

# District Academic Senate (DAS) Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 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
- Sarah Lehmann, Secretary

### 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. 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)

- An ARC ESL faculty member made public comment related to the noncredit feasibility task force recommendations, particularly the final recommendation. Concern shared that other ESL departments have not gotten any information

from Sacramento City College about what their planned noncredit ESL classes would look like. Concerned that there has not been collegial consultation on this matter or information shared about the structure of the proposed courses.

Speaker notes that it feels like we are “writing a blank check” without knowing any information about what the intent is. Concerned that the normal steps haven’t been taken to introduce a new course. Noncredit in ESL could lead to quite a different set of courses than what is currently offered.

- An ARC ESL faculty member spoke on the topic of noncredit feasibility. Sense that there has been a rush to get the noncredit courses through for Fall 2026. In ESL, the departments agreed to accept each other's students. ARC cannot accommodate the long list of students who want to take credit courses. At ARC, the ESL students want credit, they do not want noncredit.
- Comment from an ARC faculty member about noncredit. Opinion expressed that:
  - This has not been a rushed decision
  - Perhaps noncredit could be a great solution to meet student need
  - Each college can decide what they want to do with noncredit
- Faculty member made a comment about noncredit. The speaker noted that there is a high demand for ESL courses that is not currently being met.
- Faculty member made a comment about noncredit. Opinion expressed that specifically for ESL, there has not been enough collegial consultation between the colleges regarding noncredit courses. Opinion shared that as we seek to create noncredit courses, we should engage in robust dialogue amongst the district departments.
- Faculty member made public comment to remind the body of the legal definition of collegial consultation. Sometimes administrators use it to mean “consulting with faculty.” but that is not what it means. By law, this means that administrators need to consult with faculty on 10+1 issues, and either “rely primarily upon” faculty guidance, or come to “mutual agreement” on the issue at hand. What the previous speakers seem to be talking about here is effective dialogue between faculty. It’s important to be aware of the definition of collegial consultation so that we can advocate for it effectively.

## 7. DAS President’s Report

- Recent Meeting with VPs:
  - There had been a decree from upper admin at the colleges that students would serve on all faculty hiring committees and would also rank during the interview portion of the hiring process. This is a departure from past practice, and given that faculty hiring is a 10+1 issue, administrators cannot simply decree what the hiring process will be without consulting collegially with faculty. Outcome of this meeting: We will revert to historic past practice at each college regarding students serving on hiring committees (meaning the practice prior to the Spring 2025 hiring season). There is a faculty hiring manual underway and this is an

opportunity to clarify and codify the hiring practices. These are faculty hiring processes. We come to agreement on these things - we are not told what to do.

- Concern: for ARC, there is no unified past practice to fall back on. So what does it mean to revert back to “historic past practice.”
  - If you and admin can’t agree on “historic past practice,” faculty and admin will need to agree on what to do this semester.
- Talked briefly about noncredit
- Talked briefly about Universal Design for Learning (UDL) coordinators. There is an interest in continuing the UDL program in some form for another three years. The district is not committing to 100% re-assigned time for 4 people. Sounds like the worst scenario would be 2.0 FTE for UDL coordinators, with the option for campuses to provide the additional FTE to keep it at 4.0 FTE.
- Brown Act: question of whether all committees must come back in person. May be a loophole if there is one person on campus in a conference room and that location is published in the agenda.
- Upcoming Los Rios Board of Trustee races. Robert Jones will not be running again. Deborah Ortiz is running for a Sacramento Board of Supervisors position and will step down if she is among the top two candidates. Dustin Johnson is running again.
- General Counsel talked about the Board Policies and Regulations. They are supposed to be updated every three years, but are very out of date. General counsel is working on a tracking solution.
- Conflicting information received on whether enrollment is up or not in the district.

## Information Items

- [ASCCC Spring Plenary](#), April 9-11, Hyatt Sonoma Wine Country (Conference & Hotel registration is open)
- [DCCC Handbook Updates](#) - this was mostly a cleanup. The committee made some updates with current information and removed obsolete information
- Incoming District Academic Senate President - Sacramento City College will put forward the next District Academic Senate president.

