

District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes

Tuesday, Nov 4, 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
- 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. Land Acknowledgement was read
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Agenda was approved
4. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes were approved
5. Introduction of guests

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

No public comments.

7. DAS President's Report

- Follow up: Adjunct Hiring Pools
 - Question from DAS: Can department chairs make a request for an adjunct pool to be opened, or must this request come from a dean? (There was a general request to clarify this process.)
 - Answer from HR: This request would come from the Dean to the VP office. HR does not create the requisition for the Dean, the VP office does. The one exception is HR does create the requisition for the Dean when there is an emergency hire, the Dean knows who they want to hire, and there is no open pool for that discipline.
 - Question from DAS: Would it be possible to establish a quick turn-around time on the request, e.g., "hiring pools will be re-opened within 10 days of receiving a request."
 - Answer from HR: We do not re-open pools. If you are asking if the position can be posted within ten days of the requisition being received, then yes, that timeline can be met. We do not re-open a recruitment that has closed, to prevent screening people who are no longer interested. A request would need to be submitted per the process, and HR would then post the position within the ten-day time frame.
- VC/AVC Meeting Update
 - Brief updates on academic probation language
 - Updates on AI summit
 - Update on noncredit task force
 - 3 colleges are very interested in piloting noncredit
 - District is interested in keeping things "apples to apples" in terms of how teaching noncredit affects load.
 - Question on how we assess the success of noncredit. What does a great noncredit class look like when we're not looking at grades or attendance? How do we measure success?
 - Launch date tentatively Fall 2026 with a pilot at each campus that is interested in offering a noncredit class
 - Update on SB 707, the bill related to the Brown Act. Unclear whether any of the changes will affect us - it seems that we can continue to do remote attendance through January 1, 2030
 - Credit for prior learning - where are our campuses at?
 - According to the district administrators, the infrastructure is being built at the state chancellor's office and at Los Rios, but they are waiting for faculty interest to emerge.
 - DCCC chair is not aware of any infrastructure at Los Rios.
 - There is a statewide, public facing system people can look at to see which colleges will accept different forms of prior learning for credit
 - It was noted that there is a regulation that speaks to credit for prior learning
 - There is pressure from the state to allow students who have prior learning from the military, Klep tests, IB or AP classes to get college credit – these things are standardized pretty much everywhere else except the CA Community Colleges. Interest at the state chancellor's office to standardize how the California Community Colleges award credit for prior learning.

- For military transcripts and training, are we aware of what type of training/learning experiences we're thinking of? Are they courses from accredited institutions, something like a 2-week intensive training on a particular topic, something else?
 - It can be all of the above
- This is of special interest to SCC, particularly in relation to their police officer training courses
- Ideally this should be a district effort
- CA Community College System is transitioning from TOP (Taxonomy of Program) codes to CIP (Classification of Instruction) codes. CIP is a much more widely-used system. Here is a [memo from the Chancellor's Office](#) explaining this transition. This change affects a lot of aspects of student experience, such as financial aid.
- The district is looking for a replacement for SOCRATES. Hoping that the product will offer an SLO management tool. The process of selecting this tool will start in spring, with an effort to get faculty feedback on what features they'd like to see. The RFP will go out in Fall 2026, and we will select the tool in 2027. Phil Smith (SOCRATES programmer) will retire in 2028.
- AI summit will take place Friday Nov 14 at FLC. There will be an option to attend a few of the sessions remotely; DAS President will send out the links to all faculty.

