

District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 - 3:00-5:00 pm

Los Rios District Office Main Conference Room

[Remote Participation Link](#) Meeting ID: 852 1262 3490 Passcode: 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. Los Rios Land Acknowledgement was read by Paula Cardwell
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Agenda was approved
4. Approval of Feb 4, 2025 Minutes
 - Minutes were approved
5. Introduction of guests
 - Stacey Burrows, ARC
 - Daniel Ortner, attorney, FIRE
 - AnnMarie Beasley, ARC
 - Julie Oliver, CRC, Past DAS President
 - N Rodriguez
 - Sima Mohseni

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

1. Public comment was made by Daniel Ortner, attorney with FIRE, on the topic of NAGPRA. FIRE is a public interest organization that advances free speech. They had been very concerned with the interim Los Rios NAGPRA policy, which disallowed the use of not just skeletal remains, but also images and cultural artifacts - for them, this prohibition on non-NAGPRA items raised significant first amendment concerns. The new policy addresses many of those concerns, and only covers remains that are specifically covered by NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA. Mr. Ortner expressed some concerns about whether Los Rios' new NAGPRA policy will be implemented quickly, so that students and faculty once again have access to the remains, cultural artifacts, and images that may have been removed outside the scope of NAGPRA. FIRE feels it is important to get these items back in the hands of scholars and students as soon as possible. FIRE urges Los Rios to implement the new NAGPRA policy quickly and efficiently.
2. James Crandall, Director of NAGPRA and Special Projects at Los Rios. Wants to make sure faculty are aware that he is available to meet with anyone who has questions and concerns about NAGPRA-related topics. Mr. Crandall wishes to thank the NAGPRA task force, which has worked hard to draft the new policy.
3. Alisa Shubb, ARC Past President, noted that in the [Feb 12, 2025 DAS report](#) to the board of trustees, it was stated that DAS is representing faculty on the public safety task force. However, this task force was never discussed at DAS. Hopefully the president's report could explain what the public safety advisory task force is, and how it is representing faculty.

7. DAS President's Report

1. Update on Academic Calendar Committee - level of discretion

DAS President checked with the Deputy Chancellor on how much discretion the calendar committee has on when to celebrate certain holidays. Previously, faculty had complained that there were a lot of Monday holidays this semester, and this is impacting instruction. The answer is we do not have much discretion for most holidays.

 - i. Caesar Chavez and Veterans Day must be observed on that specific date as does Juneteenth in the summer. We do have some say in which holidays we observe, and we decided as a committee after much discussion and input to add Caesar Chavez and Juneteenth a few years back.
 - ii. We always schedule classes to ensure they meet the required scheduled minutes, but that does get tricky with some courses, particularly courses that meet once a week, when Caesar Chavez falls on certain days.

- iii. If a day is lost due to a holiday, can it be added to the end of the school year? Frustration from faculty that they are losing a day of instruction, particularly if they teach on M/W.
- iv. Additional concern from adjuncts is the effect on their pay - they lose out on pay if they aren't teaching as many days.

The Academic Calendar committee may not be exercising as much advocacy as they could be. Is it seen as a rubber stamp committee?

Discovery that the minutes from this group have not been updated since 2022

2. Communication re: Students serving on hiring committees.

DAS President checked with Carrie Bray to clarify some things around hiring.

Hiring manual states all committee members (including students) must complete Hiring the Best training

- i. The District is taking the position that students do NOT need to complete Hiring the Best, but rather can just complete an abbreviated version of the training. ARC has developed a training specifically for students which could possibly be adapted for any college. It is not as long as the one for employees as the students are only involved at the interview stage.
 - 1. Question: if we have a [faculty hiring manual](#) that was an agreed upon norm between LRCCD and DAS that specifically says "everyone on the committee must take Hiring the Best training," how are we OK with deviating from this norm? Concerns expressed with this practice.
 - 2. Noted that the hiring manual has not been updated since 2017. Recollection that students are not considered full-blown members of the committee. Because students are not paid, and are optional members, we can't make them do all this stuff that may interfere with classes, etc.
 - 3. DAS President will circle back with HR to ask what are the allowances/special conditions with student hiring committee members.
 - 4. DAS should point out areas where we feel there are discrepancies, and we should see if we can get them settled. DAS should be providing the interpretation of what we think should be happening.
 - a. Do students rank candidates after interviews?
 - 5. Noted that another part of the hiring manual says "all committee members EXCEPT students..."
 - 6. Opinion that we should advocate for students to get paid.
 - 7. SCC has been told that adjunct faculty cannot serve as equity reps, one reason being the time commitment without being paid. Is this true?
 - 8. Opinion that it would be useful to have this as a discussion item at our next DAS meeting. We should clarify for our own understanding how WE see things, and then explain to HR what

