

District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes

Tuesday, September 2, 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

- Veronica Lopez, President
- Daniel Slutsky, Vice President
- Andréa Pantoja Garvey, Secretary
- Alisa Shubb, Past President

CRC Academic Senate

- Lauren Wagner, President
- Jason Patterson, Vice President
- Emily Bond, Secretary
- Scott Crosier, Past President

FLC Academic Senate

- Wayne Jensen, President
- David Lacy, Vice President
- Lisa Danner, Secretary
- Eric Wada, 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. ARC Land Acknowledgement was read by Veronica Lopez
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Agenda was approved
4. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes were approved
5. Introduction of guests
 - LaQuisha Beckum, ARC
 - Craig Davis
 - Rickard Mowrer, chair of International Education Committee (FLC)

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

- No public comments

7. DAS President's Report

A. Retreat recap

- a. Thank you all for coming. It was great to see so many trustees as well as our Deputy Chancellor

B. DAS 5 meeting with Deputy Chancellor meeting recap

- a. Discussion of our Online Grading System - more to come later. Over summer, our Canvas consultant figured out how to put an "import grades" button into the Online Grading System and it imports your grades.
 - i. How will Fs be handled? Will the information about the last date of attendance/participation be auto-populated?
 - 1. The group is working on this issue. A challenge is that each faculty member handles this and interprets this date differently.
- b. Updates to Common Course Numbering
- c. ARC is getting a "daily Add report" that one of our AVPI's is running. This report tells faculty about new students who have added their classes
- d. Tutorial about attendance accounting - the relationship between the number of hours in class and the number of units, and recent updates to title V that affect this formula. They want 18 hours of lecture to equal 1 unit, and 54 hours of lab to equal 3 units. There were some classes where the class required more hours than this formula indicates. The colleges used to be paid per hour that students were in class, but now they will be paid per unit. Therefore, there is an interest to make sure students are not in class for extra hours that the district is not being paid for, and also that students don't have tiny amounts of units (such as 3.17 units) that don't do them any good. There are about 600 courses (mostly apprenticeship, but some others) where this new formula will require the colleges to do some work to see how/whether the courses can fit the new model. The District curriculum committee will review these courses and determine whether the extra hours are needed or whether they can conform to the new formula.
- e. In recent years there was a possibility of community colleges offering bachelor's degrees in nursing. This bill had been vetoed by the governor, but there is a possibility that a new bill allowing CC's to offer nursing bachelor's degrees may be forthcoming (SB 1400). There is also a process for community colleges to apply to offer other bachelor's degrees should there ever be interest.
- f. Noncredit task force. Trying to find out the level of interest at each campus. Each campus gets to decide for themselves "what is our why" for offering noncredit. For many community colleges, the "why" is access for the community. Request for each campus: talk about your why (or why not) for offering noncredit courses.

C. Appointment of Paula Cardwell to Chancellor Hiring Committee

- a. Paula shared that her decision to appoint herself to this faculty seat in the hiring committee was based on practical considerations:
 - i. this hiring committee will require 4 days of interviews during the week of Veteran's Day, and since she gets reassigned time as DAS President and

- Dept Chair, she thought it would be easier for her to serve because she won't have to cancel class or find subs for classes
- ii. She also mentioned she received the request to appoint a DAS rep in the summer when faculty were not on contract.
 - iii. For these reasons, she appointed herself.

