

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Academic Senate Special Meeting | 11/30/21 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm |
Zoom Meeting

Academic Senator Attendance

Jessica A. Alabi, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Lee Gordon, <i>at-Large, President</i>	Present
Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, <i>at-Large, Parliamentarian</i>	Present	Marilyn Kennedy, <i>Lit & Lang, PDI Chair, Secretary</i>	Present
Jason Ball, <i>Part-Time Faculty</i>	Present	Jodie Legaspi, <i>Athletics & Kinesiology</i>	Present
Carol Barnes, <i>Counseling</i>	Present	Doug Lloyd, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Tyler Boogar, <i>Math & Sciences</i>	Present	Leland Means, <i>Visual & Performing Arts</i>	Present
Nina Calabretta, <i>Part-Time Faculty</i>	Present	Jeanne Neil, <i>Business & Computing</i>	Present
Sean Connor, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Charles Otwell, <i>Curriculum Chair</i>	Absent
Eric Cuellar, <i>at-Large</i>	Present	Max Pena, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Jodi Della Marna, <i>Library</i>	Present	Clyde Phillips, <i>at-Large</i>	Present
Matt Denney, <i>Technology</i>	Present	Loren Sachs, <i>at-Large, Immediate Past President</i>	Absent
Tina De Shano, <i>Consumer & Health Sciences</i>	Present	Jordan Stanton, <i>Social & Behavioral Sciences</i>	Present
Rendell Drew, <i>at-Large, Vice-President</i>	Present	Katherine Smith, <i>ASOCC Student Representative</i>	Absent
Cyndee Ely, <i>Part-Time Faculty</i>	Present		

Guests: There were ninety-eight guests and attendees at today's tribute meeting.

Recording: The recording to this tribute may be available on the [Orange Coast College Academic Senate Public Page](#) in the November 30, 2021, documents area.

1. Preliminary Matters

- A. Call to Order: President Lee Gordon** called the special meeting to order at 11:30 A.M. He noted that it as a special event hosted by the Senate, with the entire meeting for the recognition of esteemed colleague and three-time former Senate President Dr. Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, for the remembrance of his wonderful service and friendship.

President Gordon noted that there is a [link](#) in the chat to access the virtual bulletin board for posting permanent statements to Dr. Arismendi-Pardi.

President Gordon explained the structure of the tribute: two officials of the college would speak first, Dr. Arismendi-Pardi would make a statement, and public comments would follow. He asked that each public comment be kept to a minute or less; the timekeeper today in place of Dr. Arismendi-Pardi, is Senator Means.

2. Tribute to President Emeritus Dr. Eduardo Jesus Arismendi-Pardi

- A. Chancellor John Weispenning** gave a warm tribute to **Dr. Arismendi-Pardi**.
- B. Orange Coast College President Angelica Suarez** also gave a warm tribute to **Dr. Arismendi-Pardi**.
- C. Dr. Eduardo Jesus Arismendi-Pardi** addressed the Senate and All Guests with a two-part statement: one of personal thanks and recognition, and the second of vision and philosophy, both as presented:

Personal Thanks and Recognition: I just wanted to say how humble I am to be here today. I was thinking about what I wanted as a retirement present. I would like to pronounce and mention the beautiful names of my students and the people who I owe so much of my success because I could have not done it, had it not been for you. Today it is not about me. Today is about you and so I'd like to mention the students that I have here, and I have a few prepared remarks. I lecture for a living, and I am so nervous, and I don't know why. I'm just incredibly nervous.

The first thing that I'd like to do is, I would like to introduce my family. First of all, the love of my life, my best friend, my confidante, the woman I love most in this life, my wife Cheryl Arismendi. I love you, Cheryl. My son who is visiting from Japan Mikhail Arismendi. I love you son, thank you for being here with me. My brother, a retired federal agent, Anthony J. Arismendi. Tony thanks for being here today. I love you. I'd like to introduce my father and his wife, the Reverend Edward Arismendi and Helen Arismendi, my stepmom. I love you so much. Thank you for being here. My mother Cecilia Pardi De Ramia. My sisters Angela Maria Arismendi-Pardi and Maria de los Angeles (Mao) Arismendi-Pardi-Wong. My nephews Anthony Rocco Arismendi and Dylon Arismendi.

