

# Minutes Los Rios District Equity & Student Success Committee

8.23.2021 2:30 - 4:30 PM

Via zoom: <https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/2085010302>

## Attendees:

Tera Reynolds, Neue Leung, Bernadette Anayah, BJ Snowden, Karen Tercho, Ea Edwards, Valerie Chueh, Ina Tikhonov, Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, Victoire Chochezi, Andrea Fuentes

## Guests:

Julie Oliver (District Academic Senate President), Olga Prizhbilov, Jason Ralphs

## Minutes

- I. Call to Order - meeting called to order at 2:32pm
- II. Approval of Agenda - agenda approved
- III. Approval of Minutes [5.17.2021 DESSC Minutes](#) - minutes approved
- IV. Welcome and Introductions
- V. Discussion items
  - a. The Brown Act and expiration of the zoom option for meetings - [The Brown Act - Powerpoint](#)
    - i. Following the Brown Act is a legal requirement as DESSC stems from DAS (District Academic Senate); DESSC must be Brown Act-compliant. In spring of 2020 the governor's executive order was created and allowed for leniency in terms of public meetings - this executive order expires on 9/30.
    - ii. For "teleconferences," these locations must be public, open, and ADA accessible. This includes people's homes (!). It makes things complicated. There are some legislative bills in the pipeline that might allow for Zoom meetings; this will not be implemented by the DESSC October meeting, however.
    - iii. We (DESSC) do need to be compliant for the October meeting (and beyond as it applies).
    - iv. Options are limited - some examples would be (1) meet @DO; (2) meet at colleges with some people on laptops; (3) meet in one large location at one of the colleges. Other notes: any and all locations must be publicly posted and ADA accessible; we must have a quorum where members are all located in the same region.
    - v. Each college needs to assess which are Senate subcommittees and standing committees
    - vi. BJ will check with DO - Jennifer / Nancy - to see if Board Room is available for the October meeting.
  - b. Vaccination requirements
    - i. Vaccine mandate from Chancellor King. BJ is the lead on the vaccination verification process. There will be a full vaccination requirement by spring

for all employees. Students who are not fully vaccinated will be blocked from enrolling in F2F classes for spring 2022. Questions from constituents etc. can go directly to BJ.

1. Sonia Ortiz-Mercado: District is currently being proactive in reaching out to students enrolled in on-ground courses - currently both educating and incentivizing around vaccination. Messaging will shift - disciplinary process will apply to students after Oct. 1 and students who remain unvaccinated will not be allowed to stay in on-ground classes (suspended, administrative drop). Students who qualify for an exemption are being shifted to online classes.
  2. BJ Snowden: After Oct. 1, anyone accessing our physical spaces needs their 1st vaccination dose by 10/1 and fully vaccinated by spring 2022 semester.
  3. How will we know if students have been vaccinated? Sonia: After 10/1, all student services are by appointment only. Specified staff and supervisors would have access to PeopleSoft screens to be able to check a student's vaccination status. Students who are not vaccinated will not be able to get an F2F appointment.
- c. Refugee Pathways Programs - Olga Prizhbilov presented on this 2-year grant program, which has a year and a half to go. Community partners and all LR colleges are participating. The program helps students with career readiness and logistics. Agencies refer potential students to the Refugee Pathways Program.
- i. How do we create a system where all refugees that come onto our campus are accepted and helped, no matter the preparedness? Part of this program is to create long-term solutions to help refugee students and how to leverage campus resources and services to address needs.
  - ii. Are there processes that can be institutionalized to help refugee students? Counseling and financial aid is where many students get stuck. If these students are sent to a contact person (rather than general counseling), this would be helpful. Same with financial aid workshops (perhaps in different languages).
  - iii. Currently there are about 700 refugee students who marked the box "asylum or refugee status" across Los Rios (possibly underrepresented); about 500 are attending ARC and ~100 each at other colleges. We are already stretched thin; possible training for faculty and classified professionals.
  - iv. Program follows the meta-majors for Guided Pathways; program is collaborating with ESL departments; new Ideas are welcome; ideas floated today include a training (much like UndocuAlly training) around processes, trauma, etc.
  - v. Bernadette: does this call for a DESSC ad hoc workgroup - Olga: an advisory group will be created with DESSC-related members welcome.
- d. UnDocu Students - BJ: workgroup has already met to start planning for spring 22. Working with legal aid group.

- i. Received numbers on AB1645 funding for the district (for colleges to support undocumented students); one of the charges is to clearly identify what we can spend this money on - the group has asked into Fiscal for clarification / interpretation on this.
  - ii. CRC has given the workgroup a process map - sharing with all 4 colleges - how to meet student needs while following the process.
  - iii. Best possible onboarding, front door training. Andrea Gaytan is working with BJ on how workgroup will share knowledge - we have some of the leading experts in the state.
- e. [Basic Needs Workgroup](#) - BJ asks that we identify folks on our campuses to serve on this group. Goals: share knowledge across district and meet on a monthly basis.
- f. Transfer Credit Automation Project - Right now there is a gap in our ability to process students with prior credit. This is currently falling to counseling. Equivalencies need to be created. This can be an equity issue. The ask: a group of faculty & classified to be formed and work with IT. The group's goal would be to address issues related to transfer.
  - i. Faculty Articulation Office appointments
  - ii. Scope of Project
  - iii. Jason Ralphs is the lead for the transcript technology team.
  - iv. BJ will make a formal ask of DAS for the workgroup.
- g. Graduation petition improvement project - Jason Ralphs. Students applying for graduation do not experience a unified process across the colleges. When petitions are received, evaluators transcribe request into an old Access database. This project will create a student-facing graduation petition accessed in eServices and track in Peoplesoft. Petitions can be processed in a batch. Many advantages in terms of improving the student experience.
  - i. Senate Presidents will get requests for faculty to serve on this project group. Please include a couple of sentences - a blurb - explaining what the project is about (in general for these requests).
- h. Equity work at the colleges and/or obstacles to equity and student success
  - i. BJ: as of July 1, DO has renewed contract with equity consultants (Lasana Hotep and Cynthia Olivio). College leadership should be consulted as to whether and how the colleges would like to consult with the consultants. While the work is designated on larger district-level goals, it's an opportunity for colleges to get assistance with equity projects. More trainings are in the works; recordings will be shared in a repository. Contact Senate presidents to request time with the consultants and/or any new trainings for a college constituency group.
  - ii. FLC - Victoire: For flex week, joint offering from Equity Center and Equity Committee. Reviewed all equity committees across the district in order to clarify. Misconceptions that all of these committees are redundant, etc. A document will be available on the website - probably on the FLC Equity in Action website. Another offering: call for folx to write / draw about equity

themes. There will be a call for submissions - was a well-received session.

- iii. For fun: a new Netflix show starring Sandra Oh as English department chair - [The Chair](#). Possible discussion group!
- iv. ARC activities - Unite Center in ARC student center - is in progress and will have multiple programs. Dean of Student Engagement and Completion will oversee this center of learning communities including Puente, Umoja, Pride, Pride (API). Successful activities for incoming students were held (outdoors) prior to fall semester.

VI. Fall 2021 meeting dates: August 23, September 20, October 18, November 15

VII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Tutoring and Black/AA students
- b. Dual Enrollment/Advanced Education outreach efforts to Black/AA students