

# Technology Advisory Committee (SACTAC)

Minutes

Mar. 25, 2026

**In Attendance:** John Steffens, Alexander Natale, Adam Morgan, Jimmy Nguyen, Kelly Nguyen, Luis Pedroza, Jose Lopez Mercedes, Lupo Lozano, Mark Turner, Marvin Gabut, Mary Steckler, Ron Gonzalves, Amanda Farah (designee of Jennifer Hoeger)

**Guests:** Parisa Samaie, Dane Clacken, Christine Cecil (Health Center), Hung Nguyen (A&R), Mark DeAsis (A&R)

1. Approval of the agenda [action]
  - a. Moved by: Adam Morgan
  - b. Seconded by: Jose Lopez Mercedes
  - c. Approved unanimously
2. Approval of the [minutes from Feb. 25](#) [action]
  - a. Moved by: Adam Morgan
  - b. Seconded by: Kelly Nguyen
  - c. Mark Turner noted the desktop TOPS figure (25) remained unverified from the previous meeting. John Steffens noted that since the committee tabled the item (now back on this agenda), the minutes reflect what was presented.
  - d. Approved unanimously
3. Public comment
  - a. Lopez Mercedes suggested a shared Teams location for submitting written reports. Alexander Natale noted committee members can already do so in the Agenda Items folder; suggested a sub-folder for reports.
4. Technology Refresh Plan [action] (15 mins.)
  - a. Ron Gonzalves presented the computer and classroom technology replacement plans, old business from the Feb. 25 meeting.
  - b. Computer standards: HP Elite 8 G1i SFF desktop, staff/faculty laptop (48 TOPS), classroom laptop (Ultra 5, ~25 TOPS). RAM/storage now specified as ranges (16–64 GB RAM, up to 4 TB). New baseline: 32 GB RAM, 512 GB storage.
  - c. Desktop TOPS: Alexander Natale confirmed ~25 is approximately correct for the baseline. Ron noted actual number may be higher when GPU and NPU contributions are combined.
  - d. ~1,098 computers to replace next year. Estimated cost: \$1.61M. Desktop cost up from ~\$1,000 to ~\$1,400; laptop from ~\$1,200 to \$1,600–\$1,800 due to memory demand.
  - e. SCE faculty equipment: 6–8 faculty using new Elite G9s reported underpowered machines. ITS investigating memory upgrades rather than full replacements.

- f. Classroom technology: laser projectors, flat panels, ADA lecterns, dedicated touch panels, 25-year warranty cabling, electrical upgrades, HyFlex-ready infrastructure, remote support capabilities. Estimated cost: \$1.64M for 29 classrooms (C, G buildings, athletic fields next year).
  - g. Kelly Nguyen asked about faculty input on projector placement. Ron confirmed faculty are involved in room design walk-throughs.
  - h. Total: \$3.25M needed (\$1.61M computers + \$1.64M classroom tech). Baseline funding: \$500K. Unfunded gap: \$2.75M.
    - i. Moved: Marvin Gabut | Seconded: Adam Morgan | Approved unanimously
5. Integrated Resource Allocation Requests [action] (10 mins.)
- a. Ron Gonzalves presented technology RAR items not covered in the computer replacement plan.
    - i. \$1,800 for microphones/speakers for Continuing Education Older Adults (Fleur Fong request).
    - ii. \$20,000 for laptops and hotspots (Henry Kim, PSL program) — appears to duplicate the above.
    - iii. \$100,000 for laptops for SCE staff remote work (Dr. Kennedy) — net new devices, not replacements. SCE staff received new computers in the last 2–3 years; these laptops are in addition to existing desktops.
  - b. Luis Pedroza expressed hesitation about the \$100K request without ensuring front-line faculty needs are met. Lopez Mercedes noted the description mentions faculty teaching DE.
  - c. Mark Turner suggested a laptop + docking station model as an alternative; Ron was receptive but noted it requires institutional-level discussion through College Council, Academic Senate, and President’s Cabinet.
  - d. Jimmy Nguyen suggested forming a task force for remote work equipment requirements for faculty and classified staff.
  - e. Motion to recommend funding \$1,800 (Older Adults) to Planning & Budget:
    - i. Moved: Ron Gonzalves | Seconded: Jimmy Nguyen | Approved unanimously
  - f. Remaining items (\$20K and \$100K) not voted on; laptop/desktop model and remote work task force noted for future discussion.
6. 2026-2030 Integrated Technology Plan [1<sup>st</sup> read] (20 mins.)
- a. John Steffens walked through the plan structure: introduction, planning process, external/internal analysis, recommendations, initiatives aligned to six district strategic plan themes, and appendices.
  - b. Recommendations cover: data governance, AI, equity & inclusion, cybersecurity & privacy, standardization & resilience. AI focus shifted from specific software initiatives to frameworks and policies based on survey feedback showing hesitance about AI without guardrails.
  - c. Appendices include: HUMANS AI Framework, AI tool evaluation criteria, survey demographics (~400 responses, 50%+ students), enrollment trends, computer aging report/forecast.