I would like to also mention my mentors and friends who were very close to me during my career. The first person I like to acknowledge is Dr. Scott Bollens, UCI Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy and the Warmington Endowed chair of Peace and International Cooperation. Dr. Bollens, when I met him, I was a large person in a small world, and he taught me how to be a small person in a large world. I thank you so much for your mentorship. There is a person who I really became so close in the last few years. I have a term for him, and I called him "Mi Carnal." We are related by blood, and he is truly an Arismendi-Pardi. That person is Professor Eric Cuellar. When I think about Professor Cuellar the words [*Virtus quae nos coniungit mors non separabit*], which my friend understands to be "*la virtud que nos une, la muerte no separara.*" I just said, "the virtue that unites us, death shall not separate." I would also like to acknowledge Professor Clyde Phillips. Thank you for assisting and helping our Umoja students. Dr. Rendell Drew, I met you when you were an administrator at the Coastline Community College, and you taught me so much. You always brought the administrative perspective, which we faculty, sometimes fail to recognize. I owe a lot to a man that I'm going to miss so much.

A person that was in the background, and my success in the Senate would have not been possible without this person. His name is Academic Senate President Lee W. Gordon. I am going to miss you so much. I'd also like to acknowledge Dr. Sheri Sterner Dean of Research and Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. She became very close to me and very supportive. I had the distinct pleasure of calling her Dr. Sterner when she received her doctoral degree and her dissertation with work in student equity and critical race theory issues. Also, Dr. Michael Mandelkern, you and I have been friends ever since you came to the college. I had the distinct pleasure of teaching your son, Neil, who took my calculus class. He graduated from the American Maritime Academy, and he is doing very well, very successful. I would also like to mention two professors that always reminded me about the love of teaching. That is Professor of English Nina Floro from Skyline College and Emeritus Professor of Mathematics Pat Deamer.

I'd like to mention my former and current students. Sabah Amjadi earned her BS degree from UCI in Biology. You are like a daughter to me. Dr. Morvarid Tavassoli, MD was in my pre-calculus class. Dr. Tavassoli earned her degree after transferring from OCC from Stanford University, in English. She received her medical degree from UCR, and I had the distinct pleasure of seeing her take the Hippocratic Oath. I'm so proud of you, Morvarid,

you are my Iranian daughter. She is now a physician in residence. I would like to also acknowledge Nancy Estrada who is working on her Spanish degree and aspires to follow the footsteps of Dr. Suarez.

Dr. Suarez, thank you so much for giving up your time to my sister Nancy Estrada. Also, Dr. Adriana Magallanes, who did a dissertation in Ethnomathematics, and her work was so phenomenal that was cited in the *Journal of Ethnomathematics*. John Ritchie, you are like a brother to me. He is a former U.S. Marine. He earned his BS degree in Electrical Engineering from UCI and recently completed a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from UCLA. Pavrviz Razghmsnesh earned his BS degree in Mathematics from the University of Washington and completed his Master of Science degree in Financial Mathematics from the University of Southern California. Our very own Dr. Madjid Niroumand was my student in finite mathematics, I believe it was in the 1990s. I still remember him asking me questions. Thank you so much for all your contributions You are definitely someone I learned so much from. Katerina Malacova received her BS in social work. Recently, she sent me a card that she is planning to work on her Masters in Social Work at Cal State Long Beach. I would like to acknowledge the presence of Dr. Emma Traore who was my student in calculus, too. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in pure mathematics from UCLA followed by a Master of Science and Engineering from Claremont Graduate University. Then, a Master of Science in Mathematics at Wichita State University and culminated her studies with a PhD in Statistics from Rice University. Dr. Emma probably knows a lot more statistics that I've ever hope to learn in my entire life. Nicholas Connery is transferring to UCI to work on his Mechanical Engineering degree. Thao Nguyen is here with us. She completed her BS in Economics from UC Berkeley. Nellie Antonio is transferring to pursue her BSN. She has completed her degree in Nutrition at OCC. I have Dulce and Joshua Jackson. They met in my class in 2013, I believe. They fell in love, so my classes do have an element of love in my classes. Dulce received her BA in Public Health from Cal State Fullerton. She is working towards her MSW, and Joshua earned his BS degree in Computer Science. Nicole Henry, I met her in my pre-calculus class, I believe, when we used to have the Lewis building. She went on to earn a BS in pure / theoretical mathematics from UCLA. She completed her Masters of Science in Applied Mathematics from Akron University. U.S. Marine Surgeon John Crosson, RN; he is pursuing studies in psychology specializing in trauma. Alex Parkin, former student trustee who is working on his BA in Theatre from UC Berkeley. Nikolai Bremmer is working on his as Emergency Management degree.