## 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. Phase III for CCN is on pause at the state level. More information forthcoming at the March office hours. We do still have phase IIB courses going through the process
  - b. Upcoming DAS agenda item to allow .25 unit increments for some courses. DCCC is working on developing language/policies/definitions on exactly when that .25 increment needs to be used.

- c. It is the consensus of DCCC to facilitate the removal of courses that are not being offered on a regular basis. It is a disservice to our students for there to be a course on a student's ed plan that hasn't actually been offered in 10 years. There is no way for counselors to know how often a course is actually offered. We need to make sure our catalog is accurate
  - d. The process of approving noncredit will be the same as approving credit courses. The only change will be to propose to consolidate first and second readings for certain items. The departments will submit paperwork to create new thematic blocks. Noncredit will be numbered in the 9000s. In order to receive funding from the state, we need to create two courses plus a certificate, so that is what will be coming through. Those will be at the March DCCC meeting so they can be at the April Board meeting. This is the normal process; the only thing that is rushed is a request to consolidate the first and second readings. If DCCC does not approve the request to merge the first and second readings, the noncredit courses can still be approved this semester, it would just go to the May board meeting rather than the April board meeting. Aware that there are other discussions going on regarding noncredit, but from a curriculum standpoint, they are making sure the pieces are in places so that things are ready for students.
    - i. It was noted that ARC has requested that there be a sufficient amount of time for intra-district faculty dialogue and consideration of the proposed noncredit curriculum. If there is a request for first and second reads to be done at the same meeting, ARC requests that there be pre-consultation so that we ensure there is time for faculty to give input
      - 1. Clarification from SCC curriculum chair that there hasn't been consultation yet because there has been no information to share yet. Sacramento City College will share information widely about their proposed ESL courses once they have the info to share. Will suggest an information meeting with ARC ESL folks to discuss questions and concerns.
      - 2. Comment that since the adult schools closed, there is a huge need to serve students who are seeking English as a Second Language training.
      - 3. Reminder that DCCC is an open meeting, and everyone is invited to attend if they wish
      - 4. Question: is suspending the rules to consolidate a first and second reading commonly done at DCCC?
        - a. Yes, it is frequently done.
    - ii. Comment that putting constraints on the types of courses that can have .25 units could have unforeseen impacts on faculty in the future
    - iii. Comment that the policy to sunset courses sounds like a local course management issue rather than a district curriculum issue. Hopefully local curriculum committees have a process for courses that need to go through the local deletion process.
2. District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC) – Paula Cardwell/Lydia Delgado

- a. Will be voting on the question of whether to waive GE courses for students who have completed an associate's degree
  - b. Having conversations about new Title 5 regulations relating to student educational plans.
- 3. District Educational Technology Committee (DETC) – Morgan Murphy
  - a. No report
- 4. Prison & Reentry Education Program Committee (PREP) – Jeff Knorr
  - a. New students are being registered and enrolled
  - b. Finishing their Spring 2025 report, reflecting on PREP's work, accomplishments, shortcomings, and analyzing where the District has fallen short in responding to PREP's requests for support.
  - c. End of semester gathering at ARC for our district students to recognize their very successful semester.
  - d. In-Facility program beginning new semester.
  - e. We are putting together attendance at various re-entry fairs happening in our area facilities Folsom State Prison, CA Medical Facility in Stockton and San Quentin State Prison
  - f. We continue to interface with various agencies and bodies including CDCR, The State Chancellors Office, Los Rios District Office and our Board of Trustees regarding various issues from student access & equity, curriculum, hiring of our post incarcerated students & alumni and other issues.
- 5. Instructional Accessibility Committee - Beki Mendel
  - a. No report
- 6. District Affordable Learning Materials Committee – Andi Adkins Pogue
  - a. The committee had its first meeting of the spring yesterday and is working to revise the committee charter based on discussions that happened last semester. It will now be sent to local committee chairs who are encouraged to share with their entire committee to gather feedback/suggestions, etc.

## Decisions

(10-15 minutes per item)

### 1. Academic Language Proposal (Second Reading)

Academic Probation Language Task Force proposed changes to the following policies and regulations to maintain compliance with impending changes to Title 5.