- d. Mark Turner feedback:
    - i. ZTC persistence claim: questioned evidence. Marvin Gabut clarified data came from Chancellor's Office ZTC grant projects, not SAC. Tech. Plan Taskforce will update.
    - ii. Accessibility compliance: cautioned against implying all tech will meet 100% compliance. Recommended developing response plans for accessibility gaps (EEAAPs — Equally Effective Alternate Access Plans, a model from the CSU system). Tech. Plan Taskforce will consider revisions.
  - e. Luis Pedroza praised the plan's comprehensive coverage of equity, professional development, funding, evaluation, and implementation.
  - f. Dr. Lopez Mercedes asked about revision frequency given evolving AI policies. John confirmed annual updates should continue as before; AI sections likely revised as district policies develop.
  - g. Committee members encouraged to add comments to the document or email co-chairs. Second read planned for April SACTAC meeting.
7. Reports [information]
- a. ASG (5 mins.)
    - i. Lupo Lozano reported ASG has been discussing EdSights, an AI chatbot for student retention and engagement.
    - ii. ASG recommendations: respond in languages beyond English (supports 150+), integrate with Canvas, provide more human interaction. Certain flags will trigger human responses.
    - iii. Canvas announcements are well-received by students for campus updates and events.
  - b. Student Information Support (5 mins.)
    - i. John Steffens reported the Starfish early alert system texting feature has been enabled as of this week. Flags and referrals can now trigger a text alongside the email notification. Noncredit is looking to use this for automatic texts when online students haven't logged into Canvas.
  - c. Student Services (20 mins.)
    - i. BetterMynd
      - i. Dr. Christine Cecil presented BetterMynd, a new teletherapy platform offering: therapy in multiple languages, workshops, crisis intervention in 200 languages (30–40 second response), and psychiatry. Believed to be the first CA community college offering psychiatric care.
      - ii. Funded by categorical funds that are use-it-or-lose-it. Data is 100% HIPAA compliant; only aggregate data shared unless student signs an ROI. No FERPA conversion; no insurance data collected.
      - iii. Available to both credit and non-credit students. Students can match with providers by cultural/identity affinity, including LGBTQ+.
      - iv. Session limit remains at 10/year. Accessibility: WCAG AA compliant, VPAT on file, web-browser-based (no app).

- v. Timeline: if supported, goes to board this spring; pilot possible summer, full implementation by fall.
- ii. Certree
    - i. Hung Nguyen and Mark DeAsis (A&R) presented Certree as an alternative transcript solution to Parchment.
    - ii. Parchment issues: inconsistent customer service, transcripts not sent to all requested institutions, name mismatch errors with SIS, confusing IGETC option on website.
    - iii. Certree features: student-controlled credential vault (free storage, pay per use), zero-trust security, students can view records before sending, full control over what/when/who to share.
    - iv. ASG voted for Option 1: \$36/year unlimited transcripts OR \$8 per individual transcript (same as current Parchment per-transcript cost). Opt-in model.
    - v. Presented to counseling division (twice) and ASG legislative/judicial/executive branches; all supported Option 1. VPAT obtained and sent to ITS for review.
    - vi. Alexander Natale noted via chat that some academic senators requested a presentation to Academic Senate regarding customer service concerns. No timeline set for board approval.