# **District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024 - 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Los Rios District Office Main Conference Room**

[**Remote Participation Link**](https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/85212623490?pwd=Sk5WSDhxaExXanRuWC83RjVWUGJ1dz09)Meeting ID: 852 1262 3490Passcode: losrios

## Members Present

DAS

* Paula Cardwell, President

ARC Academic Senate

* Brian Knirk, President
* Veronica Lopez, Vice President
* Jeff Sacha, Secretary
* Alisa Shubb, Past President

CRC Academic Senate

* Jacob Velasquez, President
* Lauren Wagner, Vice President
* Eric Anderson, Secretary
* Scott Crosier, Past President

FLC Academic Senate

* Eric Wada, President
* Wayne Jensen, Vice President
* Lisa Danner, Secretary
* Paula Cardwell, Past President

SCC Academic Senate

* Amy Strimling, President
* Ilana Johnson, Vice President
* Nadine Kirkpatrick, Secretary
* Lori Petite, Past President

## Preliminaries

1. Welcome/Call to order
2. FLC Land Acknowledgement was read by Eric Wada
3. Approval of Agenda
   * Agenda was approved
4. Approval of Minutes
   * Minutes were approved
5. Introduction of guests
   * William Madden, articulation officer at CRC
   * David McCusker
   * Wiliam Mauer, FLC history professor, co-chair of international ed committee

## 6. Public Comment Period (up to 3 minutes per speaker)

A faculty member from ARC shared examples of the ways in which the Los Rios college website chatbots are giving inaccurate information and overall not meeting students' needs.

Additional faculty members shared that the search functionality on the college websites are ineffective.

## 7. DAS President’s Report

1. Area A Meeting to be held October 18, 2024, Virtually
2. Fall 24 Plenary to be held November 7-9 in Visalia (Registration deadline is October 18)
3. IEPI Visit: Oct. 18
4. AI Survey Results: Summit will be held Friday, November 15 @ FLC. Additional Student Survey?
5. Fast-Track
6. Board Retreat Update

## Consent Items

(Any member of the DAS may request an item be removed for further discussion and separate action).

* Approval of remote attendees

## Committee Reports

(Written reports will be posted to Canvas supporting material section and included in subsequent meeting minutes)

1. District Curriculum Coordinating Committee (DCCC) – Renee Medina
2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – TBA
3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
   1. No report
4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Kalinda Jones
   1. Met Oct 3, AVP Frank Kobayashi was there and shared a proposed spring schedule. Concerns were shared regarding the schedule, and the schedule was referred to the PREP community of practice for feedback. The administrator who had been overseeing PREP announced her resignation
   2. It was announced that admin’s plan is to post an interim dean position that will run Dec 1 - June 30 while they conduct a national search for a PREP dean. Admin expressed that there is a possible interest in moving prep to a campus rather than at the district
      1. Question raised: what is the role of faculty in this process? Will any resources go to faculty coordination? What is the role of DAS?
      2. Noted that PREP was told about the decision, not consulted about the decision.
      3. It was noted that a decision has not been made on whether to move PREP to a campus
      4. Question: FLC has a PREP counselor position that they thought was a 1-year term. Will this position be extended?
         1. Paula will investigate
5. Ethnic Studies Council – Tami Cheshire - on hiatus
6. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
   1. The District Accessibility Committee will meet on Monday, October 21. The committee will review its charge and membership structure for this academic year. Co-chairs Frank Kobayashi and Beki Mendell met with the CCC Accessibility Center to discuss the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model they facilitate for colleges and districts. After the committee meets to review more details, we will direct members to present ACMM information to their local senates to spread awareness at each college. The initial goal is to have at least one college begin work with the CCC Accessibility Center by Spring or Fall 2025.
7. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue
   1. No report

## Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. Approval of Board Regs re: International Education (first reading)

Background from William Mauer, co-chair of the Los Rios international education committee:

* Study abroad is a transformative educational experience for students, and he appreciates that the district has been so supportive of these programs.
* The colleges run college-based study abroad programs, and there are also semester-long programs that are run as a consortium with three other districts. Previously, all programs had been administered together, but there was not a clear process for getting college-based programs approved. Also, there was not a need for the district’s study abroad coordinator (Adam Windham) to be involved in the college-based programs.
* Before she retired, AVC Tammy Montgomery worked to establish a process to get the shorter college-based summer programs separated from the other study abroad programs, create specific Board regs for them, and establish a process to get them officially approved. Previously, there was no process.
* Several short college-based study abroad programs have been offered in recent years, such as a trip to Japan and a trip to Ghana. It would be nice to codify an official procedure to establish one of these programs so that other faculty who are interested in creating a program can understand how to create a new program.
* The process takes at least 18 months and involves the College president, VPI, dean, and department chair.

