



Academic Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2025

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

ARC Student Center Board Room

Meeting ID: 816 8060 2582

Zoom link: <https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/81680602582>

Preliminaries

1. Call to Order

3:02 PM (Veronica)

Land Acknowledgement Statement read by JaNay Lovering

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- [Sept 25, 2025](#): approved unanimously with no changes.

4. Introduction of Guests

- Pamela Bimbi, Distance Education Coordinator
- Aracelli Badilla, Beacon Coordinator
- Angela Milano, VPI
- Amanda Lewis, Administrative Assistant in the President's Office
- Mieke San Julian, Full-time faculty in the Psychology Department

5. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)

- LRCFT Part-Time Representative LaQuisha Beckum shared that Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 715 (Zbur and Addis). While the bill is aimed at fighting against hate, antisemitism, and discrimination in schools, AB 715 goes far beyond and polices what can be said in classrooms, subjects legitimate academic frameworks to overly broad censorship, and risks undermining conversations about history, identity, and human rights. It has implications to censor inclusive and historically relevant curricula, impacting Academic Freedom of educators and students to engage in constitutionally protected expression. Quisha ended their public comment stating that they look forward to working with the ARC Academic Senate on this academic and professional matter.
- ASB Senate President Soraya Amin and Senate Director of Activities Sapeidah Saeedi wanted to share that ASB Senate has been working to pass a bill to provide compensation for ASB student leaders using their own funds for this year. However, the District has raised concerns, citing that other ASB colleges have fewer funds, creating an issue of equity. To address future years, a resolution has been developed to establish an equitable, district-wide approach for ASB student compensation. The students will be presenting their request to the Academic Senate for support.
- Pamela Bimbi ARC Distance Education Coordinator indicated that:
 - The Distance Education Committee has 6 members and would like more, please!
 - Title 5 requires us to inform students of any hard/software they will need to obtain for a course, as well as notification of intended Honorlock use in the class notes; please ensure you are including that information as the Spring 2026 schedule is being finalized.
 - There was a free badging tool in Canvas called Badger that is going away in December - if you are using it.
 - Canvas is developing an AI grading assistant (not yet available) that will be a discussion up through EdTech and DAS.

- Amanda Lewis from ARC President's Office: Mentioned President Cardoza's email sent out earlier in the week about [Homecoming Week at ARC](#), scheduled for October 25 through November 1, 2025. It hasn't happened in about 30 years and we are bringing back to create collaboration for students, faculty and classified staff. Homecoming is not just about football, but community and belonging. As a chance to connect, create memories, and find moments of belonging together. Faculty participation matters with some of the events being designed for you! Amanda distributed [flyers with all the events](#) across campus during the last week of October (Oct 25-Nov 1). She is hopeful that everyone is able to come to one or some of the events. First 800 ARC-affiliated people (so bring your ARC ID with you) who come to the Sat (11/01) Homecoming Gameday (1pm) / Spirit Fest (10am-1pm) 70th Anniversary Edition will get free food and free shirts. Departments and Programs can also sign up to host a space or table at Spirit Fest as well, if they'd like. The [sign-ups for spirit fest spaces can be found here](#).