Information Items

- A. DESSC AI Workgroup
 - a. Students are needed for this workgroup
- B. Hiring Manual Revision Task Force
 - a. Seeking faculty appointments; work begins soon
- C. DESSC Academic Probation Language Workgroup Charter
 - a. This will be a fairly short-term assignment
- D. DALMC
 - a. Seeking faculty appointments

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. Working on updating the DCCC handbook to reflect all the recent policy changes. There are a lot of changes in SOCRATES happening because of Common Course Numbering. All Course Outlines now follow the same format and have been streamlined; other changes have been made. As an aside, SOCRATES is basically ready to handle noncredit curriculum. That is the easy part!
- 2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – Paula Cardwell/Lydia Delgado
 - a. Thrilled to announce that ARC counselor Lydia Delgado will soon take over as DESSC chair. The AI task force is a great group and is already meeting - they just need student members.
- 3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
 - a. Please
- 4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Kalinda Jones
 - a. There continues to be a narrative in Los Rios that currently and formerly incarcerated student programs are separated from each other, but according to the understanding of DAS PREP chair, the Rising Scholars program encompasses all “system impacted” students, a term which refers to both formerly and currently incarcerated individuals. PREP seeks clarity on what it means that the Rising Scholars program has moved to FLC. Question as to whether all “system impacted” students are being served by the SEAP (Student Equity and Achievement) plans at the schools. Who is responsible for professional development related to Rising Scholars at each campus? Another

concern that has been brought to the DAS PREP chair is that there does not seem to be a clear process for faculty to receive clearance to be able to teach in the prison. This has resulted in important classes being canceled at the last minute because the faculty assigned to the course did not receive clearance to teach in the prison due to previously undisclosed relationships with incarcerated individuals. Concern expressed by DAS PREP chair that CDCR and Los Rios administration sees the clearance issue differently than the faculty members who were denied clearance.

- i. Question: Would it be appropriate to request the official clearance process in writing from the Los Rios administration?
5. Ethnic Studies Council – Tami Cheshire - on hiatus
6. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
 - a. Some of you already have an awareness of the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model, and others have been recently identified to participate in this training/assessment. Along with the CCC Accessibility Center, this is a District effort to improve accessibility in all ways across Los Rios. Initial ACMM engagement consists of five components: a virtual kickoff meeting, in-person training, in-person assessments, a virtual office hour, and a meeting to review the ACMM report.
 - b. [The schedule](#) is located in the supporting documents module for this DAS meeting, and meeting makers will follow with UPDATED details for campus and district stakeholders. A few of you will be asked to attend two training sessions at the same time. Consult with your immediate supervisor to ascertain the priority. Note: DIAC's meeting in October will be replaced with the ACMM Kickoff event.
 - c. Please contact Beki Mendell, DIAC Chair, if you have any questions.
7. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue
 - a. DALMC has not yet met, and is still seeking faculty appointments particularly from SCC. Also needs one more member from FLC and ARC. There is also a bookstore RFP review team that meets for the first time this Friday; there is a faculty representative from every college except SCC.
 - b. Challenges expressed with recruiting faculty to serve in OER/ZTC-related committee appointments and coordinator roles. Note that there is language in Title V related to OER/ZTC, and work will need to be done to address it.

Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. P-7421: Work Experience (First Reading) - Time sensitive 3:30pm

Background: Proposal to approve changes to Board Policy 7421 to comply with changes to Title 5.

Discussion:

- Vivian Dillon recapped the substantive changes, which include:
 - Economically disadvantaged students should whenever possible be paid for their internships

- Senate presidents should take this back to local senates for review. Then we will take it back to DAS for a vote

Reports

(5 minutes per report + 5 minutes for questions)

1. No Reports

Discussion

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. International Education (Time sensitive)