Information Items

1. Plenary Dinner, Hosted by our LRCFT Colleagues, Thursday, Nov. 6 @ 6pm, BJ's Brewhouse La Jolla
2. Los Rios AI Summit - Friday, Nov. 14 @ FLC

Consent Items

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

- [Revised DCCC Handbook 2025](#)
 - This was a cleanup effort more so than a revision. Major changes included:
 - Changing the word "deletions" to "removals"
 - Modified the rotation of the DCCC chair to be more flexible
 - Added more information links at the end
 - Cleaned up the document to remove references to committees that don't exist anymore
 - Approved by consent

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. Moving from TOP code to CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) - the new CIP codes will be integrated into SOCRATES.
 - b. There will be other updates to the course outlines of record due to recent Title 5 changes
 - c. The search for a SOCRATES replacement will begin in Spring. It was noted that across the state, people are jealous of SOCRATES and complain about their existing system. There is still a possibility that we could keep SOCRATES and DOIT could help maintain it. This will be assessed next semester.
 - i. SOCRATES was built in an old coding language called PERL, which is a language that most programmers don't learn anymore. Concern that something will happen to SOCRATES that we won't be able to fix. Also, we are asking so much more from our curriculum system than ever before. SOCRATES was originally designed to replace paper, and now we are doing so much more. There is a SOCRATES advisory group that works together to maintain it.
2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – Paula Cardwell/Lydia Delgado
 - a. Academic Probation Language Task Force has met over the last month. This group had come together very excited to do something more affirming and positive with the language. Then, a few days before the group met, the Chancellor's Office announced that they were changing the academic probation language in Title 5. Academic Probation will change to Academic Notice, and Academic Dismissal will change to Academic Pause. The group would still like to move forward with an official recommendation to support this language change, even before the Title 5 changes take effect in order to signal DAS' support for the change.
 - b. The DESSC AI report draft is coming along. They are working on incorporating information about [agentic AI](#). The draft report will be shared at the AI summit as an update.
 - i. Question: could this draft be shared out *before* the AI summit? The college presidents haven't seen the draft yet.
 1. Yes. DAS President will share out the draft. It was also noted that there are DESSC members from each college that should be sharing out with their respective faculty.
 2. The goal of the report is to demonstrate, discuss, and highlight what a complex issue AI in education is. There are multiple perspectives and approaches on this issue.
 - a. Opinion that the more robust your AI policy is, the better.
 - Opinion that students have the right to know the AI policy in each course. It is ultimately about empowering faculty to think about and set their own AI policies.
3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
 - a. No update
4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Kalinda Jones
 - a. No update

5. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
 - a. Kickoff for ACMM took place recently. They had a 4-hour training for various Los Rios leadership, including faculty, classified staff, and administrators. Now they are in the phase of gathering requested documentation. The CCC Accessibility Center will take all that information and produce a report that makes recommendations on how Los Rios can move closer towards making all our courses accessible and get closer to legal compliance, and become better disability allies. It was a positive experience and IAC has a sense that it will build some great momentum.
6. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue
 - a. No update

Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. Proposed amendment to DAS By-laws Article 11, Section 2 (second reading)
 - a. Change “No action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading” to “No action shall be taken on any item upon a first reading unless the body suspends the second reading rule with a unanimous vote”. (Second Reading) Note: Parallel language exists in Article 9, Section 2 which states: “A First Reading is required for discussion and editing purposes, but no vote shall be taken*. Action on the resolution may take place at a Second Reading, which may come no sooner than the next regular meeting of the DAS.” Propose inserting: “....but no vote shall be taken unless the second reading rule is suspended” (see Article 11, Section 2)”

Discussion:

- Suggestion to amend the original proposal to insert “but no vote shall be taken unless the second reading rule is suspended (see Article 11, Section 2).”

Issue: Amend the proposal to include “but no vote shall be taken unless the second reading rule is suspended”			
ARC		FLC	
Lopez	yes	Jensen	yes
Slutsky	yes	Lacy	yes
Garvey	yes	Danner	absent
Shubb	yes	Wada	yes
CRC		SCC	

Wagner	yes	Strimling	yes
Patterson	yes	Johnson	yes
Bond	yes	Kirkpatrick	yes
Crosier	yes	Petite	yes

Issue: Adopt the proposal as amended			
ARC		FLC	
Lopez	No	Jensen	Yes
Slutsky	No	Lacy	Yes
Garvey	No	Danner	absent
Shubb	No	Wada	No
CRC		SCC	
Wagner	No	Strimling	No
Patterson	No	Johnson	Yes
Bond	No	Kirkpatrick	No
Crosier	No	Petite	No