6. President's Report

- Reminded that completed [Online Faculty Request Form](#) is due Tuesday, October 14th.
- **Faculty Prioritization Presentations** Scheduled for **Thursday, October 23rd**. The meeting will start **at 2:30 pm**, and presentations will be recorded. [2025-2026 Timeline](#) and [Faculty Prioritization Definitions](#) are found in the Academic Senate Canvas site, please use these documents as a reference. Special snacks will be available.
 - Reviewing/Ranking Faculty Requests [Instructions](#) for Faculty Senators (page 2).
 - **Rankings** from Senators and Deans **due Monday, November 3rd** at 5 pm.
- **Faculty Hiring Manual Taskforce**, page 8, starting with "Colleges requesting general fund counselor positions must meet the 900:1 ratio..." At DAS, currently drafting a resolution to support a 350:1 ratio from ASCCC that came from the Board of Governors. A lot of discussion about that section of who's a part of that discussion... Need also to update "Guideline for Authorizing New and Replacing Position" that hasn't been updated since 2014.
- Still looking for 2-3 Faculty to appoint to the [Non-Credit Feasibility Task Force](#). Meetings will be virtual and scheduled around member availability.
 - [List of Enhanced Credit Courses](#)
- **LRCCC password changes:**
 - Passwords are changing from 12 to 16 characters ("pass phrases").
 - This will be a phased process. Once everyone has updated their passwords over the next year, we will no longer need to change passwords unless or until the district is notified of a data breach.
- **FACCC-sponsored SB 241** (Cervantes) was signed by Governor Newsom
 - Bill recognizes that the personal connection, guidance, and expertise counselors, librarians, and others provide cannot be replaced by automation.
- **Davies User Groups**
 - Valeria Bronstein stepped out of the room during this discussion.
 - Format of discussions was suggested by the architecture firm as they had a specific vision, but that was not fully communicated to faculty when user groups were being formed.
 - The schedule is being set to be more accommodating to faculty involved. Trying to improve communication and gain more clarity because:
 - It evolving - from 1 hr to 1.5-2 hr meetings on Fridays in person or virtually
 - Initially created two groups, now everyone is together
 - How/When student voice will be collected is still not clear
 - A faculty member who is in the user group clarified that the last meeting was designed as two duplicate meetings: one in person and then again online. However, those who recognize that different groups of people present at two different meetings would generate different discussions, it turned out to be a much longer commitment in time (~ 3-4 hr commitment).
 - A Davies Hall User Group Google doc was created by AS President Veronica Lopez to gather faculty input about this process.
- **OERI Discipline Lead Events**
 - Friday, Oct 17, 11am–12pm *Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context: A Globally Inclusive Approach*

Andréa Pantoja Garvey will share her labor of love, [Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context:](#)

[A Globally Inclusive Approach](#), a rare lifespan development textbook with a strong global and intercultural perspective. In our conversation with Andréa, we will discuss how she created an openly-licensed psychology text that focuses on addressing students' needs and the challenges she encountered along the way. In our discussion, we'll also explore platforms for hosting and updating, opportunities for collaboration, and finding resources to update existing OER.

[Register for Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context: A Globally Inclusive Approach](#)

Consent Item

7. Approval of [Remote Attendees](#)

- Unanimously consent
 - Heidi Bennett (Business/BUS Tech)
 - Rob Juner (Nursing)
 - Jeff Sacha (PC&S, Sociology)

Decision Items (5-10 minutes maximum per item)

8. 2025-2028 Student Equity Plan (SEP) (2nd reading, Angela Milano, VPI and Dr. David Miramontes-Quiñones, Vice-President of Student Services and Equity-VPSSE)

- VPSSE Dr. David Miramontes-Quiñones thanked everyone for their collaboration and thoughtful feedback on the document, helping enrich the SEP ([Draft Document for comments](#) (37 pages - Google Doc format). A [clean version after incorporating feedback](#) has been submitted to the Academic Senate and can be found in the [AS Canvas site](#), under the Modules area, in the [M4 F25 10-9 Supporting Documents](#) page.
- Open floor for discussion with the following comments, suggestions, discussion points:
 - Adding a note, on page 29, section 12, about Autistic Awareness Month. Are autistic individuals going to be involved in the process to avoid ableism?
 - Question to differentiate between the Student Equity Plan (SEP) for funding and the Institutional Equity Plan (IEP).
 - Clarification was made that SEP is external and comes with money and the IEP is internal and not necessarily attached to external funding sources.
 - Reiterating comments of using welcoming versus safe space, preferring welcoming.
 - Concerns on page 16, mentioning Beaver Bites. Would students from DI populations have an opportunity to provide input before Beaver Bites is published? Or is there professional development that would take place for Beaver Bites. There were issues of Beaver Bites that could have the opposite impact of identity-affirming on students who are Tribal citizens, for example.
 - Questions about/discussion of HomeBases as identity-affirming space versus as a welcoming, inclusive space.
 - A follow-up question then was posed asking for clarification to differentiate between HomeBases becoming an identity-affirming space moving forward versus HomeBases are identity-affirming spaces that have provided visible support where students feel represented and connected to resources, as stated in the SEP.
 - VPI and VPSSE responded by stating that recent hiring of support specialists in a few HomeBases have been intentionally supporting DI populations, and the plan is to continue to do so moving forward.
- After a lively discussion a motion was made to Advance the revised version with the feedback incorporated and have AS President Veronica Lopez sign it.
 - Motion was second.
 - [Item approved](#): 25 Yes, 1 No, 6 abstentions.