Discussion:

* Question: can AP credits count toward the required 12 units that a student is required to have taken at Los Rios?
  + No
  + Request to add a clarification of units taken “within Los Rios”
* Question: are these programs for-profit? Do students pay for them?
  + The vendors that are used vary. The consortium uses AIFS, which is heavily subsidized by the British government, so it costs less. The students pay AIFS directly. Equity: are there scholarships to allow students to attend study abroad? Is it truly open to all students, or is it only open to students with money?
    - There are scholarships and fellowship opportunities available. The Ghana program was funded by an outside source
* Question: This is an educational program, which means it falls under 10+1. Where does DAS appear in the regulations? Request: somewhere it should be articulated that DAS should be involved in some way, such as being notified about, or perhaps reviewing these programs.
  + Would these programs, which are essentially a cluster of classes, be considered a “program?” Is this the same use of the word program as we use to describe a degree or certificate program?
    - Opinion expressed that yes, these are academic programs.
    - Agreement that these programs should at some point swing through DAS as an informational item so that DAS is aware of new programs/changes
    - Suggestion that within the regulations, there is a clear connection made to the international program committee, which is a district committee on which faculty are represented
    - It was noted that the courses that encompass the short-term programs go through curriculum at the local college, which is another layer of faculty involvement
* This item will come back to DAS on Nov 19. Request to have the friendly amendment ready regarding adding a step to share the programs with DAS

1. Noncredit Implementation Feasibility (second reading)

Discussion:

* Noted that there is a letter expressing concerns/suggestions from ARC’s ESL department with many concrete suggestions
* ARC has not had a chance to thoroughly review this issue and is not ready to vote
* Concern that there is not more specificity in the proposal - what exactly would we be voting for? Unclear what the committee composition would be. Request for more specificity as to how many faculty would participate in each group
* Noted that it is not the intention of DAS that any department would be forced to offer noncredit if they did not wish to. But it couldn’t hurt to add an amendment making that crystal clear
* Reminder that this is NOT a vote on whether or not to implement noncredit. This is a vote to authorize a task force to explore the feasibility of offering noncredit
* Concern expressed that the deliverables may be very difficult to generate.
  + Is there an opportunity to wordsmith/edit the task force proposal?
    - Yes, those who are interested, please make suggestions for improvements
* Question: does this need to be a district decision? If a college wants to offer noncredit right now, can they? Or is there a rule that says all the colleges must agree?
  + This is a curriculum question, and it’s worth a districtwide discussion to make sure noncredit is not undermining the credit offerings
* Confusion expressed: are we suggesting we do a few small pilot projects to actually offer a course, or are we suggesting that we do more research before anyone offers an actual noncredit course?
  + This needs to be clarified in the task force proposal
* It seems like we are somewhat stuck: analogy that we want to learn how to drive but we don’t want to practice driving until we know how to drive. Also, we don’t have a car!
* Opinion that this feels like a low-risk assignment, since this proposal is simply to continue investigating the feasibility of non credit.
* Suggestion that perhaps we should re-order the work of the group so that the logistical investigations come first. That way, if for example the financial/admissions/records groups discover insurmountable barriers, the other groups haven’t invested a lot of time needlessly.
* This item will come back for second reading on Nov 19.