Discussion:

- Concerns that it is hard to be the one campus that speaks up. Concerns about communication style, who gets heard and who doesn't get heard. Who does it favor when it comes to communication style? Opinion that this change doesn't feel right.
 - Clarification requested: what doesn't feel right?
 - The fact that it requires a unanimous vote. Sense that coming in as a new Academic Senate President makes it difficult to understand the culture and politics of DAS. Concern that it doesn't allow the colleges to take the issue back to the colleges.
 - Opinion that usually, the times when we would suspend the rules are times when there is broad consensus that we want to be able to act quickly
 - Sense that this body would not advance something if one of the colleges were concerned.
 - Concern about being the one vote that tanks something or denies the body an opportunity to do something
 - Concern that if someone votes their conscience and they are the only one in the room, it would be an added layer of pressure and potential approbation from the rest of the body, because you have stopped the body from doing what it wants.

This is an added dynamic that is different from voting your conscience when otherwise the motion would pass.

- Recollection of DAS' inability to support the Compact in Support of Undocumented Students because of the inability to suspend the second reading and endorse & sign the compact
- Appreciation that it can be difficult to speak up even if you have a different opinion than the group. However, sense that it is important to do so, whether someone "looks sideways at you" or not. Opinion that if you really have a conviction about not suspending the rules, you should speak up and let that be known.
- Opinion: share the concern with the requirement that the vote be unanimous, from a social conformity standpoint. This type of voting creates pressure and can change the psychology and outcomes of the vote.
- Opinion: We need to think about how these changes will affect future compositions of DAS. We don't know where this body will be 5 or 10 years from now. Also, we want the ability to act quickly. Is there a way we can find to create a compromise?
- Question: As someone new to DAS, definitely they feel the lack of confidence in the norms of DAS. But the question is, how would having a second vote change the dynamics of someone who is uncomfortable speaking up in a first vote?
 - Presumably, they go back to the body and get feedback, which would give them the confidence to vote according to the will of their college senate
- Opinion that split votes are great and OK – we don't always have to agree. We do need to be brave and have courage to speak up.
- Opinion that there is a difference between standing up and saying what you want to say, and having an effect on the outcome of an issue. As the one person who says no, how will the rest of the DAS body perceive that one person who tanked the vote?
- CRC would continue to be concerned if 3 out of 4 colleges could vote to advance something, and overrule one college who wanted to do a second reading.
- Going back to the example of the compact in support of undocumented students - what would have been better than DAS signing the compact would have been faculty voice in creating that compact, which the speaker is unsure happened.
 - Opinion that that would be a legitimate reason not to sign – "I can't agree to sign something that faculty didn't have a role in drafting"
 - Opinion that the speaker respects when someone speaks up with a different viewpoint.
- Concern that if the vote is not unanimous, there is the risk that the group can take action which deprives another college of the opportunity to take something back to their college
- DAS president notes that she can think of only 2 times in 10 years where the body has wanted to suspend the rules (but couldn't).
- Appreciation for the conversation and the way it evolved. Appreciate the spirit and tone of this body, and the attempt to be collaborative and collegial. True that we don't always know what we will be facing in the future. It's important to "take the long view".
- Noted the irony that this decision would require that we have a unanimous vote to suspend the rules, but we are clearly not unanimous in doing so.

Uncomfortable with there being a supermajority vote on this topic, since we are clearly not unanimous right now.

