

District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 16, 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. CRC Land Acknowledgement was read by Scott Crosier
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Agenda was approved
4. Approval of Minutes
 - Sept 2, 2025 minutes were approved
5. Introduction of guests

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

- A community member noted that [LRCCD regulation 5123 section 10](#) notes that once equivalency is established at one campus, it applies across every Los Rios Campus. This person had applied to teach at CRC and CRC granted them equivalency, yet FLC denied them equivalency. The equivalency process should be “accurate and supported by evidence,” but the speaker argues that in her case, it was not.

- ARC Past President followed up to clarify details from the previous public comment. She noted that it is intensely problematic when our established procedures are not being followed.
- A faculty member made public comment about problems with the prerequisite check process. There is a negative impact to students because sometimes they are dropped, or can't get into the class even though they have met the prerequisites. Wondering why this can't be addressed better at the campus level or district level. Examples:
 - The speaker teaches research methods, a course with two prerequisites. If the students have not taken the prerequisites, they can't take the class. However, nothing prevents them from enrolling in the class. They may be in the class all summer, thereby blocking eligible students from enrolling. If the faculty member does the prereq checks during the summer, they are working off contract. If they wait to do the prereq checks once the semester starts, the process takes time and then sometimes students who would be eligible to take the class can't get in off the waitlist. Meanwhile, the ineligible students who did not meet the prerequisites and must be dropped may have a hard time finding classes to fill their schedule and meet their required number of units. The class the speaker teaches is often one of the last classes students take, so if they can't get into the class in a timely manner, this can delay graduation for them. Could prerequisite checking be a more automated process? Could students who are not eligible to take the class be blocked from enrolling? Students are allowed to register for classes that have prerequisites even if they don't meet the prerequisites
- A faculty followed up with a public comment about prerequisites. They have previously requested an automated prerequisite checking process from District IT, and were told it would require a lot of code and therefore would be a difficult task. There is a sense that such a process would be appreciated by a lot of departments
- Comment from a faculty member that several faculty members would appreciate creating a Los Rios AI community, and to have Los Rios AI policies be written. It would be nice to have districtwide AI policies so that we could help more students.

7. DAS President's Report

- Very budget-heavy recent Board of Trustees meeting
- Los Rios has purchased land near CRC for the purpose of developing a student housing project.
 - Question/clarification/comment: at the recent board meeting, we were told that we are doing a great job enrolling students, but isn't it also the case that we are not necessarily getting compensated for those additional students? Just something to keep in mind, particularly as we fill out our Student Equity and Achievement Program applications.
 - "If Bob Ross were painting a picture, there would be a few dark clouds on the horizon"
- Fall Plenary will be held Nov. 6-8 in La Jolla.

- DAS President has filled out her TAR and uploaded it into the DAS Canvas shell as an example for others to follow

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. SOCRATES can handle noncredit curriculum at this time, but the group will do some testing before this feature is released to all
 - b. Common Course Numbering: ARC Past President & CCN workgroup chair Shubb has organized a districtwide meeting for the Phase 2b folks. These courses are meant to go live in Fall 2027, even though there is currently no system-level articulation in place. Bear in mind, there are a LOT of downstream effects of changing all the titles and numbers of all these courses.
2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – Paula Cardwell/Lydia Delgado
 - a. The charter from Academic Probation Task Force was approved and will go forward
 - b. Got updates from Undocumented student support
 - c. Updates about Dual Enrollment
 - d. AP scores will now be automatically put into students files so that it will show students have taken those courses
 - e. Received a brief financial aid update
3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
 - a. Brief update about recent meeting
4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Kalinda Jones
 - a. Good news that an unusual safety situation got resolved at Mule Creek, in which there was no Correctional Officer in the educational building for 20 minutes, causing a safety concern. The LRCFT had a successful meeting with the Wardens at Mule Creek and agreed the CO would be in the educational building. If you would like more details, contact Kalinda.
 - b. There were concerns that complaints about these concerns might lead to retaliation, which could affect instruction. This concern was resolved.
 - c. PREP chair shared the [Spring 2025 Prep Report](#)
5. Ethnic Studies Council – Tami Cheshire - on hiatus
6. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
 - a. Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM): Final approval secured from all four colleges, DAS, DO, and BoT. Special thanks to Kandace (foundation) and Beki (support).

- b. ACMM Primer & Schedule: Next steps in planning underway. Kick off is October 20, 2025.
- c. Document Remediation Task Force: Selected CodeMantra as the vendor for 2025–26 after RFP process.
- d. Future Accessibility Tools: The group will continue to look for comprehensive accessibility tools. Ally acts as an overlay; for example, alt text changes don't persist outside subscription. Exploring comprehensive digital accessibility solutions. Ken Cooper will connect with Yuja reps for a possible pilot; Lori Hokerson to request LTI approval process.
- e. UDA Coordinators: Funding for coordinator positions ends Spring 2026; three proposals for 2026–29 to continue accessibility support with UDA coordinator positions. Before UDAs, FASTTrack was the sole accessibility effort. These positions are critical to Los Rios.

7. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue

- a. This committee is meant to be a faculty committee, but at the last committee there were more administrators than faculty.
- b. Committee chair brought up the idea of disbanding the committee since it's been so challenging to get faculty to participate on the district committee. However, the folks who were in attendance felt it is important work that needs to continue. Since all the campuses have local Affordable Learning Materials Committees, an idea was brought up to potentially combine the campus committees with the district committees. Andi will reach out to Paula to get the info on each committee chair.
- c. Andi reminded everyone that the bookstore RFP process is also underway. It is a confidential process, so not a lot can be shared about the work. The faculty members on the committee have a good sense of the work of the bookstore.

Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. P-7421: Work Experience. Proposal to approve changes to Board Policy 7421 to comply with changes to Title 5. (Second Reading)
 - a. This item has not been fully vetted at all local senates.
 - b. Motion passed to postpone until October 7
2. Proposal to disband the Ethnic Studies Council at the request of Ethnic Studies Council chair Tami Cheshire. (First reading).
 - a. Last year when the group agreed to go on hiatus, there was a thorough discussion amongst the members of the council about the benefits of being a committee, vs the hardships of being a Brown Act body, such as the need to publish an agenda in advance, publish minutes on the website, etc

- b. Are all faculty who were at the retreat in favor of this decision?
 - i. Wouldn't want to speak for the group
 - ii. We will go back and check with our Ethnic Studies folks to see what they think
 - iii. CRC Ethnic Studies supports disbanding
 - iv. This will return for second reading on Oct 7

Reports

(5 minutes per report + 5 minutes for questions)

No reports

Discussion

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. Next steps in Noncredit Feasibility

- a. 2-3 faculty from each college, representing different disciplines
- b. DCCC representative
- c. Invite LRCFT representative
- d. Appointments due October 1; meetings to begin mid-October. Virtual meetings will be scheduled around member availability.

Discussion:

- Question: Would only enhanced noncredit courses receive full apportionment?
 - Yes, DAS President believes that is true. Also, we understand that the Union is only interested in pursuing enhanced noncredit because we would otherwise be creating a two-tiered pay structure, which LRCFT does not support
- By signing up for this committee, would someone be getting the impression that we are indeed going ahead with noncredit?
 - No, this is not a rubber stamp. We still have a lot of details to work out and we haven't decided to offer noncredit yet
- There is more [information about noncredit on the Chancellor's Office website](#)
- Is there a chair for this committee?
 - Not yet
 - Should there be one?
 - Yes, probably. Any thoughts on who it should be?
 - DAS President offered to serve as chair
 - One option could be to add "DAS President or designee will serve as chair"
 - Another option could be that the chair could be appointed by the DAS president
 - The question of the chair will be addressed at the next meeting
- What is the timeline for the work of this task force?
 - This has not been established yet

2. Next Steps in [Academic Language Workgroup Task Force](#):

- a. Proposed membership pending 9/15 DESSC meeting
- b. Appointments due October 1; meeting(s) to begin mid-October. Virtual meetings will be scheduled around member availability

Discussion:

- The group will meet via Zoom. At least one faculty member needs to be a counselor
- There is a need to update some of the language
- Anticipated that this will be a quick process
- College AS presidents, please provide appointments by October 1
- Couldn't it be confusing for students to change the language from "Academic Probation" to something more euphemistic and happier-sounding, particularly if Title 5 uses the term Academic probation. Students might not understand what's going on or the fact that they are on Academic Probation.
 - Sense that when you change the language to something more positive, it changes the way you feel about it
 - Opinion that we should change our language and encourage the Chancellor's office to change their language
 - Concern expressed that the change should start at the top, at the Chancellor's Office. If just our district changes the language, students could be confused
 - This could be a resolution at Plenary
 - Opinion that our language we use with students matters, and we should be as kind as possible. Ultimately, someone has to deliver the email that uses the language "academic probation" vs something else. Opinion that it is ideal to communicate the idea that "this is a little hiccup, this happens in life and it's going to be OK."
 - What other professional, official yet softer term could we come up with that means the same thing as academic probation? We can't actually say "little hiccup." It could be tough to come up with a better term. Some students might be totally fine with "academic probation" and it could even be a wakeup call.
 - It's about what you want to focus on. What about "academic emphasis" or "academic focus?" These students are in a situation where their grades need to improve. Maybe make it more goal-based.
 - California Competes is [recommending "Academic Notice."](#)
 - Concern expressed with hyper-local terms being developed that call it different things than other districts do.
 - Procedural question: DESSC is an Academic Senate subcommittee. Are these language changes being proposed down the road as an action item for DAS to approve their recommendations?
 - Yes, absolutely. They are a subcommittee of DAS, so will need to approve. Then it will go through Chancellor's Cabinet and then to the Board.
 - Suggestion to change the chair notation to DESSC chair or designee
 - Do our local Senates need to approve this charter?
 - No

3. International Education: Update regarding proposed Pan-African College and the expansion of international education. Do we wish to consider a resolution in support of the Pan-African College concept and the expansion of international education?