## Reports

(5 minutes per report + 5 minutes for questions)

No reports

## Discussion

(10-15 minutes per item)

### Referral of Baccalaureate Exploration to F. Kobayashi

* 1. As requested by DAS, AVCI Frank Kobayashi agreed to do a preliminary investigation of which Los Rios degrees/departments would be eligible to pursue a BA degree. He will report back to Paula

### Re-tooling the Equity Question in current application for faculty employment

The current equity question reads: “Equal Opportunity: As an equal opportunity employer with a diverse staff and student population, the Los Rios Community College District is committed to the principles of social justice and racial equity in creating an inclusive and equitable learning and work environment for all. Please answer this question completely. What have you done to support and promote racial equity and inclusion in your community or workplace, specifically for racially minoritized groups (e.g. African Americans, Latinx and Native Americans)?”  
  
Is there an interest in re-wording this question?

Discussion:

* It was noted that this question is very similar to the proposed “cluster hiring” questions at ARC and SCC, causing potential redundancy
* Can this question be removed from the applications for campuses that will be using additional cluster hiring questions?
  + It would be nice to know the answer to this question

### Faculty Hiring Manual Revision

Discussion:

* Opinion expressed that it would be a very good idea to move forward on this, because the hiring manual needs to be updated. Examples:
  + An equity rep should be at second level interviews
  + Align the LTT hiring process with the full time hiring process
* Question: can this work be done over summer and can the work be paid?
  + Paula will ask District admin
* Request: could there be some training for people on the hiring committee regarding applicants use of AI in writing their answers
* Opinion: it would be nice to have open adjunct pools where we could do adjunct hiring on a regular basis. We need some improvements to the process of adjunct pools
  + The LTT challenges are correlated to the challenges with our adjunct pools
* It was noted that the college that requests the adjunct pool has to EQ all the applicants, which is a lot of extra workload
  + Request that the EQ process be brought up at SUJIC, because it is becoming a workload issue

### Moratorium Update

Discussion:

* Jamey will meet with the tribes on Oct 31
* Paula and Jacob attended the recent Board retreat, at which there was a presentation by the tribal partners.
* Reproductions, replicas, and casts are NOT covered by NAGPRA or CalNAGPRA, regardless of whether you think they should be
* The tribal partners are making the argument that replicas are cultural items, and have expressed that if they are prepared to resolved this issue through arbitration or litigation, they will
  + It was noted that in order to be considered a “cultural item,” the item needs to have been removed from the group. Opinion: replicas were never in control of the groups
  + There are provisions in the NAGPRA law that govern how items are returned, based on evidence of who they belong to
  + The museum organization (in this case, Los Rios) determines what is considered a cultural item based on input from the tribes
  + The Board is interested in meeting the interests of the tribal partners
* Are any of the replicas held by the district created from the human remains of local tribes?
  + James Crandall has stated that it is highly unlikely the replicas of the remains are connected to the local Sacramento tribes
* It was observed that over many years, there have been requests from Los Rios faculty and department to return remains and cultural items through the provisions of NAGPRA. Until now, there had been no district support for these requests.
* It was noted that all remains and cultural items in the district were acquired long before any of the current Los Rios faculty were hired
* It’s possible that the tribal partners will assert that the replicas are indeed cultural items. If this happens, what should DAS response be?
* Question: who in the District will make the final decisions regarding what is a cultural item?
  + These processes still need to created as part of the Los Rios NAGPRA policy
* This is a difficult issue.
* It was noted that this exact type of conversation is happening nationwide, and no clear decisions have been made.

### By-Laws Revision

Discussion:

* A DAS member expressed interest in reviewing the bylaws related to the rotation in the event of the removal of a DAS president
* Another possible change was noted: you can only suspend a first reading if your bylaws say you can suspend a first reading. Our bylaws do not say this. Do we want to amend our bylaws?
* Ex-Officio roles: should we clarify under what circumstances ex officio members can continue to serve?
* Idea of creating a DAS Executive committee, which we do in practice but not formally. The presidents regularly meet together, but these practices are not explicitly described in the bylaws
* Request to DAS members: take a look at the bylaws and make a note if you notice anything else that should be updated

### Assumption of Risk Waiver for Lecture/Lab classes

Discussion:

* This issue was brought up at the CRC Academic Senate
* There is a high workload relating to checking and double checking to make sure students have signed the waiver. Could this process be streamlined/managed by the district enrollment process? Why is it faculty’s job to make sure students sign this form and do the legal work of the district?
  + Noted that it IS faculty’s job to tell the students what the risks are, but it would be ideal if there were an easier-to-manage process to get these forms signed. We have the technology to do this now
* It was noted that this same issue came up several years ago

## Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

* None

## Future Returning Items:

* Faculty hiring
* Manual revision process
* Long Term Temporary positions (LTTs)
* Faculty Diversity Internship Program (FDIP)
* Equivalency processes
* Strategic enrollment management plan
* District Budget/LAO Report

## Upcoming Meetings / Events

* October 16: Board Meeting @ FLC, 5:30 pm
* October 18: Area A and IEPI Meetings
* October 21: DESSC Meeting at 2:30 pm
* October 21: DIAC Meeting 3:00-4:30
* October 24: Ed Tech Meeting @ 3 pm
* October 25: NAGPRA Task Force Retreat 10-4
* October 25: DCCC @ 2:30
* October 28: Chancellor’s Cabinet
* November 4: DALMC Meeting @ 3:30
* November 5: District Academic Senate

## Land Acknowledgements

[Los Rios Community College District Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement](https://losrios.edu/about-los-rios/our-values/indigenous-land-acknowledgment) “In the spirit of community and social justice, we acknowledge the land on which our four colleges reside as the traditional homelands of the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribal nations. These sovereign people have been the caretakers of the health of the rivers, the wildlife, the plant life, and the overall eco-social balance in the greater Sacramento region since time immemorial.  
 Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok continue as vibrant and resilient tribes and bands, both Federally recognized and unrecognized. Tribal citizens of these nations continue to be an active and important part of our Los Rios college community. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the land and our responsibility to the original peoples, the present-day Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribal nations.”

[ARC Indigenous Land Statement](https://arc.losrios.edu/student-resources/native-american-resource-center#:~:text=We%20acknowledge%20the%20land%20which,Maidu%2C%20and%20Miwok%20tribal%20nations.&text=Despite%20centuries%20of%20genocide%20and,both%20Federally%20recognized%20and%20unrecognized.)

“We acknowledge the land which we occupy today as the traditional home of the Maidu and Miwok tribal nations. These sovereign people have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial. Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Maidu and Miwok continue as vibrant and resilient Federally recognized tribes and bands. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the generations that have gone before as well as the present-day Maidu and Miwok people.”

[CRC Land Acknowledgement](https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/equity-and-diversity/land-acknowledgment)

“We pause to acknowledge that Cosumnes River College sits on the land of Miwok and Nisenan people. We remember their continued connection to this region and give thanks to them. We offer our respect to their Elders and to all Miwok and Nisenan people of the past and present.”

[FLC Land Acknowledgement](https://flc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values)

“We respectfully acknowledge the land currently occupied by Folsom Lake College as the traditional home of the sovereign Nisenan, Maidu and Miwok peoples who have a unique and enduring relationship stewarding this land since time immemorial. Despite colonization, occupation and genocide, the Nisenan, Maidu and Miwok people continue and thrive in their resilience and self-determination. We celebrate and recognize our Nisenan, Maidu and Miwok tribal neighbors and honor their sustained existence.”

[SCC Land Acknowledgement](https://scc.losrios.edu/student-resources/native-american-student-success/land-acknowledgement)

“We acknowledge the land currently occupied by Sacramento City College as the traditional home of the Maidu, Miwok and Nisenan people. These sovereign people have been caretakers of the area since time immemorial. Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Maidu, Miwok and Nisenan people continue as vibrant and resilient federally recognized and unrecognized tribes, bands, and rancherias. Today, we honor and recognize our Maidu, Miwok and Nisenan tribal neighbors for their contributions as the caretakers of the Sacramento Valley and honor their sustained existence. It is with their blessing and continued guidance that Sacramento City College seeks to provide an accessible, equitable, and supportive institution of learning and experience.”

Voting Template

| Issue: | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ARC** | |  | **FLC** | |
| Knirk |  |  | Wada |  |
| Lopez |  |  | Jensen |  |
| Sacha |  |  | Danner |  |
| Shubb |  |  | Cardwell |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **CRC** | |  | **SCC** | |
| Velasquez |  |  | Strimling |  |
| Wagner |  |  | Johnson |  |
| Anderson |  |  | Kirkpatrick |  |
| Crosier |  |  | Petite |  |