

**Academic Senates' Reports to the LRCCD Board of Trustees
November 2022**

District Academic Senate (DAS) President, Alisa Shubb, Reports:

- DAS is discussing strategies for operationalizing the mandatory equity training LRCFT is currently working to negotiate into our contract - we have agreed to refer to this training as Equity-Minded Professional Learning.
- DAS is reviewing a proposal to charter a faculty-led workgroup charged with exploring potential benefits, drawbacks, and barriers to creating and offering noncredit courses and programs in Los Rios using a student-centered, equity minded framework.
- DAS is examining possible improvements to our Equivalency Committee processes and Regulations.
- DAS leadership attended ASCCC Fall Plenary “Centering Authentic Voices and Lived Experiences in the 10+1”. Some of the topics addressed were:
 - AB 928 - requiring the establishment of a single lower division GE pathway for CCC, CSU & UC. ASCCC voted to endorse the CalGETC pattern and urge that CSU change the “Lifelong Learning & Self-Development” area to serve as a CSU graduation requirement (instead of restricting it to a CSU upper division GE requirement. Discussions about the loss of Lifelong Learning in the proposed CalGETC focus on the ramifications for students and programs.
 - Strategies to ensure that a focus on all students, both “academic and vocational” remains as per the California Community College mission (section 66010.4 of the California Education Code) even though State policies since 2010 have mostly focused resources on transforming transfer in California community colleges.
 - ASCCC is strongly urging local Senates to review their policies on Academic Freedom. We are gratified to work in a District with strong Board policy (P-7142) that specifically endorses Academic Freedom, including such strong statements as it is the “**responsibility** of the college instructor to present and **encourage** discussion of controversial material where appropriate to the class subject matter”.

ARC Academic Senate President, Carina Hoffpauir, Reports:

- Recent topics at ARC’s Academic Senate have included discussion of our Student Equity and Achievement Plan for 2022-2025, additional expansion of our Open Educational Resources (OER) program, and proposed revisions to the regulations regarding Dual Enrollment. We are also actively working with our VPI on a collaborative process for assessing critical hire requests for faculty hiring.

- While we are thrilled to have so many important initiatives underway, we are pausing this week to reflect on the departure of President Melanie Dixon, and we wish to commend her for her leadership of our college. We particularly appreciate how she built upon our existing structures, reports, and plans to help lead us into our next phase of implementation. She provided vision and encouragement during the pandemic, urging us to remember our focus on our students and the community we serve.
- President Dixon has been a role model to our students, staff, and faculty, and having a Black woman occupy the highest position on our campus—especially with such great costs to her own personal safety—was meaningful and powerful. In the wake of her departure, our Senate invites the District to consider how it will prioritize inclusive organizational practices moving forward to demonstrate our commitment to equity.

CRC Academic Senate President, Scott Crosier, Reports:

- CRC continues to take great leaps into providing learning materials to students as a reduced or Zero-Textbook cost. Nearly half of all full-time faculty are participating and we are working to support our part time faculty in the same efforts.
- We are continually concerned that the materials provided to our students meet or exceed accessibility requirements. We are working on strategies to ensure this through faculty workshops as well as acquiring the needed support.
- One item missing this year from our traditional Fall calendar was our faculty hiring prioritization. After discussions with the district leadership suggesting that each campus would be hiring zero, or up to one faculty member, we did not conduct the campus-wide prioritization process.

FLC Academic Senate President, Eric Wada, Reports:

- Implementing dual enrollment with fidelity to equity, student success, and academic freedom remain interests of the FLC Academic Senate.
- We are reviewing our SEA plan in advance of the Nov 30 submission deadline.
- We are continuing discussions on district equivalency processes, and note the importance of discipline faculty expertise primacy in equivalency discussions.
- We are discussing the Los Rios Ethnic Studies Faculty Council's request for increased full-time faculty to support student needs for Ethnic Studies curriculum.
- District-level decision making on full-time faculty, long-term temporary, and critical hiring allocations is an ongoing discussion item that has generated questions from the Senate.
- We are thankful for the collaboration with local college administration, facilities management, IT, and AV to help host a couple of ASCCC sponsored or co-sponsored events at FLC including the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates back in October, and the upcoming OERI LibreTexts training on November 18th.

SCC Academic Senate President, Sandra Guzmán, Reports:

- Our Senate met with Chancellor King regarding the SCC White Paper. This provided an opportunity for Faculty to inquire further about the LRCCD response and actions.
- Our Senate completed a Hiring Prioritization process for full-time faculty positions that meet the district criteria of needed for accreditation and/or for program viability. There were seven positions sent forward and ranked by Senators. The rankings are aligned with the district's guidance.
- Senate leadership attended the ASCCC Fall Plenary with other District Senate leaders.
- The Student Equity Plan was reviewed in Senate meetings with robust conversations and contributions.
- SCC wishes President Melanie Dixon well and expresses sincere gratitude for her contributions as SCC's interim Vice President of Student Services. Under her leadership, student programs and centers were created. These include the ASHE and Raza Center that intentionally serves our black and brown student community. We appreciate her support and thank her on behalf of our students as well.

For information about academic senate activities at the district, college, or state level please use the following links:

- [District Academic Senate \(DAS\)](#)
- [ARC Academic Senate](#)
- [CRC Academic Senate](#)
- [FLC Academic Senate](#)
- [SCC Academic Senate](#)

- [Academic Senate of California Community Colleges \(ASCCC\)](#)