Adam Garcia is Nancy Estrada's son I had the pleasure to tutor in calculus. Antonio Rodriguez, who is a former U.S. Marine, he is my friend and working on his engineering studies. Brandon Christie is visiting us from Columbia University. He is working on his BS degree in Statistics and Mathematics. Joe Venegas was a former student trustee. When he was a trustee, he was in my class. I was always so nervous when he was in my class because he was a trustee. I learned so much from him. It is wonderful to see you here. Randy Sanders was my student in statistics. Jocelyn Rios. Dr. Ricardo Jara your friendship and support has been incredible. Summer Shafiei completed a number of automotive technology degrees and certificates. She works in a man's world and I'm so proud of her. Dr. Randa Wahbe was my student also is a friend. She is a professor of English at Cypress College. Luke Aronson is working on a combined BS and MS degree in Marine Biology from UCSD. Dr. Patricia Gazda earned her doctoral degree from Cal State Sacramento in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Astronomy Education. Andria Gazda was her daughter. She took my class in statistics and is working on transferring to pursue doctoral studies in Japan for her MS and PhD in data science and computational biology.

I would like to acknowledge Orange Coast College Faculty Professor Tyler Boogar; thank you for your leadership as department chair. You have been a tremendous friend to me. Professor Steve Spencer, we spent so much time working to try to reach out to our student athletes who struggled with math. Professor Emeritus Nick Contoupolous. We were hired back on August 21, 1991, and I still remember the many contributions you made in my research in Ethnomathematics by always talking to me and introducing me to argue astrology. Professor Emeritus Steve Goetz I get to see you every Sunday and you have always been so supportive to me. Professor Dennis Morgan I enjoy the conversations we had about how to strategize. Professor Alex Rojas, thank you so much for your dedicated work to our student veterans. Professor Jeanne Neil you are a sister to me. You gave me a book on February 5, 2015. It is one of my most treasured possessions. I read that book and it has influenced my life and it has led me to write another book, which you are familiar with because I send you excerpts of it. I would like to mention and acknowledge the incredible support of Victoria Blackstock. She is my colleague. She's a classified supervisor. My life teaching on Zoom would have been a disaster had it not be for her valuable help.

Dr. Angelica Suarez there are no words for me to express how grateful I am. I was terrified at first and then I heard your story. I was deeply moved when you talked about your experience and how you came to us. You gave me the gift of reflective listening when I needed to talk to someone. I thank you so much for giving me that opportunity. Professor Mailyn Kennedy without your attention to detail my leadership in the Senate would have been nothing. I am envious of your attention for detail and precision. Academic Senate President Emeritus Loren Sachs thank you for your support all these years. I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know our chief instructional officer Michelle Grimes-Hillman. The only regret I had is that I wish you would have come sooner or have met you much longer than I had. Professor Rob Schneiderman, you are a friend, we have known each other for such a long time. I want to take the time to say thank you for all the work that you have done on behalf of the faculty. You have a tough job. You're criticized, you're liked, and you're disliked. It is a thankless job. You're putting out fires. Thank you so much for your years of dedication and for helping me. I'd also like to thank Bob Fey. He is basically the rock of the Coast Federation of Educators in terms of all his knowledge about the contract.

Dear Colleagues, Students, Administrators, Family, and Friends:

I am incredibly humbled and honored to be addressing you today and to say goodbye as I retire at the end of this semester. I would like to take this time to publicly thank each and every one of you and please forgive me if I did not mention your name. Most importantly I would like to thank the students from whom I have learned so much and who have surpassed me in so many ways, as evidenced by my listing of their accomplishments; to me that is an absolute joy.

Vision and Philosophy: Somewhere I read some recorded ancient words of wisdom that alluded to a time for all seasons under the canopy of heaven. A time to begin and the time to end. I believe that there are no endings but just beginnings. Between the two constructs there is a time of being in the void, a time in the wilderness. This is a time for transformation from what once was to what will be. I have taught a few things to these students present here today but they have taught me far more than I have taught them. For that my gratitude is in immeasurable, infinite, and completely unbounded. I believe

that in many ways my former students, as well as my current students, those who see me with favor, as well as those who do not, have taught me so much.

What I have learned from my students is that I'm basically a caterpillar crawling on a beautifully embroidered carpet where all I see are colors and shapes shifting randomly without meaning or purpose. I do believe that in many ways, each of us is a caterpillar and what we see as the end of the world is what the Master calls a butterfly. Once transformed and flying above the carpet of random patterns, shapes begin to connect, and a purpose is thus revealed. My students taught me the meaning of what I love the most about education and I contemplated that word for quite some time. The word *education* comes to us from the Latin words *educare* and *educere*. The former means to mold to train, whereas the latter means to draw out. Education, in my view, is far more than a set of marketable skills. It is a choice. It is a journey that ends only when our physical existence rests on the sepulcher. The last five years of my career have been very difficult, but I know there is something for me to learn from this experience. I believe that the experience will be a transformational one. I also believe that one day I will see that there was a purpose. For now, the only thing I can do is to be impatiently patient and fight the good fight while keeping the faith and finishing the race.

One of the greatest lessons that I learned from all of you is to be like a tree. I sincerely hope that as each of you continue your personal and professional journeys at the various points of the caterpillar stage, you will remember, six things that I learned as I contemplated being like a tree and crawling as a caterpillar to seek transformation.