- a. Update regarding proposed Pan-African Virtual College and the expansion of international education.
 - i. Faculty representatives from the District International Education Committee and President Ed Bush (CRC) shared an opportunity to participate in the Pan-African Virtual College
 - ii. President Bush serves as the president of [A2MEND](#) and also serves in an organization that sends students on educational trips to Ghana. He is interested in reducing barriers to international education for our students
 - iii. International education programs often don't offer much opportunity for students to study in Africa
 - iv. At a summit in Ghana, an idea was proposed to form a "Pan African Virtual College" using the CVC (California Virtual College). This college would offer Africa-centered courses that would be available both in California Community Colleges and in Ghana. There would be a reciprocity agreement where the students at the African colleges could take the colleges on the CVC platform and pay their home colleges' fees.
 - v. President Bush wants to make sure Los Rios faculty are aware of this potential emerging opportunity to offer their courses in this online platform.
 - vi. The hope is that this online program is a bridge to international in person study abroad.
 - vii. Interest in the State Chancellor's office that perhaps this could be a model for offering online courses across the global south or for undocumented students who may need to self-deport.
 - viii. Question: Do you envision that we would have an exchange program where students from Ghana could come study at Los Rios and Los Rios students could study in Ghana?
 1. Yes, that would be the hope
 - ix. Would these students be Los Rios students?
 1. The students would be the students of whatever college offers the course they were taking
 - x. Would all these students need ed plans?
 1. It's likely that these students would be taking the courses to supplement and enrich their education at their home colleges and would not need ed

plans, but it's something we are talking about. The design team thinks it is unlikely these students would be pursuing programs and degrees, but it's not off the table and it's important to consider

2. Proposed amendment to DAS By-Laws Article 11, Section 2

- a. Section 2 reads: "No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. No action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading." Do we wish to propose an amendment which would allow for the "No action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading" rule to be suspended? If so, would a suspension require a majority or supermajority (2/3? 3/4?) vote?
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Concern about the Brown Act – is there a provision that states that no action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading. Can we get clarification?
 - 2. Suggestion that we may want to establish criteria as to which types of items we would consider suspending second reading, so as to reduce the possibility of bias?
 - 3. Would this be the type of issue where we'd want two or more colleges to bring it forward?

3. Ethnic Studies Council Status

- a. Proposal to disband/put on permanent hiatus the Ethnic Studies Council
- b. This council was formed in December 2020. The goals were to evaluate existing ethnic studies courses, evaluate proposed cross-listed courses to meet CSU requirements, and fulfill other obligations related to the establishment of the ethnic studies departments. The Council met these goals in the first year, but decided to remain a committee to continue to work on related issues. The ethnic studies departments now work together across the district, and asked to be put on hiatus for a year. They haven't needed a council to work together because they already work together. They are asking for the Ethnic Studies Council to be disbanded.

4. Next steps in Noncredit Feasibility

- a. (spoiler alert: we will need appointments)
- b. We are looking at what programs might noncredit be appropriate for? What is the why? Working with the union on MOUs, pay, etc.

5. DAS Travel

- a. How many annual trips (plenary sessions, curriculum institute, leadership institute, etc.) should DAS request?
 - i. Previously, we got somewhere between 9-14 trips per college per year. Enough for your entire executive team to go to both Plenary sessions, and one person to go to a Leadership Institute, and one person to go to a Curriculum Institute.

- ii. Do we consider asking for a dollar amount rather than a number of trips?
- iii. Note that sometimes we drive, sometimes we fly. Sometimes it's cheaper to fly!
- iv. It may not be the same number of trips every year. Maybe we give a range?
- v. Maybe we should give more information about why the number of trips and the cost may vary year to year
- vi. Confusion expressed as to how Senate travel works - it seems to be different at each college

Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

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Future Returning Items:

- Baccalaureate Degree Exploration/Feasibility
- Not-for-Credit Curriculum Process

Upcoming Meetings / Events

- Sept. 4: PREP Subcommittee, 9 am
- Sept. 10: Los Rios Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Sept. 15: DESSC Meeting, 2:30 pm
- Sept. 15: DIAC Meeting 3:00 pm
- Sept. 16: DAS Meeting, 3 pm
- Sept. 19: Program Placement Council, 2:30 pm
- Sept. 25: EdTech, 3 pm
- Sept. 26: DCCC
- Nov. 6-8: ASCCC Fall Plenary - LaJolla

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
Lopez		Jensen	
Slutsky		Lacy	
Garvey		Danner	
Shubb		Wada	
CRC			SCC
Wagner		Strimling	
Patterson		Johnson	
Bond		Kirkpatrick	
Crosier		Petite	