

Academic Senates' Reports to the LRCCD Board of Trustees December 2024

District Academic Senate (DAS) President, Paula Cardwell, Reports:

- The District Academic Senate voted to approve the Noncredit Implementation Task Force, which is tasked with exploring feasibility from the Admissions & Records/Student Services perspective as well as the Budget and Union perspective. Once we receive recommendations from these teams, we will determine if the Curriculum/10+1 feasibility piece should move forward.
- In response to board concerns regarding the exclusion of American Institutions as a local degree requirement:
 - Title 5 changes raised the minimum number of GE units from current 18 to 21 units (6 units in English Composition, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking; and 3 units each in Math/Quantitative Reasoning, Arts & Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Ethnic Studies)
 - Los Rios currently requires two additional GE courses beyond Title 5: 3-units of Living Skills coursework and two courses in Social & Behavioral Sciences, one being an American Institutions course. This brings our current local GE requirement to 24 units.
 - Our faculty had difficult decisions to make regarding our recommendation to the Board: to a) require only the 21 units specified in new Title 5 regulations; b) retain both Living Skills AND American Institutions, bringing our local GE total units to 27; c) require either Living Skills OR American Institutions to keep our GE requirements at 24 units; d) to specify only Living Skills or e) to specify only American Institutions.
 - Discussion and debate was extensive, thorough, and thoughtful.
 - The interest in keeping the prescribed number of units equal to or lower than our current GE requirements was strong, as flexibility in course choices is related to degree completion.
 - Arguments for retaining living skills only included:
 - Many of our Dual Enrollment high school partners request Living Skills courses
 - Work Experience falls under Living Skills; many local degree earners are focused upon vocational/occupational skills.

- Students retain the option to take an American Institutions course to satisfy their Social & Behavioral Science requirement; American Institutions courses are routinely offered and popular with students.
- Students must take 60 units total to earn a degree and may take an American Institutions course as an elective course.
- We are hopeful that this provides insight into the District Academic Senate's recommendation that our local general education requirement include the 21 units specified in Title 5 as well as 3 units of Living Skills.
- We are in the process of discussing recent Title 5 regulation changes to Work Experience Education and proposed changes to our local Work Experience Education program; the District Academic Senate recognizes and appreciates the work done by our Work Experience Education faculty and coordinators across the district on this matter.
- We are also collaborating with the District International Education Committee to update our International Education regulations regarding the distinction between consortium-based international education programs offered in conjunction with other college districts and college-based programs which function more independently.

American River College Senate President, Brian Knirk, Reports:

- Approved a project team by the Student Success Council to Conduct a literature review of the ethical, andragogical, and practical issues confronting faculty, staff and administration in the use of artificial intelligence as it relates to teaching, learning and academic integrity. This literature review would be presented to faculty, staff, and student constituency groups to inform future discussions or recommendations
- Continues to struggle with the implications of background checks for all student employees, from both a social justice lens, as well as a practical lens which has resulted in it taking up to 3 months for the district to complete hiring paperwork. (We recognize the increased workload on district HR, but the workload decision does not seem to have been addressed from a practical standpoint.)
- Senate is working closely with department chairs and the VPI to for screening and hiring committees for the Spring hiring cycle.



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ARC President Brian Knirk
CRC President Jacob Velasquez
FLC President Eric Wada
SCC President Amy Strimling

Cosumnes River College Senate President, Jacob Velasquez, Reports:

- After careful consideration and much deliberation, the CRC Academic Senate voted overwhelmingly in support of adopting a proposal related to academic integrity. The proposal has three main components:
 1. to inform faculty of best practices to promote a robust culture of academic integrity;
 2. to amend CRC's student conduct referral form to improve faculty communication to the Student Conduct Officer; and
 3. to make use of a follow-up letter to improve communication about how the academic integrity process is being resolved.

The Senate recommends these measures be taken at CRC to promote a robust culture of academic integrity.

- The CRC Academic Senate regards the American Institutions requirement as an important part of our students' education, especially in the context of the implementation of CalGETC. Being required to take an ethnic studies course, students will learn much about the history of social justice issues in the United States. The American Institutions requirement would benefit our students by ensuring they are exposed to information about our institutions and how those institutions can be used to create change and make progress toward a more just society.

Folsom Lake College Senate President, Eric Wada, Reports:

- Professional Development Committee (chaired by Julie Collier) is working on a cohort-based PD opportunity to send several faculty to the ASCCC Academic Academy focusing on Artificial Intelligence.
- Curriculum Committee (chaired by Danny Siegfried) has been working on AB1111 implementation and AB928 implementation.
- Matriculation and Student Success Committee (chaired by Danielle Beck) has been supporting some discussions about Artificial Intelligence and also is continuing to support faculty involvement in dual enrollment development and programming.
- Affordable Learning Materials Committee (chaired by Jennifer Black) has prepared an end of year report on how the college has met ZTC/OER goals.
- We also recently learned of the updated AB1705 implementation document that allows students to access preparatory coursework.
- We are also looking forward to another busy season of faculty hiring.



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Sacramento City College Senate President, Amy Strimling, Reports:

- SCC is excited to begin the hiring process for our new faculty hires that will begin in Fall 2025. We look forward to hiring qualified individuals who can demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and effectively serve our underrepresented/historically underserved students through our use of cluster hiring.
- We will continue to focus next semester on exploring OER/ZTC, Artificial Intelligence, and noncredit courses on our campus.