

PREP Subcommittee 2023-2024 District Academic Senate End Of Year Report

Committee Members Fall 2023: Lynn Baker-Nauman, Kalinda Jones, Stephanie Karas, Veronica Lopez, Mari Peshon, Molly Stafford, Christina Washington (Sonia Ortez-Mercado)

Committee Members Spring 2024: Lynn Baker-Nauman, Kalinda Jones, Stephanie Karas, Jeff Knorr, Veronica Lopez, Christina Washington

Meetings:

- 7 official meetings occurred on 1st Thursday of each month @ District Office from 9:00 - 10:30 (minutes from meetings located on website)
- 1 DAS PREP Student Taskforce meeting 10/19/23 @ Mule Creek State Prison
- 7 working meetings 3rd Thursday of each month via Zoom from 9:00 - 10:00

Themes that arose throughout the Year

- Faculty have numerous unanswered questions for Admin regarding instruction (e.g., supplies, scheduling,), professional development, communication, faculty coordination for on campus and in-facility educational programming, administrative growth, budgets/funding, and timelines related to instruction/scheduling.
- Committee structure/function including purview of committee and role of Administrators on Committee.
- Concerns regarding collegial consultation due to lack of committee involvement in various program decisions such as program development, faculty coordination leadership, student success, educational pathways, etc.
- Need for and recommendations concerning faculty coordination for both in-facility and on-campus programs.
- Concerns about and advocacy for student success- equity and access to resources (books, computers, counselor, classes for degree completion, etc.), including nearly no access to student services.
- Increased stress and burn-out among PREP faculty.
- Academic freedom when teaching in the prison.

Recommendations made by the Committee to DAS

1. In relation to educational programming & scheduling of classes the committee recommends:
 - That DAS asserts the primacy of faculty in creation of pathways specific to our incarcerated students and operationalizes this via the PREP committee or a group from this committee that are charged to establish pathways for each group of students who are incarcerated at each separate yard/location.
 - Scheduling of classes aligns with pathways.

- Creation of new classes aligns with pathways/new pathways that are being opened up to students.
 - Timelines around pathways align with curriculum processes within the departments, campus curriculum committees, etc.
2. In relation to professional development the committee:
- Is in full agreement with the DAS Faculty Professional Development: [PREP Resolution](#)
 - Suggests the following as potential starting topics:
 - PREP “101” - should be developed by a group of experienced PREP faculty. Then it can be codified, available, and implemented BEFORE faculty go into the prison. It can be updated as needed.
 - Concrete areas related to faculty responsibilities, as well as perceptions and shades of gray need to be covered.
 - Differentiated professional development depending on discipline, theoretical approach to teaching, faculty role (e.g., counselor, coordinator), etc.
 - How is PREP different than teaching on campus?; What faculty wish they knew before teaching in PREP?; What problems did faculty experience that they didn’t anticipate?
 - Differences and similarities between teaching topics such as race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. in the prison vs. teaching on campus.
 - Integrating anti-racist, anticolonial, culturally responsive, and abolitionist pedagogy/andragogy into prison teaching.
 - PREP lite is a valuable program and should continue as a way to introduce new faculty into teaching in the prison. It should be created and led by faculty. Descriptions of the program should reflect the content being covered by faculty leading the program.
 - Experienced faculty need ongoing professional development - annual FLEX to review/update knowledge professional development
 - As a way to continually improve their practice and to avoid burn-out, faculty in PREP need the ongoing expertise and collaboration that occurs in the regular community of practice meetings.
 - While acknowledging the specialized knowledge and skills required for faculty to effectively teach in prisons, the committee recommends that faculty in Los Rios be afforded resources to participate in statewide professional development and shared governance so they can continue to develop their expertise.
3. In relation to the DAS PREP Subcommittee:

