YCSA Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2026

Welcome – Heather Knowles

Heather announced that the YCSA Secretary position is open. We thank Layla Tenney for 2 years of service in the role. Please nominate yourself or a colleague to replace Layla – a link to the nomination form will go out next week.

NISOD nominations are open – recognize a colleague! The link that was sent out in the YC Weekly with a deadline of November 13 was referring to the faculty process. For staff, we have until December 18. We will send the link out again by next week.

Presidential Search – Janet Nix

Janet announced that the presidential search public forums are scheduled for next week, with sessions at 10:30-11:30 AM on the Verde campus and 2:00-3:00 PM on the Prescott campus Monday through Thursday for the four finalists (see https://www.yc.edu/v6/i/presidential-search.html for rooms and zoom links). Please attend and provide your feedback to the District Governing Board (DGB), who will make the final decision on whom to hire as the new YC president. If you can't make it in person, they will also livestream each event. There will be an interactive Q&A feature where attendees can submit questions via 3x5 cards or chat. The board will make their final hiring decision by Friday of next week or early the following week, aiming to complete it before Thanksgiving.

Strategic Planning Committee Special Presentation – Dr. Lauri Dreher and Ivonne Zuniga

Lauri and Ivonne presented on Yavapai College's strategic planning process, explaining how it structures initiatives from vision down to daily actions through a collaborative framework involving ELT (Executive Leadership Team), SLT (Senior Leadership Team), the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), and WIN (What Is Next coalition). They outlined the annual timeline starting in September with internal and external research, followed by a retreat, and late-fall presentation to ELT and the board for approval. The presentation covered the current FY27 initiatives and the recently approved FY28 initiatives, with information available on the strategic planning website including two-minute videos about each initiative (https://www.yc.edu/v6/strategic-planning/).

Susanne Baker – Events and Retirements

Susanne announced 5 retirements. She provided details on the holiday parties at Prescott and Verde campuses. The Prescott event will be held December 8th from 11-2 in 19-

147 and 19-201/202. The event will be catered and we need everyone to RSVP as soon as possible. There will be an ugly sweater contest, a photo booth, and the YMAX Snow Globe Experience, plus fun musical guests.

Bobbi Evans shared that the Verde campus holiday party will be held at The Newsstand in Old Town Clarkdale on December 16th from 4-6 PM.

Leslie Sparkman-Winsor – Policy Review Committee

Leslie reported that the Policy Review Committee is finalizing interim media communication policies, with the Code of Ethics Policy scheduled for a final vote at College Council.

Heather Knowles – District Governing Board (DGB)

Heather reported that the DGB seems to want to be more involved in the operations of the college. A new board member was just elected last week. The next DGB meeting will be December 1st.

Sarah Southwick – Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (SLOA)

Sarah shared that the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee is collecting assessment reports and curriculum maps, with plans to present next year's assessment date of September 17th to ELT.

Megan Crossfield – Higher Learning Commission (HLC) compliance

Megan provided an update on the assurance review report, which is in final draft form and currently with a peer reviewer from the Maricopa Community College District ahead of the February 1, 2027 deadline.

Announcement regarding Professional Growth Committee

Shelly Gilliam has had to step down from the leadership role on the ProGrow committee. Gwen Payne and Wendy Present will be the new co-chairs of the committee.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, December 3, 2026 from 8:15-noon, 19-201 is the correct day, time, and location, but this is not the Angel Tree Wrapping party as was indicated on the agenda. On December 3rd we will be wrapping boxes for the food pantry holiday gift boxes.

The Angel Tree gift wrapping will take place on December 14-15 from 9 AM to 4 PM in Building 19 Room 147.