

Academic Senates' Reports to the LRCCD Board of Trustees April 2023

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

- DAS voted to support an extension of Proctorio for one fiscal year in hopes of finding an equitable service for online proctoring.
- DAS voted to support the Universal Design for Learning and Accessibility Support (UDL/AS) job descriptions and we forward to bringing on 1 new reassigned time. UDL/AS Faculty Coordinator at each of the 4 Colleges starting Fall 2023.
- DAS is reviewing draft revisions to:
 - P-2211
 - R-2211
 - P-2242
 - P-2523
 - P-2254
 - R-2821
- DAS continues to discuss continued concerns about lack of adequate collegial consultation at the district level. We see collegial consultation as **utilizing structures and processes** that engage faculty (as well as students, and staff) to give them a voice in decisions that impact the mission of the district or college. To be effective, **collegial consultation must be consistent and persistent**. We urge our Board of Trustees to review DAS reports on collegial consultation, the resolutions contained in this report, as well as the 2022 SCC white paper which all point to a **continued pattern** of lapses in collegial consultation regarding district-level decisions. Three college Academic Senates have now requested **Board investigations** and **reaffirmation of collegial consultation**. We hope to receive a Board response to these requests by or at the May meeting.

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 \(ASCCC\)](#)

ARC Academic Senate President, Carina Hoffpauir, Reports:

- At our March 23 meeting, ARC's Academic Senate unanimously approved a resolution to express our concerns about our District leadership and a lack of collegial consultation and transparency. We have included the resolution for review by the Board.
- We also unanimously approved a recommendation advocating for Priority Registration status for Learning Community students who have unique course scheduling needs in cohorted programs. We hope to see this issue advanced by our College and District leadership to clear enrollment barriers for disproportionately impacted students.
- In addition to these decision items, recent reports and updates have included discussion of HomeBase realignment, the status of all-gender restrooms on campus, an overview of ARC's dual enrollment initiatives, and an update on our Strategic Planning process.
- Finally, our Senate was thrilled to learn our college was awarded a 5-year, federal Hispanic-Serving Institution Grant totaling \$3 Million. Our faculty are particular eager to begin collaborating on the work outlined in the grant, which is intended to increase retention, graduation, and transfer rates of Latino/a students.

CRC Academic Senate President, Scott Crosier, Reports:

- Please give a warm welcome to Philosophy Professor, Dr. Jacob Velasquez, the CRC Senate President Elect. He will be serving with Business Professor Lisa-Marie Mederos as Vice President and Engineering Professor Eric Anderson as Secretary. Geographer, Scott Crosier will serve as Past President.
- In our April 14th meeting, the CRC Senate will be reviewing the issues presented in the FLC and ARC Senate Resolutions regarding collegial consultation. Our review of the SCC white paper took place last September.

FLC Academic Senate President, Eric Wada, Reports:

- At the March 20th, California Community Colleges Board of Governors meeting, Dr. Tamara (Tami) Cheshire was recognized as one of this year's Hayward Award for Excellence in Education. The FLC Academic Senate is immensely proud of Dr. Cheshire's accomplishments at the local, district, and state level and her continued work in advancing student equity, providing opportunities and outreach to increase Native American student access and success, and her work in advancing Ethnic Studies curriculum.
- The FLC Academic Senate also considered and voted to support a resolution (appended below under "College Resolutions") highlighting ongoing concerns related to collegial consultation in the district over the last five years. We forwarded the resolution to the District Academic Senate for consideration, and we wish to inform our Board of Trustees of the concerns we have documented.

- The FLC Academic Senate has recently been engaged in conversations with our financial aid and institutional research offices. As statewide legislation and initiatives have changed curricular pathways for students, faculty are interested in finding ways to evaluate our innovations. Of interest is how higher units in transfer-level Math/English along with corequisite support courses might affect student eligibility for financial aid after their first term or year.

SCC Academic Senate President, Sandra Guzmán, Reports:

- The SCC Academic Senate wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Gayle Pitman. Dr. Pitman has served the students and community of SCC for 22 years, as an esteemed faculty member, Academic Senate President, Dean of PRIE, and a member of multiple college-wide and district governance groups. Dr. Pitman will be greatly missed, but we wish her the very best in her new role as AVP of Institutional Equity, Research and Success.
- SCC Senate worked collaboratively with our Administration to develop a process by which New Departments are formed and have just completed our first iteration.
- SCC Senate is reviewing the California State audit on “Full-time Faculty & Diversity”. We look forward to conversations with District leadership about issues presented in this state audit.
- We stand in solidarity with the Academic Senates of American River College and Folsom Lake College in their recent affirmation of resolutions regarding LRCCD leadership concerns. In both cases, our sister colleges’ senates acknowledged the contributions of the SCC White Paper of 2022, and affirmed their own concerns with LRCCD leadership practices.