- As long as the in-facility work (e.g., prison education) remains at the district office, D.A.S. and this committee should serve in the role of Academic Senate for academic and professional matters for PREP.
 - The committee would like ongoing assistance from DAS in working on the membership and charge of the committee.
 - The committee would like ongoing assistance from DAS regarding the role of Administration on the committee, including ways to increase collegial consultation that involves input from faculty before decisions are made.
4. In relation to the PREP budgets:
- Given that the processes for budget planning are the purview of the Academic Senate; that the committee has consistently requested transparency concerning PREP budgets, including grants; and that many of the grants are infused with the intellectual property of PREP faculty,
 - The committee requests an audit of all money coming into the district for PREP.
 - The committee requests that the audit provide information about funding from apportionment, grants, the foundation, and any other sources.
 - The committee requests an audit of how the money has/is being utilized (e.g., faculty compensation, Administrative salaries, student supplies, etc.).
 - The committee requests that collegial consultation occur on budget planning for PREP.
5. PREP faculty leadership: After 5 separate meetings with PREP faculty, the DAS PREP Committee was able to understand the PREP faculty's questions and requests. The following committee recommendations align with faculty requests:
- Create a PREP Program Chair position that is able to perform similar responsibilities as a Department Chair for on campus instructional departments such as scheduling, educational programming, curriculum development, etc.
 - Re-establish a district-wide Faculty Coordinator position to work across the colleges and across prisons/prison yards to lead professional development, advocacy, shared governance, etc.
6. In relation to PREP program processes and procedures the committee recommends:
- Codifying program policies, procedures, etc. in writing can provide clarity to faculty and ensure that Academic Freedom is honored.
 - The creation of a program handbook- with written policies that are comprehensive, concrete, and created collegially with faculty bodies (Academic Senate & Union)
7. In relation to student success specific to PREP students:
- *Please note- this is not an exhaustive list
- For students in-facility the committee recommends:

- A SWOT analysis to inform the in-facility PREP work to inform student needs and the resources available to meet those needs.
 - That incarcerated students should have all of the student services available to on-campus students, with as few adaptations as possible given the constraints of the prison setting.
 - Robust re-entry programming for currently incarcerated Los Rios students to assist them in transition out of prison.
 - Completer/graduation ceremonies for incarcerated students.
 - For on-campus Rising Scholars/Re-emerging Scholars Programs the committee:
 - Acknowledges the need for ongoing support for services, space, counseling, funding, clarity regarding Administration/management of the programs, and budget transparency.
 - Given that the Rising Scholars grants (state Chancellor's grants) are 3 year grants (2022-2025), the committee recommends that discussions commence in the fall 2024 regarding ongoing understanding of the unique needs and support for formerly incarcerated students on each campus.
8. In relation to Juvenile Justice Programming & the Districtwide Juvenile Justice Grant
- The committee recommends that faculty play a central role in all 10+1 related aspects of this grant.
 - Given that 3 faculty coordinators have working relationships with the employees at the Juvenile Detention Facility, and that faculty have been active in past meetings initiated by Sacramento County Office of Education, the committee recommends that administration involve faculty all along the process as opposed to rely primarily upon faculty in the creation of pathways and other 10+1 aspects of the Juvenile Justice grant. .
9. In relation to academic freedom, student success, and other SUJIC concerns
- The committee had very little time to address the concerns about academic freedom that arose from email exchanges between LRCFT and LRCCD Administration (*See 4 emails that were provided as supplemental materials: Lum to PREP Faculty; Lawlor to PREP faculty *note- this was sent by the VPI on each campus to individual PREP faculty; Newman to PREP faculty; Nye to PREP faculty*). In the last meeting, the committee discussed the implications for curriculum and academic freedom, therefore, the committee brings these emails to the attention of District Academic Senate in this end of year report.
 - On 5/6/24, an email was sent to all LRCCD faculty from LRCFT that involved PREP faculty. Because that email contains issues related to curriculum and academic freedom and has implications for professional development, Kalinda Jones (the Committee Chair), decided to include the 5/6/24 email with this end of year report to D.A.S.

- The 5/6/24 email references investigations. These investigations involved a December 5th email which involved faculty advocacy for student success. Because this also falls under the purview of the Academic Senate, Kalinda Jones included that email (redacted) along with attachments that were sent with the 12/5/24 email (*PREP student letters; List of student concerns; PREP student needs; PREP student letter to Student Senate*).