- Do we have other options that we could utilize to call an additional meeting if we ever needed a second reading?
 - No. The bylaws also say that you can't schedule a special meeting
- The Brown Act does say that you can bring an item to a first reading if you became aware of it after your agenda went out. Note that the Brown Act does not require a first and second reading. Roberts Rules calls for first reading/second reading, and does allow bodies to suspend the rules if they want to.
- Noted that every now and then, the timing of holidays and spring break means that DAS meetings are 6-7 meetings apart, and therefore we are unable to act in a timely manner. There could be times when this body might wish to move on something more quickly, and under our current bylaws we are not allowed to do that.
- In the scenarios where DAS had wanted to take quick action, could there be other ways to address the urgent issues?
- If we amend the bylaws to allow us to schedule special meetings, that may allow us to be more nimble and allow the Senates to have a bit more time to discuss the issues.
- Do the local college Senate bylaws allow the bodies to suspend the second readings?
 - Yes, all the college senates can suspend the second reading.
 - So, how is this proposal different than what we already do in our local bylaws?
 - At ARC, it is a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to suspend the rules which takes pressure off an individual
- What if we added language such as "in extreme or unique circumstances" to clarify that this type of decision to suspend the second reading would be rare. Opinion that the body would only suspend the rules if it were clear this were a unanimous vote. Opinion that we would all respect if someone or another college wanted to take something back to their body.
- Sense that since the DAS officers are representing their local Senate bodies, there is another layer of responsibility to not work too quickly.

The motion failed.

2. [Resolution in Support of Reducing and Clarifying Los Rios Counselor-to-Student Ratio](#). (First Reading).

Discussion:

- Reminder that if there is a change you would like to see, please suggest it in the draft.
- DAS President got feedback from FLC's dean of counseling. FLC has seen a serious amount of growth because of dual enrollment, particularly in DE students. The 900:1 ratio does not reflect this growth, which has seriously impacted their ability to serve those students. General counseling appointments often require a wait of up to 3 weeks. Dual enrollment students are included in the 900:1 ratio, but counselor hiring has not kept up.

- In the prior discussion at DAS, there was acknowledgement that lowering the ratio would need to happen over time and would not happen immediately. Should this be reflected in the resolution?
 - Sense that this is an aspirational goal. We don't even usually meet the 900:1 goal.
- Opinion that it would be good to remove counseling positions from the campus hiring prioritization process. Also, it would be good for the articulation officer to give FTE back to counseling.
 - Opinion that these could be expressed in a companion resolution
- Are counselors and librarians part of the FON (Faculty Obligation Number, in other words the 50% law that requires 50% of a college budget to go towards instruction)?
 - It would be good to clarify this with AVC of Finance
 - It is noted somewhere else that counselors ARE included in the FON, other than categorically funded counselors such as EOPS or Veterans Affairs counselors
- Comments from a counselor in the meeting chat:
 - Top on my list would be for the counseling faculty positions to be removed from the faculty prioritization process that each campus goes through.
 - If we have our own FTE allocated per the contract why do we need to go to the campus and request a faculty position? That language needs to change in the contract first. In my opinion.
 - In addition, I would potentially add some language around giving the articulation officer FTE back to counseling. Also I think that we should also include language that clarifies that nothing in this resolution precludes regulations related to the 50% law; 75:25 or FON (faculty obligation number).
- Request to please take this resolution back to your counselors and local senates for feedback.

3. [Proposed amendment to R-2222](#) (Attendance Requirements and Reports) to define 'no-shows' for asynchronous online classes; to distinguish between No Shows and Application of Census drops; and to define excessive absences. (First Reading).

Discussion:

- DAS President noticed that the current version of R-2222 was "a mess," and needed a lot of work to organize and define all the terms such as "no shows" in a logical way. DAS President reached out to Jason Ralphs, director of Admissions of Records who is very focused on policies & regulations. The two worked together to clean up the language; the resulting draft is more clear and organized. Please take this back to your local senates for feedback.
- What is the definition of "non participation" in an online course? The language may need clarification in the document
- In 3.2, instructors may exempt students for extenuating circumstances, might professors interpret this to mean they can ONLY exempt students for extenuating circumstances?
 - Opinion that most faculty would not interpret the regulation this way
 - There is a possibility that some faculty would not drop students even if they had not participated because they wanted their class to go forward and not be cancelled for low enrollment

- Language of shall/will vs may makes a difference. Is it a faculty responsibility or a faculty option?
- In SOCRATES, the language is not “no show” it is “never attended.” The language should be consistent
- Should “excessive absence” be “excessive absences?”
- Please make all desired changes directly in the document. DAS President will review all the proposed changes with the Director of Admissions & Records.

