



## **F2026.03 Affirming Confidence in Dr. Maria Dela Cruz as Dean of Counseling**

**Moved: Donna Khalid**

**Seconded: Jose Lopez Mercedes**

**Whereas,** The Academic Senate has responsibility for representing faculty in academic and professional matters, including student preparation and success, faculty roles in governance, and institutional planning, and effective collaboration between faculty and administration is essential to fulfilling those responsibilities;

**Whereas,** In her service as Dean of Counseling, Dr. Maria Dela Cruz has worked collaboratively with faculty through Guided Pathways, Student Equity, counseling and student-success initiatives, and other efforts directly connected to student access, preparation, persistence, completion, and transfer;

**Whereas,** The Academic Senate's institutional experience working with Dr. Dela Cruz has demonstrated her respect for faculty expertise and voice, her willingness to engage in difficult conversations, and her commitment to participatory governance and to developing solutions with faculty and classified professionals closest to the work; and

**Whereas,** Continuity of collaborative academic leadership and productive faculty-administrator relationships supports the Academic Senate's ability to fulfill its responsibilities in academic and professional matters and advance the College's educational mission and student-success goals;

**Resolved,** That the Academic Senate of Santa Ana College recognizes and affirms Dr. Maria Dela Cruz's contributions to faculty collaboration, participatory governance, student success, and the academic mission of Santa Ana College;

**Resolved,** That the Academic Senate of Santa Ana College, based upon its institutional experience working with Dr. Maria Dela Cruz on matters within the Academic Senate's purview, affirms its confidence in her continued leadership and service as Dean of Counseling;

**Resolved,** That the Academic Senate respectfully requests that the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees consider this expression of confidence and the Senate's institutional experience as part of the totality of information it considers before making a final decision regarding Dr. Dela Cruz's continued service; and

**Resolved,** That the Academic Senate President shall transmit this resolution to the President of Santa Ana College, the Chancellor of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, and the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees and communicate the Senate's action at the next appropriate meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**President,** Claire M. Coyne • **Vice President, Culture & Engagement,** María Aguilar Beltrán

**Vice President, Community Operations,** Merari Weber • **Historian,** Ann Cass

**Parliamentarian,** Alejandro Moreno

**Full-time Members At-large,** Veronica Castaneda • Jennie Beltrán



**SANTA ANA COLLEGE**

Academic Senate

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**Date Presented: September 22, 2026**

**Date Passed: September 22, 2026**

**President, Claire M. Coyne • Vice President, Culture & Engagement, María Aguilar Beltrán**  
**Vice President, Community Operations, Merari Weber • Historian, Ann Cass**  
**Parliamentarian, Alejandro Moreno**  
**Full-time Members At-large, Veronica Castaneda • Jennie Beltrán**