- a. P-2231 – Academic Standards (Updates “Probation” to “Notice” and “Dismissal” to “Pause”)
- b. P-7252 – Grading Practices and Standards (Updates “Probation” to “Notice” and “Dismissal” to “Pause”)
- c. R-2211 – Admission and Entrance Requirements (Updates “Probation” to “Notice” and “Dismissal” to “Pause”)
- d. R-2231 – Academic Standards (Updates “Probation” to “Notice” and “Dismissal” to “Pause”; simplifies title 5 language for readability and implementation, clarifies appeal and return to good standing processes).

- e. R-2511 – Counseling Services (Updates “Probation” to “Notice”)
- f. R-7252 – Grading Practices and Standards (Updates “Probation” to “Notice” and “Dismissal” to “Pause”; further clarifies repetition after academic renewal)

The changes were approved by acclamation

2. Recommendation from DCCC to approve changes to P-7141: Instructional Programs/Curriculum Development; change to allow unit increments for 0.25 to be used for some courses. (First Reading).

- a. Concern that restricting the use of .25 unit increments could have unforeseen negative consequences. Recommendation that this not be put in a regulation
- b. Can we get an example of a situation where the .25 unit increment is needed, so that we can explain it to faculty?
  - i. In a math support course with lab hours students would need to attend for 27 hours to earn 0.5 units. But it is more reasonable to allow students to attend for 13.5 hours to earn 0.25 units. This type of course is open entry/exit and provides individualized support.

3. [Resolution in Support of Honoring Collegial Consultation Relating to Faculty Hiring Processes](#) (First Reading).

[Link to resolution](#)

- a. We have already been given the support we were asking for in this resolution. Would anyone entertain a motion to postpone this item indefinitely?
  - i. This motion was made, but it was determined that we just won't bring it back for second reading if it's not needed
  - ii. Interest in making sure this support actually happens
  - iii. Interest in preserving a record of this issue having happened in our district
    - 1. This document would be preserved in the agenda and minutes

4. Recommendation from Noncredit Feasibility Task Force (first reading):

Text of recommendations:

- a. *The Los Rios Noncredit Feasibility Task Force met during the Fall 2025 semester to help determine noncredit feasibility from the lens of 10+1 and develop a projected timeline for implementation of this section of work. The task force reviewed statewide documents and resources pertaining to noncredit and had robust discussions about noncredit feasibility.*
- b. *The DAS Noncredit Feasibility Task Force has determined that noncredit is feasible from the lens of 10+1.*

- c. *The DAS Noncredit Feasibility Task Force recommends that*
- *noncredit pilots be conducted during Fall 2026 and Spring 2027. The intent of these pilots is to inform future decision making.*
  - *Local curriculum committees are encouraged to create flexible processes to support these non-precedent setting pilots.*
  - *the DCCC and local Curriculum Committees develop processes for future approval of noncredit classes and Certificates based on learning from noncredit pilots.*

Background:

- Los Rios has been working on noncredit for about 5 years. A task force was convened in 2022-2023, there was follow up in 2024. DAS asked the District for support in determining feasibility of noncredit in terms of logistical elements like admissions, etc. In May 2025, the District let DAS know that they'd determined it was feasible to offer noncredit from their perspective.
- A separate 10+1 noncredit feasibility task force met last semester to consider whether noncredit was feasible from a faculty perspective. The task force finds that noncredit is feasible from the lens of the 10+1. The group reviewed statewide documents and researched noncredit offerings at other colleges.
- The task force recommends that noncredit pilot courses be implemented in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 in order to help inform future development of noncredit offerings at Los Rios.

Discussion:

- During public comment, it was stated that this work felt "rushed." Others feel the work has been ongoing for years. Where is this disconnect coming from?
  - People have differences of opinions.
    - Noncredit is offered at every other college in the state
  - Sense that the discussion of whether the program is feasible has not been rushed. Sense that the rush is for the pilots to be conducted in Fall. This timeline requires that DCCC collapse first and second readings for the Program Placement Council, which is the group that determines if there is a regional need for the program being proposed.
    - DCCC Chair clarified that doing the first and second readings at different meetings would still allow enough time for Board approval and therefore to enable a Fall 2026 start date for noncredit courses.
- Concern with supporting the recommendation to move forward on a very short timeline. Removing this recommendation may help folks feel that the decision is not so rushed.
- Support expressed for the idea that we don't need to rush.
- Concerns: Considering labor issues, non-credit programs in CCCs are mostly staffed by part-time faculty and there is no true parity in pay and workload.

