

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

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

- Three of our four colleges are welcoming new Senate presidents at this time:
 - ARC: Veronica Lopez
 - CRC: Lauren Wagner
 - FLC: Wayne Jenson
 - SCC: Amy Strimling will be continuing
 - DAS: Paula Cardwell will be continuing
- The District Academic Senate recently approved a task force to update our Faculty Hiring Manual. We look forward to working with Vice Chancellor Bray and managers throughout Los Rios on this important and much-needed update.
- We accepted the recommendations of the Class Size Class Force, convened four years ago, to create a taxonomy of courses with optimal size ranges.
- We will also continue our exploration into noncredit feasibility, focusing on curriculum and 10+1 matters, including potential impacts upon our counselors
- The District Equity & Student Success Subcommittee of the DAS will also convene an AI Task Force. An amazing team of people across the district are coming together to create ethical frameworks for AI that address syllabus language related to AI use that aligns with district policies, evaluating AI detection tools and providing recommendations on their ethical, equitable, and responsible use, and proposing criteria for equitable access to AI resources for both students and faculty, among other important things.

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

- Has elected Veronica Lopez as the next ARC Academic Senate President.
- Would like to voice concern regarding the district's plan to include "inclusive access materials" in the Bookstore RFP. While beneficial to the bookstore, there are concerns regarding additional costs to students. We look forward to further discussion on this topic.

Cosumnes River College Senate President, Jacob Velasquez, Reports:

- The CRC Academic Senate understands that the principles of academic freedom, inclusion, and open inquiry are indispensable to the mission of

institutions of higher education and our ability to adequately serve students and society more generally. It recognizes that undue political intrusion in higher education threatens those principles while simultaneously threatening the principles of shared governance and faculty primacy in academic and professional matters. Further, it acknowledges that academic senates and boards of trustees have a responsibility to safeguard educational quality, institutional independence, and the rights of faculty and students to engage in open inquiry and to freely exchange ideas and opinions across a full range of viewpoints without fear of censorship and retributive consequences. For these reasons, it voted unanimously to adopt [a resolution on academic freedom and mutual academic defense](#) and to strongly urge President Bush to join over 600 college and university presidents in signing [a statement](#) affirming the importance of academic freedom and open inquiry.

- ❖ In its resolution, the CRC Academic Senate “[A]ffirms its commitment to academic freedom, faculty primacy in curriculum and governance under Title 5, and the collective defense of these principles across the California Community Colleges system,” and
 - “[C]alls upon the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees to endorse and actively participate in the formation of a mutual academic defense compact, pledging collaboration with faculty leaders across the state to uphold the values of academic freedom, shared governance, and institutional integrity.”

Folsom Lake College Senate President, Eric Wada, Reports:

- We thank Admissions and Records Supervisor, Christine Wurzer for her decades of service to FLC and Los Rios and passed a resolution in her honor.
- The FLC Academic Senate also reviewed and passed a resolution in support of bringing a Puente program to FLC.
- The FLC Academic Senate continues to advocate for sustained support for faculty coordination of professional development, new faculty academy, and SLO coordination. We are thankful for the collaborative spirit of our college administration, and hope to continue to work towards institutionalizing the sustained support so our growing college can meet faculty and student needs while also focusing attention on other issues instead.



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

Sacramento City College Senate President, Amy Strimling, Reports:

- SCC Academic is excited to welcome 7 new Senators for Fall as well as our 22 continuing Senators. We look forward to having a nearly full Senate to discuss 10+1 issues next year.
- We are already looking ahead to the 2025-2026 academic year as we plan to discuss defending academic freedom, defending DEIAA, updates to our bylaws and constitution to fairly and equitably support our faculty, and many other academic and professional matters.