9. ARC Cluster Hiring Pilot 2.0 (1st Reading)

- [Working document for FA25](#)
- Discussion continued about the [ARC Cluster/Cohort Hiring Questions 2025](#).
- Make process more inviting and explanations more clear.
- Provide clarity to what DI communities are.
- Add word limits per question. Suggestion to add a maximum number of words. Many number options discussed, including the potential implications for people with disabilities if no max number of words is

included. If we include a 500-max number, there is no particular character-count so 500-words is an intuitive way to see if it passed the one-page.

- Senator asked if we can ask HR to include a max character count for these two boxes for these questions.
- Senator asked if the Hiring Manual could include technology adjustments that support asks such as these.
- Started going over the [Working document with the questions for FA25](#) collectively.
- Senator raised the question if 7 options is too much and if it is creating redundancy with questions that each hiring committee will be generating. Lots of discussion about number of questions in each individual question. Concerns about what DI actually means
- Discussion of data based on demographics and validity of race identification.
- Job Announcements will go out in a tiered system because of the large numbers. First will go out early December but no specific date yet.
- **2024-2025 LRCCD HR Recruitment Efforts Data** from the Fall Board of Trustees Retreat Agenda ([Item 6C, page 20](#))
 - Appendix A (pp. 64-73) provides information based on the campus (ARC pp 69-71). In looking at ARC data, some senators noticed their hire does not identify as White so wondered if the metrics from the District are accurate.
 - Looks like we need some more nuanced data to increase the faculty and classified staff better align the students we serve.
 - The students that are disproportionately impacted at ARC in the Student Equity Plan.
 - Senator suggests to include link to our [college DI data project teams and report](#) so candidates can have access to the institutional data

Reports (5-10 minutes per item)

10. OER/ZTC Report/Updates (Open Educational Resources (OER) Liaison, Yeny Peña-Grafton)

- ARC OER/ZTC Liaison Yeny Peña-Grafton provided detailed information as she entered over the [slides Empowering Day-One Access through OER: Title 5 Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials](#).
- What does it mean? It does **not** mean everyone needs to use OER. But we need to inform students of all the associated costs for taking their courses and completing their pathways.
- Why day one access? Many students delay or forgo purchasing required materials - disadvantage from week 1. Cost of course materials is a barrier that disproportionately affects low-income, first-generation, and minoritized students. Having materials from day one enhances engagement, retention, and equity.
- So, Title 5, Section 54221 — “Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials” is about removing barriers to support efforts in narrowing equity gaps.
 - It **does not** tell faculty what to teach or what materials to choose - academic freedom is protected.
 - It **does** direct colleges to ensure that whatever faculty assigns can be accessed right away, in a way that’s fair and **sustainable**.
- Important to differentiate between ZTC from OER:
 - **ZTC** means students have no required textbook costs... It can be materials that were purchased by the department or the college, not by the student.
 - **OER** is an open educational resource that is under Creative Commons License (e.g., [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)), that allows instructors to adapt and improve resources, and can be used for ZTC denomination.
- When the *Tracking & Reporting ZTC - Why It Matters* ([slide 8](#)) was presented, questions about filling out the form about ZTC were asked such as challenges with last minute assignments and changes in assignment.
- Yeny wrapped up announcing and encouraging faculty to check out the newly launched [ARC OER ZTC Resource Hub](#) that offers support for *all* instructors—whether you are just beginning to explore Open Educational Resources (OER) and Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) or you already have experience working with them.

11. Annual Unit Plan/Program Review (Senate Vice President and Program Review Co-Chair, Daniel Slutsky)

- Due to time constraints, Academic Senate Vice President Daniel Slutsky briefly announced dates for upcoming AUP training sessions (listed below) and AS President Veronica Lopez mentioned that a [slide](#) prepared by Daniel with this information is found in the [Oct 9 Supporting Materials page on Canvas](#).
 - AUPs are due November 21st

- Training sessions held:
 - Wednesday October 22nd 4:00-5:00pm (Student Services)
 - Friday October 24th 9:30-10:30am
 - Monday November 10th 1:00-2:00pm
 - Monday November 10th 2:00-3:00pm
- Drop-in Zoom hours available on Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am
 - October 22nd
 - November 5th
 - November 19th