- Sense that there is an unspoken interest here from ARC that the speaker doesn't understand. Maybe it would help to share some of the deeper concerns behind the opposition to ESL noncredit at ARC.
- Concern that if we rush this process, a course may be created that harms our students
  - It was noted that the CalSTRS minimum full-time equivalent table for service credit is **525** instructional hours for credit faculty vs. **875** for CCC faculty employed in adult education /non-credit programs
- Reminder that curriculum is local
- Reminder that just because another college creates a noncredit ESL program does not mean that ARC needs to
- Concern that non-credit students are not eligible for FAFSA.
- Reminder that non-credit courses are free to students
- ARC's concerns are mostly about labor and parity between part time and full time faculty
- Another concern from ARC: we don't have enough classrooms for our current credit classes. Where are we going to put non-credit classes?
- Comments from AVP Frank Kobayashi
  - Noted that chief negotiator Belinda Lum was on the task force, and there is an understanding that faculty who teach noncredit during the pilot will have pay parity with all other faculty
  - District IT would do substantial work to ensure the system infrastructure could support noncredit.
- Question: are we in a position where if we are not comfortable accepting these three recommendations and all the language in there, we are saying no to noncredit?
  - Speaker does not support encouraging the creation of "flexible processes" for curriculum.
- Strong concern with the language of "flexible processes."
  - What is a "flexible process?" It seems like a big umbrella term that could mean anything. What does it mean specifically here?
  - Could we propose that we strike or revise the language around "flexible processes?"
    - Absolutely yes, we could
- Request that we separate the conversation about ESL from the broader recommendations we are voting on
- Opinion that noncredit serves a huge population of students that are served by all the other 113 colleges. We are shutting out that population in the Sacramento region.
  - Noncredit courses are free
  - With noncredit, someone can take those courses without any documentation of their residency
- Opinion that noncredit would meet a huge need for foundational math classes that are not currently being met

## Reports

(5 minutes per report + 5 minutes for questions)

No reports

## Discussion

(10-15 minutes per item)

### 1. Hiring Manual Revision Update

- a. Concern expressed: the hiring manual revision group has been meeting for 6 months, and all the VPIs have been in that group, and they did not mention their intention to change the practices around students serving on hiring committees and ranking during interviews.
- b. Concern about 8-10 person committees being convened for adjunct hiring.
- c. Concern: One of the academic senate presidents has had to kick back two hiring committees because they were not faculty weighted
- d. At ARC there is a resolution still in draft specific to student roles in hiring committees. To assist folks on hiring committee tasks force, it may be helpful to create documents that outline the changes we want to see in the faculty hiring manual
- e. Concern that at ARC, some administrators have asked whether the candidates use OER textbooks. Opinion that choice of textbook should not be a consideration on whether to hire someone.
- f. A cursory review of faculty hiring manuals around the state show a focus on subject matter expertise and discipline faculty weight. Some manuals even mention that students and classified may serve, but only with Academic Senate approval. Some make no mention of students at all.

## Items from Colleges for District Academic Senate Consideration

- None

## Future Returning Items:

- Resolution in support of the Pan-African Virtual College
- Not-for-Credit Curriculum Process

## Upcoming Meetings / Events

- Feb. 2 DALMC Committee Meeting, 3:30-5 pm
- Feb. 3 DAS Meeting, 3-5 pm, DO Main Conference Room
- Feb. 5 PREP Committee Meeting 9 am
- Feb. 6 Hiring Manual Revision Task Force Meeting, 10-12, DO Main Conference Room
- Feb. 9 Public Safety Advisory Committee, 3-4 pm, DO Main Conference Room
- Feb. 11 AB 1705 English Meeting, 10-11 am
- Feb. 13-16 President's Holiday Weekend
- Feb. 17 DAS Meeting, 3-5 pm, DO Main Conference Room
- Feb. 18 Los Rios Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Board Room

## 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	

