

Los Rios District Equity & Student Success Committee

9.20.2021 2:30 - 4:30 PM

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

Attendees:

Bernadette Anayah, BJ Snowden, Karen Tercho, Ea Edwards, Leila Stone, Victoire Chochezi, Valerie Chueh, Andrea Fuertes, Andrea Gaytan, Olga Prizhbilov, Ina Tikhonov, Neue Leung, Michael Chappell, Sonia Ortiz-Mercado; Guest: Andrea Gaytan

Minutes

- I. Call to Order - meeting called to order at 2:34 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda - agenda approved by consensus
- III. Approval of Minutes: [Minutes DESSC 8.23.2021](#) - minutes approved by consensus
- IV. Administrator's report
 - a. Administrators are highly focused on vaccination requirements. Incentive for students. Over 20K students have been vaccinated - a lot of messaging to students. Students who do not follow vaccination requirements will be blocked from taking on-ground classes; however those students can still take virtual classes.
 - i. Student services (Admissions, Counseling) and vaccination: Vaccination records are being integrated with SARS. Colleges are working out their plans for walk-up students.
- V. Chair's report
 - a. Extension of Brown Act - for this semester, DESSC meetings can still be via Zoom. Group approves
 - b. Membership - still need a classified professional to replace Courtnee Mack. SCC student rep still needed.
 - c. Welcome to Andrea Gaytan at SCC, Rapid Response Team
 - d. Work group: TES (Transcript Evaluation System) Implementation Team. This group has been formed and appointments made by DAS President. The group's mission is to seek a technological solution to streamline the system of transferring credits from other institutions and help students find transfer credit opportunities.
- VI. Discussion items
 - a. [Basic Needs Workgroup](#) - This charter was established about a year ago and approved. Group hasn't been meeting since 2020. To support students in basic needs, for example strengthen community partnerships. See charter for more details. Does DESSC support the re-gathering of this group?

- i. Discussion - there are so many different basic needs initiatives going on across the district. This gave cohesion to college basic needs efforts.
 - ii. **Ask for DESSC:** please bring (to BJ) recommendations for faculty and classified who could serve on this workgroup. The group can benefit from a diversity of perspectives; those who have knowledge of students who participate in our basic needs programs.
 - 1. BJ will send an email with details out to DESSC.
 - iii. Question - do students need a certain # of units to participate in Basic Needs programs? For food, housing, usually not. For Foundation grants, there are some unit requirements.
- b. The onground experience at the colleges - many challenges and successes with being back on ground.
- i. At SCC, (anecdotally) many students wanted to be on-ground last fall 2020. This semester, many students preferred to be online (perhaps because they had the experience in spring 2021).
 - ii. At FLC, some ESL classes have been on-ground (hard to convert). Enrollment numbers have been very low (disappointing), but experiences have been positive.
 - iii. At all four colleges enrollment numbers reflect the above - there has been a lot of difficulty filling on-ground classes. Student services - about 25% of students are using on-ground services (as opposed to virtual).
 - iv. There is a gap at some colleges with knowledge about on-ground services when students are in-person.
 - 1. At SCC, there are live zoom chats available for Financial Aid & Admissions for students with questions.
 - 2. All libraries are providing services to students - CRC, FLC, SCC have limited hours with library buildings open; ARC has a window (in front of the library building) to provide materials to students. CRC, FLC now have lockers for students to pick up materials outside of open hours. SCC is launching lockers soon.
 - 3. Some students reporting they prefer online. Online classes allow students to save money on commuting, etc., and save time.
 - 4. Appointment-only services are very limited in terms of the student experience.
 - 5. Other students in our Black/African American communities report that they prefer on-ground classes, and won't return until the classes they want, at the times that they want, are available. There is a large contingent of students who are not being reached via online learning.
 - 6. There are some services and tech /computer help for students at the college libraries, however, hours are super limited. We are hoping / planning for better library hours in spring 2022.

7. Local situation - difficult to build a relationship with students when enforcing mandates - balance between keeping colleagues safe and following mandates.
 8. Across the district, in terms of enforcing mask mandates, college deans are ready to help with enforcing mask mandates - it is not recommended to call LRPD. Intentional de-escalation.
 9. Questions about how things are being handled administratively for those employees who decide not to be vaccinated - progressive disciplinary actions will begin after Oct. 1 - carefully to be sure that all processes are being followed. All collective bargaining groups have been consulted.
 10. Effects of the vaccine requirement on students willing to return to on-ground classes? It's difficult to know. Helpful to encourage our students in terms of future transferring, future travel.
 11. Reason for optimism is that 2400 students in Los Rios have been vaccinated recently - we have the opportunity to have a positive impact on public health.
- c. Obstacles to equity and student success
- i. Computer skills for students - this remains an equity issue. These days most / many programs do not have a basic computing class in their GE pattern. This is an issue for ESL students. Younger students may not have needed computer skills even though this is often an assumption. Many, many students do all of their coursework on their phones.
 1. Digital literacy is a critical learning skill that should / could be woven into every class.
 2. District has done work to have tech resources available to students, for ex. a centralized Help Desk / hub: [Technology Resources](#)
 3. Group agrees that digital equity should be a priority for DESSC.
 4. SCC has a Digital Inclusion Workgroup - [Digital Inclusion Workgroup | SCC Inside](#)
- d. Equity work at the colleges and district
- i. LR wide initiatives (Olga)
 1. Refugee support programs at all colleges, especially (currently) for Afghanistan needing support.
 2. Upcoming listening sessions - one for students, one for employees. Medical professional will be there to support.
 3. Veteran support - more visibility and support for veterans is needed. Karen shared [SCC Library 9/11 digital display](#) web page.
 4. Refugee Career Pathways program needs cross-district support.
 - ii. CRC (Mike): Umoja, initiatives to support students experiencing trauma related to George Floyd murder. Equity teams are looking at barriers to students and how to improve situations. Los Rios is offering various

professional development opportunities for employees that support our Black and African American employees and students.

- iii. FLC - Join FLC's Fall 2021 Racial Justice Book Circle as we read and discuss Ijeoma Oluo's bestselling book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Book Circle Starts: September 29, 2021 / Wednesdays from 12PM-1PM / Zoom Link: <https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/94133638215>. Contact Victoire with questions.
- iv. ARC - Refugee pathways program (Olga) - see below

VII. 2021 meeting dates: Fall 2021: October 18, November 15

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- a. ARC (Olga) - Refugee pathways program: DRAFT (ARC Academic Senate Statement of Support for Afghan Students) 9/9/21

The ARC Academic Senate offers its strong support for our Afghan students who may fear persecution for families or themselves in this time. Recognizing that the crisis in Afghanistan poses a threat to the safety of some of our students and their families, the ARC Academic Senate supports faculty giving flexibility for students to navigate their options for more privacy in the class environment. We understand that students experiencing acute trauma need understanding, compassion, and resources. We support our faculty negotiating deadlines and responsibilities with care for students under acute trauma. We support options for Afghan students to receive individual and group counseling tailored to the trauma of persecution. We advocate for the College to work tirelessly to identify students who may not have been able to reach the United States, and for the resources they and their families need for safe arrival back to Sacramento.

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