

Academic Senates' Reports to the LRCCD Board of Trustees March 2025

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

- At our most recent meeting, the District Academic Senate approved two proposed regulation changes:
 - R-7151, **International Education**, which changed to recognize the two major types of International Education programs: multi-partner consortium programs, which include students from other community college districts and usually host semester-long programs abroad, and college-based programs, which are typically smaller, Los Rios-based programs of shorter duration. The District Academic Senate thanks our International Education Committee liaison, Professor Richard Mowrer, for his hard work on this!
 - R-7421, **Work Experience Education**, which changed to be consistent with Title 5 changes. Our students can now earn up to 14 units of Work Experience Education. The changes to Title 5 significantly expand opportunities for students to engage in hands-on, credit-bearing work experiences across a wider range of instructional programs. The District Academic Senate proudly recognizes and thanks Vivian Dillon, Faculty Coordinator of Work Experience Education at ARC for her work on this change.
- We forwarded a recommendation from our District Instructional Accessibility Committee that our district partner with the state Chancellor's Office Accessibility Center and adopt the **Accessibility Capability Maturity Model**, a transformative framework designed to guide colleges and districts in advancing digital accessibility. This model "breaks down broad concepts of digital accessibility into clear, achievable milestones, ensuring that institutions can proactively improve accessibility at a pace that aligns with their resources." We thank the District Instructional Accessibility and chair Beki Mendell for their hard work on this.
- The District Academic Senate has concerns regarding our recent **space utilization studies** with Applied Research + Consulting. We appreciate the efforts taken to inform our Facilities Master Plan. Faculty are excited about

spaces that provide collaboration, community, and the fuel that feeds it all: coffee! We want our students, classified professionals and faculty to be supported in our work spaces. We very much recognize that facilities are not an academic and professional matter; however, **instructional modality** is very much an academic and professional matter, and instructional space - or lack thereof - can dictate or force modality. We respectfully request that the Board consider the following:

- Although online enrollment has been consistent for the past four semesters, many - if not most - of our current students completed a large portion of their high school and/or college work during the pandemic. They are experienced and familiar with online instruction. This pattern may not hold for future students.
- We do yet know the impact that Artificial Intelligence will have upon instructional modality. Given the issues with authenticating student work and creating valid assessments in the age of AI, asynchronous online instruction presents major challenges to many disciplines, and many faculty are reconsidering the asynchronous online modality.
- Although faculty could complete the space utilization survey, many faculty expressed frustration that the questions were all forced choice responses with no open-ended questions. The reports of faculty who met with the consultants included such language as “incorrect,” “limited access,” “dismissive,” and “detached.”

American River College Senate President, Brian Knirk, Reports that ARC:

- Continued to receive comments regarding the delays in the hiring process for students, in many cases the process is taking months, and has a devastating impact on our tutoring centers.
- Begun a robust conversation regarding the proposed NAGPRA policy.
- Approved revisions to the work experience regulations, and the International Education regulations.
- Received an update on the status of ARC OER/ZTC courses and reporting process.
- Discussed possible updates to the Faculty Hiring Manual to be suggested to DAS when we review the document.

Cosumnes River College Senate President, Jacob Velasquez, Reports:



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

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Folsom Lake College Senate President, Eric Wada, Reports:

- We are pleased to announce Wayne Jensen, professor of mathematics as our incoming Academic Senate President. Lisa Danner, professor of English returns as our Academic Senate Secretary. We also have the following faculty who will be beginning terms as area Senators in May 2025: Suha Al Juboori, Jennifer Black, Paula Cardwell, Jason Pittman, Diane Carlson, Tami Cheshire, Andrew Williamson, Lishia Rahman, Dipali Buch, and Shadie Mirmobiny.
- In addition to being busy with implementing legislation, we are working on local academic and professional matters related to artificial intelligence (AI), prison and re-entry program (PREP), and Starfish.
- We were surprised to hear about Vocational ESL offerings being offered through the Refugee Career Pathways because no faculty (neither discipline faculty nor the Academic Senate) were aware of this curriculum and program development. We urge the Board to know that curriculum and program development are areas where administrators must consult collegially with the Academic Senate in all phases from ideation through implementation and evaluation.

Sacramento City College Senate President, Amy Strimling, Reports:

- We want to thank Chancellor King for his recent visits to SCC. We look forward to other opportunities for more meaningful and intentional dialogue with faculty and staff as much of our time at the recent Conversations Hour was ultimately spent on well-meaning, but time-consuming introductions among those in attendance.
- SCC supported a resolution brought forward on behalf of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) regarding AB 1705 and asking for more student agency and access in Math coursework.
- We are revisiting the work of our local AI task force from Spring 2024 to inform how we discuss and implement the recommendations brought forward.