

# Los Rios District Equity & Student Success Committee Minutes

Monday, October 19, 2020

Via zoom <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/92903387125>

## Attendees:

Bernadette Anayah, Karen Tercho, Melanie Dixon, Leila Stone, Courtnee Mack, Yolanda Garcia, Alexandra Dimant (for Dalia), Inna Tikhonov, Antonia Corpuz, Clarissa Correa, Valerie Chueh, Victoire Chochezi, Parrish Geary (for Jeff), Neue Leung

Guest: Jason Ralphs

## Minutes

- I. Call to Order at 2:32pm
- II. Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved by consensus
- III. Approval of [9/21meeting minutes](#) -
- IV. Introductions
- V. Administrator's report
  - a. DO is getting ready to launch a student help call center; to help A&R, Financial Aid offices, students with questions - if questions repeat, District can know what needs to be better communicated.
  - b. Thank you for approving charters, including Digital Equity, Advanced Education, Call Center
  - c. Pandemic update: Colleges will be online for Spring 2021; Summer and Fall TBD. The District is following county and state guidelines, watching vaccine progress (but a vaccine does not mean an automatic green light). Reopening plans are being sketched in. Some CTE programs - nursing, EMT are allowed to run on ground. Waiting for more information to decide when additional programs will return on-ground. Economic climate is still revealing itself - fiscal impact of COVID. Budget implications are TBD - nothing concrete yet.
- VI. Advanced Education Workgroup - Lead, Jason Ralphs
  - a. Group looked at the Advanced Education application.
    - i. Major change was one sentence related to high school GPA. Colleges are not to decide admission based on GPA alone. Sentence was removed from application - language more closely aligns with Education Code. There is still language / guidance on 2.7 GPA.
      1. Discussion ensues - why is 2.7 GPA still mentioned on the form? Suggestion is made that the workgroup could review this number - is it a gatekeeper and how does this number affect

disproportionately impacted students? Is it a deterrent? There are measures for cohorted groups, but not for individual applicants.

2. Black Minds Matter content was mentioned in that GPA requirements do negatively impact Black students. If students can be cohorted by GPA, this would be more equitable. If we have GPA language in the application, this does students of color a disservice and puts up a barrier. Even a suggestion might turn students away.
3. Student input from Alex - challenges faced as a 16-year old at SCC trying to figure out the LMS. A cohort program or additional support would have helped immensely. Alex was discouraged from continuing to take classes at SCC. Relays that GPA is not a reliable indicator of how students might experience success. More guidance for advanced ed students on how to connect with the institution is needed. It is extremely important to emphasize resources (like tutoring and the Writing Center) to advanced ed students.
4. Lived experience shows up in the educational experience; there are different constraints that affect high school students - these could be safety issues, food or housing insecurities, racism. We need to be inclusive of all students who do have the potential to succeed.
5. Discussion on the origin of the 2.7 GPA and how this was determined as a legacy of past policies.
  - ii. Application was moved online in Spring 2020 to streamline the application process for prospective students, especially in light of the pandemic. A web form is in process (to improve upon the current PDF form).

VII. Chair's report

- a. Members are encouraged to read minutes from the October meeting for a review of the charge of the committee and submit agenda items in advance of the meeting - items related to student success, equity challenges and obstacles.

VIII. Discussion items

- a. Future charters for ad hoc workgroups:
  - i. Basic Needs (currently being organized by Hannah Blodgett)
  - ii. Health Services Advisory
  - iii. Dual Enrollment
- b. Obstacles to equity and student success (standing item)
  - i. Closed captioning within Zoom
  - ii. Verifying student's identities for counseling and other college appointments via Zoom
  - iii. Melanie will look into these items (i and ii); possibly a technology constraint that can be solved; items will be returned to DESSC.

iv. Question about student referrals in Starfish - when a referral happens, the student is notified along with college employees.

IX. 2020-21 meeting dates: FALL - November 16, December 14 / SPRING - February 22, March 15, April 19, May 17: 2:30 – 4:30 pm

X. Future Agenda Items

a. Review existing workgroups