

Los Rios District Equity & Student Success Committee

2.28.2022 2:30-4:30 PM

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

Attendees:

Leila Stone, Bernadette Anayah, Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, Olga Prizhbilov, Kellie Butler, Karen Tercho, Victoire Chochezi, Tera Reynolds, Ea Edwards, Inna Tikhonov

Guests:

Tamara Armstrong, Kevin Wong

Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 2:31pm
- II. Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved with the following changes
 - a. Olga reports earlier and
 - b. Flexibility requested as some folks need to leave early
- III. Approval of Minutes [Minutes 1.24.2022](#) - Minutes approved
- IV. Administrator's report (Ortiz-Mercado): 2022 commencements are being planned for in-person, outdoor events.
- V. Chair's report (Anayah)
 - a. Membership for Dual Enrollment workgroup is being developed and looking good.
 - b. New DESSC member Jae Anderson, FLC Classified rep
- VI. Discussion items
 - Refugee Pathways Program and DESSC (Olga Prizhbilov)
 - [Refugee Career Pathways Program](#)
 - Olga requests that DESSC serves as advisory and reporting outlet for this program. Current grant ends in December.
 - Approved by consensus by DESSC members
 - Refugee Career Pathways grant is moving along - working on renewal
 - Current crisis / war in Ukraine: SCC and ARC have scheduled listening sessions.
 - For students in crisis and who need help, please refer students to Olga.
 - Updating of workgroup charters
 - **Digital Equity**, Tamara Armstrong and Kevin Wong

- Lots of work has been done over the last 2 years in distributing digital devices and broadband access to students, and supporting libraries/Learning Resources in distribution.
- Thousands of Chromebooks have been distributed by District in supporting students - over 5800 based on eligibility (Promise Grant, 6+ units unless DSPS students), plus 260 hotspots & monthly service.
- Working on preparing for the next cycle - fall 2022 in streamlining processes.
- Areas to refocus - Intent to leverage workgroup to support college-specific activities around digital equity. Raise awareness of digital literacy.
- Work being done on call center (referring students), advocacy by Tamara and Kevin at the greater Sacramento area level. Tamara is on the steering committee for Sacramento Coalition for Digital Inclusion - projects to advocate for better broadband access for underserved communities.
 - Action: Tamara & team do have information about geographical areas that have weaker broadband connectivity. It will be possible to share with faculty. Suggestion to share this info at the Academic Senate level.
 - Request (to ask Tamara): Please include broadband info on West Sac & Davis service areas (some are rural for example).
- Action: DESSC agrees to gather info about college-level digital equity & inclusion work being done, and pass along to Tamara and Kevin.
- **Undocumented Students** - Sonia: recent meeting with Undocu Student workgroup. Workgroup is shifting to focus from advocacy and policy (as this work is being funded on a state level) on operational improvements to help undocu students. Workgroup has come up with five goals to accomplish, and the current charter will be updated. The workgroup will report back to DESSC. Membership will also be further developed and reported to DESSC in March.
- **Dual Enrollment** - Workgroup is moving forward and members are being added.
- **Basic Needs** - Sonia: Workgroup hasn't gotten off the ground yet. Charter needs to be updated. What is it that we would need a workgroup to do?
- Dual Enrollment - First meeting will likely be mid-to-late March. Jason is coordinating the first meeting.
- Equity Consultants Update - No update at this time
- Equity work at the colleges (All)

- Issue raised about statewide policy changes in math due to AB 705 and Math 333 - colleges can no longer offer basic skills math courses. Summer will be the last time Math 120 will be offered. Are there resources available? DESSC could call for more resources and support mechanisms for students.
 - Kellie: Math 333 will be considered transferable credit (but not as quantitative reasoning in fall 2022 - hopefully the following semester this will qualify as quantitative reasoning. Student messaging is needed to ameliorate this). Lots of work is needed to make this an equitable situation, as well as support and messaging to help students meet their math requirements.
 - Suggestion to develop a district-wide list of math-related resources that students can reference, especially until colleges can offer supports.
- Request that colleges (FLC, ARC, CRC) send Karen and Bernadette info on college-level digital equity and inclusion work.
- Ukrainian student support; we also need to support our Russian students, who are probably also experiencing grief and pain.
- Returning to campus - discussions / ideas on reaching out to students who haven't returned to campus yet.
 - Idea to have another forum with a public health expert who is culturally competent.
- General concern about district-wide initiative in encouraging students to take 15 units. There are potentially negative impacts on students. The message from district (to students) contains the info that 15 units is desirable if students want to finish in 2 years. This initiative is intended to be carried out with an equity mindset. Counselors' role is to be attentive to students' needs, options. Concerns that students will experience self-judgment if they are not shown alternate pathways to getting to goals. Services need to be student-centered. More counselors would help these efforts. Flexible learning will also help these students.

VII. Action Items

- a. Follow up with Tamara & Kevin for information about geographical areas that have weaker broadband connectivity. Bernadette to share this info at District Academic Senate to be then shared with college senates.
- b. DESSC agrees to gather info about college-level digital equity & inclusion work being done, and pass along to Tamara and Kevin. SCC - Karen; FLC - Kellie (will email Bernadette & Karen).

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- a. A&R and FA Redesign feedback (All)
- b. Next DESSC chair (CRC) starting in fall 2022
- c. Lines of communication from college committees to DESSC (All)

IX. 2021- 2022 meeting dates:
January 24, February 28, March 21, April 18

X. Workgroups/Sub-committees

- Digital Equity - sub-committee of DESSC
- Dual Enrollment (& Advanced Ed) workgroup - chartered under DESSC
- Undocumented Students workgroup - chartered under DESSC
- Basic Needs workgroup- update DESSC
- Call Centerworkgroup - update DESSC