our determination is. Faculty/DAS should be providing the guidance. This is our hiring manual.

9. DAS President will bring up these points/questions with Carrie Bray.

ii. Public Safety Advisory Committee

1. DAS President was asked over the break to provide representation for a public safety committee. Not many details were given about what this committee would entail, so she volunteered to serve herself, thinking it was a one-time meeting. The group met on February 3, and the scope of the group turned out to be much more involved than she initially thought, and was mostly related to ICE and undocumented students. This group will meet once a month. DAS President is happy to make a different appointment if someone else would like to represent DAS on this committee. Please let DAS President know if you are interested in volunteering.
 - a. Is this group the same as the “Undocustakeholder” meeting?
 - i. No, that is different
 - b. Other college Senate presidents were unsure how people were appointed to this committee. Did it go through the UndocuScholar resource centers?
 - i. Unknown

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
 - a. Catalog workgroup has been re-formed because of all the CCN/CalGETC changes, the band is getting back together. If you notice anything that needs to be updated, please let your curriculum chair know.
2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – TBA
 - a. Has not met since last report
3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
 - a. No report

4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Kalinda Jones
 - a. There seems to be some confusion with administration. PREP stands for Prison Re-Entry and Education Program. There has been a fragmenting of the program, where the prison part is seen as one thing, and the RE-Entry part is another thing. The PREP subcommittee see them as linked. What happens with the dean of PREP, if they are going back to a campus, what happens with the ReEntry programs? An understanding that the new dean will be over both the prison part and the re-entry part. There is ongoing work to be done to clarify the structure/organization of this program.
 - b. Also working on the schedule for prison programs. PREP committee viewed the draft schedule as problematic because there were no pathways to a degree. It was unclear why the various classes were chosen. The committee did not say yes to the schedule. A subcommittee of PREP will look more closely at the schedule and make recommendations.
5. Ethnic Studies Council – Tami Cheshire - on hiatus
6. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
 - a. No update
7. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue
 - a. Andi shared [documentation on how to report course costs](#) that are not textbooks. DALMC has requested that this topic (AB 607) be a discussion item at an upcoming DAS meeting
 - b. DALMC hosted a spring 2025 flex event that has resources to help faculty understand and help colleges comply with legislation and requirements from The State Chancellor's Office. This is a Google doc that includes links to the recording, website resources, and "how to" documentation. DALMC representatives have been encouraged to share this widely with faculty. Spring 2025 Flex Workshop Resources: [No Hidden Fees: Building Student Trust through Material Cost Transparency](#).
 - c. In relation to AB 607 and faculty concerns about the time needed to research costs associated with a course, a new slide has been added that offers suggestions for faculty: [slide 9 Determining the Cost of Supplies/Materials](#). DALMC will also continue discussions at its meetings to identify other potential areas of support. If faculty have specific concerns, you're asked to reach out to your DALMC represented (listed in [the "No Hidden Fees" Google doc.](#)).

Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. R-7421 Work Experience Education Regulation (Second reading)

[Link to proposed Work Experience regulations](#) (opens in DAS Canvas site)

Discussion:

- ARC did not have quorum at its last meeting. DAS could choose to postpone this vote, or could go forward.
- CRC has also not reviewed this regulation and would like to postpone the second reading.
- DAS agreed to table this item until March 4

2. Proposed revision R-7151 International Education (Second reading)

[Link to proposed international ed regulations](#) (DAS Canvas site)

Discussion:

- ARC did not have quorum at its last meeting. DAS could choose to postpone this vote, or could go forward.
- Agreement to table this vote until March 4

3. Draft NAGPRA Policy P-7910 (First Reading)

[Link to draft NAGPRA policy](#) (opens in DAS Canvas site)

Discussion:

- DAS President conveyed thanks for all the NAGPRA task force members
- The work of this committee has been challenging and sometimes contentious, touching on issues of academic freedom, tribal sovereignty and wishes, regulations, laws, and the interests of faculty and students across many disciplines. A lot of work has gone into the policy. There is no other CA community college that has a NAGPRA policy at this time.
- Any requests for substantive changes to the policy will be shared with the task force for discussion.
- Comment/opinion that the vote was very close - it was approved by 54% of the voting members. Only 5 out of 10 anthropology and biology faculty voted to approve the policy because some were not present for the vote. Four voting members were not present because the meeting went long and they had to leave before the vote was taken. Some members had expressed an interest in waiting another week to vote so as to be able to get feedback from their departments, but these requests were not met.
 - Opinion that the task force had ample time to provide feedback. Noted that on the day the group voted, they had resolved every comment in the document, which is where the group had been told to leave any feedback. The group extensively discussed each line of the policy.
 - A majority of the voting members did approve the policy. There doesn't seem to be any recourse to seek to overturn this vote. Acknowledgement of the frustration with the voting process.
 - Suggestion: set a quorum for voting for future groups that may do similar work.
- It was noted the group spent at least 24 hours meeting about the policy since June 2024.
- Suggestion to write a summary. This is a very long document. People may be aware that there was controversy around certain aspects, but it's difficult to get a sense of it in a 20-page document. It would be helpful to have a summary of the process, including areas that were particularly controversial or where a compromise was brokered. This

would honor the deep and detailed work of the committee, and would also allow the general audience of faculty to more effectively engage with the document.

- Noted that even summarizing the document would raise controversy. But we could at least identify which sections are required by law and not able to be changed by Los Rios.
- This will go back to local senates. DAS President and James Crandall (NAGPRA director) are happy to attend discussions at local senates.
- Will DAS be alerted to any substantive changes that are brought forward during the feedback period?
 - The tribes will receive the draft NAGPRA policy tomorrow, and the intent is that we will receive feedback from the tribes before the DAS second reading. We don't have a timeline for when we'll receive feedback from the tribes.
 - When something is purely an academic and professional matter (such as curriculum), it can go directly to the Board, rather than stopping at Chancellor's cabinet, and DAS *could* take that position with this policy (it has not yet been decided that this policy would go straight to the board, but DAS could argue for it). This is a task that was delegated to faculty, and was done by faculty. Interest that this work not be second-guessed by admin. If admin makes recommendations for changes, DAS can still put forward its own recommendations to the Board.

Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

- Request for future agenda item about class size task force
- Faculty hiring manual

Future Returning Items:

- DIAC Proposal re: ACMM (Second reading)
- Proposed revision R-3412 (proposed strike-through of Competency Committees). Second reading.
- Proposed revision of R-7241 (proposed strike-through of Competency Committees). Second reading
- Proposed revision of R-7241 (proposed change to allow continuing students to use any GE pattern for a local AA/AS degree). Second reading
- Baccalaureate Degree Exploration/Feasibility
- Noncredit Feasibility

Upcoming Meetings / Events

- Feb. 18, DAS Meeting 3-5 pm
- Feb. 21, Program Placement Council, 2:30 pm
- Feb. 24, DESSC 2:30 pm
- Feb. 24, Chancellor's Cabinet, 3 pm
- Feb. 27, Ed Tech, 3 pm
- Feb. 28, DCCC, 2:30 pm
- Mar. 3, DALMC, 3:30
- March 3, The March in March, 2 pm
- March 4, DAS Meeting
- March 17-21: Spring Break
- March 21: Area A Meeting
- April 24-26, ASCCC Spring Plenary, Irvine

Land Acknowledgements

[Los Rios Community College District Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement](#)

"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](#)

"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](#)

"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](#)

“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](#)

“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	