When I contemplated being like a tree I learned six important guiding principle, the first thing I learned was to stay grounded. The second one was to connect my roots. The third was to be willing to turn over a leaf. The fourth, to bend before I break. The fifth, to enjoy my natural beauty and continue the journey. Six, to keep on growing.

Dear Colleagues, Students, Administrators, Family, and Friends: I ask you to honor the process of transformation and the process of change. Remember that you will experience paradigm shifts. Keep in mind the word *paradigm* comes from the Greek *paradeigma* (**Παδειγμα**) which means a new pattern or a new perspective. As you encounter a new paradigm shift remember to always honor the process and allow it to unfold as it was meant to be. Rushing while in the wilderness of transitions to a new beginning, will only cause the beginning to come to an abrupt end, just as forcing a rose to bloom will result in it being wilted. Remember that forcing the child to walk before being ready will cause pain and suffering.

As I end my remarks, I sincerely hope you will contemplate being like a tree and to honor the process as you continue your own respective journey as a caterpillar to be transformed over and over again in the beautifully embroidered carpet of personal and professional life.

I wish you the very best of life and may you find that which you are searching for, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. My career has been a wonderful experience because of you. I owe so much to every person in here, even those that did not have my favor or did not favor me. I am so honored I will take this to my retired life. I sincerely hope that you will continue your journey but remember to honor the process. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity of a lifetime to be able for me to tell you how much I love the teaching profession and how deeply blessed, really deeply blessed, I am

for everything you have done for me. You have given meaning to my life professionally and personally. I am a better person because of you. Thank you so much.

After Dr. Arismendi-Pardi's remarks ,the following meeting attendees voiced their tributes remarks to Dr. Arismendi-Pardi.

Sahba Amjadi, Jessica Ayo Alabi, Cheryl Arismendi, Jason Ball, Patty Banday, Brian Baumgartner, Tyler Boogar, Eric Cuellar, Patricia Deamer, Renee DeLong, Rendell Drew, Elizabeth Evans, Nino Floro, Andrea Gazda, Dr. Patricia Gazda-Sullivan, Lee Gordon, Michelle Grimes-Hillman, Nicole Henry, Dennis Kelly, Marilyn Kennedy, Katerina Malarova, Jim Moreno, Thao Nguyen, Madjid Niroumand, Dr. Rebecca Ogaz, Parviz, Clyde Phillips, Summer Shafiei, Sheri Sterner, Hoa Tao, Morvarid Tavassoli.

3. Adjournment of the Special Meeting

President Gordon adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

4. Approval of the Minutes: December 14, 2021

MINUTES: First draft written by Beatriz Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant to the Senates. Revision of first draft and Senate-approved drafts written by Senate Secretary, Marilyn Kennedy, who also distributes the final Senate-approved version to the Chancellor, Board of Trustees members and secretary, union presidents, GWC and Coastline Academic Senate presidents, OCC College President and faculty as per OCC Senate bylaws.

Voting Tallies Chart

Senate Membership

Alabi, Jessica A.: Senator-at-Large (2020-2023)
Arismendi-Pardi, Eduardo: Parliamentarian , Senator-at-Large (2021-2024)
Ball, Jason: Part-Time Senator (2021-2022)
Barnes, Carol: Counseling Senator (2021-2024)
Boogar, Tyler: Math and Sciences Senator (2020-2023)
Calabretta, Nina (Part-Time Senator (2021-2022)
Connor, Sean: Senator-at-Large (2020-2023)
Cuellar, Eric: Senator-at-Large (2021-2024)
Della Marna, Jodi: Library & Learning Support Senator (2020-2023)
Denney, Matt: Technology Senator (2020-2023)
De Shano, Tina: Consumer Health Sciences Senator (2020-2023)
Drew, Rendell: Vice President , Senator-at-Large (2020-2023)
Ely, Cyndee: Part-Time Senator (2021-2022)
Gordon, Lee: President , Senator-at-Large (2019-2022)
Kennedy, Marilyn: Secretary , Literature and Languages Senator (2019-2022)
Legaspi, Jodie: Athletics and Kinesiology Senator (2020-2023)
Lloyd, Doug: Senator-at-Large (2020-2023)
Means, Leland: Visual and Performing Arts Senator (2021-2024)
Neil, Jeanne: Business and Computing Senator (2019-2022)
Otwell, Charles: Curriculum Chair (Non-Voting) (Open)
Pena, Max: Senator-at-Large (2019-2022)
Phillips, Clyde: Senator-at-Large (2021-2024)
Sachs, Loren: Senator-at-Large (2019-2022)
Stanton, Jordan: Social and Behavioral Sciences Senator (2019-2022)