leaders ready to inform and educate others around important initiatives college-wide and district-wide.

I am ready to continue in this role and, when the time comes at the end of my two-year term, train future faculty members interested in serving as Academic Senate President or Academic Senate Co-President.

This is worthy work.

This is student centered work.

In solidarity,

Adrianna Simone

Dr. Adrianna Simone
Los Medanos College Academic Senate President
Department Chair of Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies
General Education Co-Chair
Faculty Senate Coordinating Council Chair