College Resolutions:

ARC Academic Senate Resolution on District Leadership Concerns

(adopted by unanimous vote on 3/23/23)

Whereas, the Academic Senate of American River College affirms that our Sacramento City College colleagues are not alone in their concerns about LRCCD Leadership expressed in their [Spring 2022 White Paper](#);

Whereas, ARC faculty wish to express our own consternation about LRCCD’s poor collegial consultation on matters within Academic Senate purview granted by Title 5, a lack of transparency in district decision-making, and a push toward centralization that supersedes the institutional planning efforts of each local college;

Whereas, there has been a documented pattern of these behaviors resulting in previous districtwide intervention efforts such as an ASCCC Collegiality in Action visit, an IBA mediation process, and a Los Rios District Academic Senate resolution committing to a regular formal report on collegial consultation;

Whereas, our current ARC Academic Senate leadership team has observed a number of troubling incidents this academic year. Here are some noteworthy situations in which poor collegial consultation occurred:

- The formulation and development of district initiatives within Academic Senate purview such as Strategic Enrollment Management, Dual Enrollment, and AB 705/1705 implementation
- Faculty hiring allocations and the decision to pause the Faculty Diversity Internship Program
- Manager and classified hiring in roles connected to academic and professional matters within Academic Senate purview (e.g. the Dean of Student Wellness and Support Services).
- Ineffective use of and frequent cancellation of Chancellor’s Cabinet meetings.

These recent problems suggest continued dysfunction in the LRCCD organization and our shared governance process.

Resolved, the American River College Academic Senate respectfully urges the Board of Trustees to give its full attention to these concerns, and we urge the Board to investigate the leadership deficiencies that have been identified to ensure the health of our organization and our commitment to shared governance.

FLC Academic Senate Resolution S’23-01

Recommendation to the Los Rios Board of Trustees to Investigate Collegial Consultation and Participatory Governance Procedures.

Whereas, lapses in collegial consultation have occurred for the past five years as evidenced by:

- the Folsom Lake College (FLC) Academic Senate passed a resolution in Spring 2018 urging the Chancellor to consult collegially with faculty on academic and professional matters,
- the Los Rios District Academic Senate passed a resolution in 2019 asking for an annual report on collegial consultation with district administration,
- a Collegiality in Action visit with district administration and the District Academic Senate was held in Spring 2021,
- the Sacramento City College Academic Senate adopted the “Sacramento City College Academic Senate White Paper on LRCCD Leadership” in Spring 2022, which the FLC Academic Senate read at our May 10, 2022 meeting, and references to this paper have come up in Senate discussions

related to district processes, collegial consultation, and participatory governance throughout the 2022-23 academic year,

- The American River College Academic Senate is considering a resolution urging the Los Rios District Board of Trustees to investigate district leadership practices,

Whereas, Education Code 87360(b) outlines the role of the Academic Senate in hiring criteria, policies, and procedures, but the district administration decided to identify and allocate long-term temporary positions without consulting with the Academic Senate per the “Guidelines for Authorizing New and Replacement Faculty Positions” document, and a February 2023 report, “California Community Colleges Increasing Full-Time Faculty and Diversity Remains a Challenge” by the California State Auditor’s office questions district budgeting processes related to allocations for full-time faculty hiring,

Whereas, faculty have not been involved in key stages of (1) district strategic planning as processes and student success metrics were largely driven by a “District Research Council” and (2) processes for expanding dual enrollment including decisions related to curricular offerings, educational programming, and student services,

Whereas, the Chancellor’s Cabinet has not functioned in accordance with Los Rios Board Regulation R-3411 in terms of agenda setting, membership (with district administration over-represented and students under-represented), and meeting schedules,

Resolved, that the Folsom Lake College Academic Senate respectfully requests that the Los Rios District Board of Trustees hears and acts on these concerns related to district administration, and

Resolved, that the Folsom Lake College Academic Senate urges the District Academic Senate to recommend that our Los Rios District Board of Trustees insist that collegial consultation occurs between district administration and the district and local Academic Senates, and that DAS reports on the outcomes of collegial consultation.