4. [Resolution in support of the Pan-African Virtual College](#) (First Reading)

Discussion:

- It was noted that a resolution in support of the Pan-African Virtual College will go forward at ASCCC Plenary
- Question about timeline and how this resolution came to be.
 - President Bush and two faculty came to DAS and asked this body to consider supporting the Pan African Virtual College. There was discussion at the next DAS meeting on whether we were interested in a resolution in support. There was some support and also some questions about what the Pan African Virtual College is, and a desire for more details. DAS is now considering whether to support the PAVC, via this resolution
- Opinion: Support this resolution in principle, but given the impact of dual enrollment at our college, would like to know whether resources would be allocated to support this. Would like more detail on what “this” is, if we are saying we support it
- Note that there is always a cost to adding infrastructure or services/programs.
- Would it be possible to request an implementation plan? What is the vision?
 - Support for asking President Bush for more information on what this PAVC would look like.
- The University of Ghana has a lot of information about the PAVC and what exactly it would require a college to do if they participated.

Discussion

(10-15 minutes per item)

1. Canvas AI Grading Enhancement Early Access
 - a. Message from Morgan Murphy: “There is an Early Access Program that Canvas is launching for AI assisted grading. This feature is not turned on yet at Los Rios. If it is turned on at a college level, it would still be opt-in for each faculty. Faculty would always have the option to alter, adapt, or change any AI suggestions.
There has been interest from faculty at both CRC and FLC for this early access option to be turned on so that feedback can be provided to Canvas before it launches (estimated Q1 2026) as a feature option that faculty could still choose or not, to enable.
 - b. Links to Resources:

- i. https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/tkb/articleprintpage/tkb-id/ai_educationtkb-board/article-id/19
 - ii. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t9fXUG7gs-87VYcXCtTjMF9sD338Dr4/view?usp=sharing>
 - iii. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11dDla53WrHJcglyQdACO6T66GYZdgo5Z/view?usp=sharing>
- c. Canvas is collecting data on people who opt in
 - d. Some colleges want to use it because they don't like the idea of only people who are really into AI giving the feedback.
 - e. District Ed Tech did not take a position and kicked it to district Academic Senate to make the decision.
 - f. If a faculty member wants to use it, they would need to opt in.
 - g. Would like to know more about what data it's capturing and how it will be used. Get nervous about the fact that we would not know how student data is being used. Would like an ethics assessment on this tool from Ed Tech.
 - i. Recollection from the meeting that Ed Tech assessed it to have a robust safety policy.
 - h. Please take this back to your colleges

2. Fall 28/Spring 29 Academic Calendar

- a. The calendar is in the supporting materials. It is a draft calendar, and was discussed at last week's academic calendar meeting. Please share with your constituencies for feedback. Their timeline for adoption is Nov 13.
- b. Discussion about whether adding a fall break (like Sierra College does) would support student success. Plenary attendees will connect with the Sierra College academic senate president to ask.

Meeting adjourned at 11/4/2025

Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

- None

Future Returning Items:

- Not-for-Credit Curriculum Process

Upcoming Meetings / Events

- Nov. 6-8: ASCCC Fall Plenary - LaJolla
- Nov. 6: PREP Meeting, 9 am
- Nov. 11: Veteran;s Day Holiday
- Nov. 12: AB 1705 English Meeting 10 am
- Nov. 12: Los Rios Board of Trustees Meeting
- Nov. 14: Los Rios AI Summit @ FLC 9-1
- Nov. 17: DESSC, 2:30 pm
- Nov. 17: DIAC Committee, 3 pm
- Nov. 17: Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting, 3 pm
- Nov. 18: DAS Meeting

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	