Discussion:

- What would the point be? What would we resolve, who would be the audience?
 - It would be a recommendation to the Los Rios Board in favor (or not!) of this action
- Ed Bush spoke at length about the proposal, but do we have anything in writing?
 - No. There is an article about it, but nothing addressed to the DAS
- If there were a clear proposal about what this was going to look like for Los Rios, it would be easier to consider it for support or not
- When other faculty members are developing an independent international study abroad program, would that come to DAS?
 - When an FLC faculty wanted to write an FLC course that took FLC students on a 5-week trip, it only came to FLC local Senate. Since this would involve offering online courses via the CVC, perhaps it would need district support
- This proposal would go through the international education committee
- Opinion that President Bush was saying this project is already being developed in collaboration with the State Chancellor's Office, and Los Rios has an opportunity to participate. Sense that this is not a Los Rios-driven initiative. It is already happening and Los Rios can participate if we want to.
- It is being led by A2Mend and CCCCCO. Perhaps the infrastructure would be built by Amend and CCCCCO and then it would be up to the individual campuses and their local curriculum to decide what courses to offer in the cultural exchange program
- A resolution is not imperative, but optics matter – to indicate that local faculty back this initiative.
- It was noted that President Bush's Pan-African College idea is mentioned in a July 2025 memo called [Supporting International Education Opportunities for California Community College Students](#)
- Suggestion that we ask Ed Bush what it is he would want us to endorse
- Sense that not all DAS members are entirely clear on what exactly is being proposed by the Pan African online college idea

4. Proposed amendment to DAS By-Laws Article 11, Section 2: "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 amend the by-laws?

Example 1: Change "Article 11: Brown Act-Open Meeting Provisions" to "[Article 11: ~~Brown~~ Act-Open Meeting Provisions.](#)"

Example 2: Change "No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda to: "No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda [unless the need for](#)

immediate action was discovered after the agenda was posted, and a vote of two-thirds of all members (not just those present) or unanimous if less than two-thirds of members are present.”

Example 3: Change “No action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading” to “Although decision items typically go through first and second readings at separate meetings, the body may suspend the second reading rule with a majority (or $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$) vote.

Discussion:

- TL:DR – There is nothing preventing a body from voting on something that is not on the agenda if it is an urgent item, is not a law, and if a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of members agree
- If we make these decisions here at DAS, do they affect our local senates as well?
 - No, DAS and local senates can have different rules
- Concern from CRC, since due to the cycle of their meetings they are the last ones to meet. Fear that they could get overridden by the other 3 colleges
 - Noted that it is difficult to speed things up. It is easy to slow things down. Anybody in the body can say “I move to postpone to next meeting, we haven’t had a chance to talk about it yet.” Almost universally, this results in the group waiting to vote on an item
- Example of when it would have been valuable to suspend the rules:
 - DAS had the opportunity to sign on to the [District compact in support of undocumented students](#) - District moved really fast to get it out, but DAS was not able to meet twice in order to vote on approving it, so was not able to sign it
 - Depending on when spring break falls, it can be 7 weeks before DAS is able to meet twice to do a second reading.
 - Sometimes there is an interest in wrapping up the work of the DAS before the end of a semester
 - On the other hand, having our bylaws not enable us to suspend the rules enables us to push back on admin when they want us to move too fast
 - Opinion from one member that perhaps they would be more inclined to support a *unanimous* decision (from those present) to suspend the rules

5. DAS Travel: (plenary sessions, curriculum institute, leadership institute, etc.) How many annual trips should we request?

Discussion:

- Understanding that each college used to get 14 trips. But now, Plenary does not allow any online attendance - so is 14 enough? What should DAS president ask for?
- In terms of the “Budget Book” that was referenced at the last Board of Trustees meeting...how much FTE are we getting for travel and reassigned time?
 - DAS President will ask for clarification

Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

- FLC is interested revisiting the 900:1 ratio for counselors. Also, do they disaggregate the special population counselors when calculating that 900:1 ratio? No they do not. So for general counselors, the ratio is actually higher than 900:1

- Awhile back, there was an interest in revisiting policy 2222, attendance policy. We have a policy to be able to drop in-person students who don't attend on the first day, but we have no drop policy for online students. We are cobbling together best practices for online students, but there is no standard policy. It can be daunting to drop online students without the backing of official policy. Also, if you wait, say, a week to drop a student, there hasn't been an opportunity for other students to add.
- Policy P-9142: Performance Evaluation of Chancellor and Presidents. Is there interest in reviewing and possibly proposing revisions to this policy before we get our new chancellor?
- Reviewing the process for establishing minimum qualifications in the district. Currently, there are inconsistencies and no appeal process.

Future Returning Items:

-

Upcoming Meetings / Events

-

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	