- First Program Review Training is in mid-November

12. Councils Updates

- Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC) - Dr. Connie Ayala
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- Operations Council (OC) - Nothing to report.
- Student Success Council (SCC) - Dr. Neue Leung
 - [Revised Student Success Council \(SSC\) Charter](#) which was shared at 10/06's ELT.
 - [SSC's latest meeting on 10/01](#).
 - We are still in need of 4 faculty members at SSC representing the following areas below. Please note that the next SSC meeting on 10/15 will be the first hybrid meeting. The meetings are now available via hybrid so that it is accessible to all. Meetings take place from 1pm-3pm every first and third Wednesday of the month.
 - Faculty: English
 - Faculty: Expertise working with Disproportionally Impacted Populations
 - Faculty: CTE
 - Faculty: Academic Senate Representative

Discussion (10-15 minutes per item)

13. Faculty Job Description Position Summary Language

- AS President Veronica Lopez and Past President Alisa Shubb provided the context of the reworking of the wording to the job descriptions in the [Faculty Position Request \(see Example\)](#).
- More specifically, during a meeting in mid-September between the Academic Senate Executive Team (AS President, Vice President, Secretary, and Past President) with VPI Angela Milano, AVP of Instruction & Enrollment Management Adam Windham, and IT Ed Wang to go over the Faculty Online Request Form, the wording of the *unchanged* portions related to ARC captured Academic Senate's attention. We then started to discuss some potential rewording in an effort to ensure that the information is accurate, not redundant (some bullets in the *Faculty Job Description Position Summary Language* appeared redundant), and if language aligns with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) contract as these job descriptions follow the faculty for their entire career.
- AS President Veronica Lopez reached out to our Union colleagues, who have provided feedback and specific language suggestions to the section that indicates "[still under development in collaboration with the Academic Senate](#)" to ensure that wording is in line with article 8 of the contract. For instance, note that online and dual enrollment are optional for each department / program to select, if they choose to. Can not be required based on contract. While a department / program position request may include in their justification growth or high demand in dual enrollment and/or online/hybrid/in-person course offerings, that is different from "locking" a particular faculty member to those teaching assignments.
- In this context, the collegial consultation and the negotiation of the rewording started to occur in mid-September.

14. Academic Senate HomeBase Recommendations

- List of [AS HomeBases Recommendations](#) currently submitted to AS President Veronica Lopez so far.
- We briefly went over some of the existing recommendations and Senators were encouraged to gather input from their constituents to be discussed during the November 13th AS meeting since the October 23rd meeting will be focused on Faculty Prioritization Presentations.

15. Report Back (Feedback from College Areas)

- Open Issues from any Previous Agenda Item
 - None were addressed

16. Report Out (Information from District Meetings and Other Areas)

- Other Areas
 - As a faculty member who is occupying several intersecting levels of AI governance and professional inquiry, campus, district, and statewide, Michael Angelone shared a series of updates related to AI:
 - AI Fellowship Job Description has been updated and will be ready to be distributed soon.
 - We now have up to 130 survey responses. Sending out a message from the Academic Senate President helped tremendously. Thank you!
 - November 14th, 9am-1pm, is the [Second Los Rios AI Summit](#), held at Folsom Lake College, in-person event.
 - At the system level, Michael Angelone was recently appointed as one of 110 CCC AI Changemakers, part of the Vision 2030 statewide initiative coordinated by the Chancellor's Office. *Congratulations, Michael!!! 🎉* This role links ARC to statewide implementation planning and aligns our local projects with the seven CCC AI focus areas, such as equity, pedagogy, and institutional innovation. Our regional lead is Suha Al-Jabori, also from our Los Rios District, who oversees the Far North Regional Consortium. For more background information, check out [Michael Angelone's Debrief to Senate for Board notes 10-09-25](#).

17. Items from College Areas for Academic Senate Consideration

5:12pm Meeting adjourned

10/09 Sign-In Sheet and Roll Call (Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain)

ARC Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet & Roll Call 10-09-2025		In-Person	Remote Attendance	Absent	Item 8.	
Veronica Lopez	President	✓			n/a	
Daniel Slutsky	Vice President	✓			Y	
Andréa Pantoja-Garvey	Secretary	✓			N	
Alisa Shubb	Past President	✓			Y	
Adrienne Avila	Full-time			✓		
Ally Joye	Full-time	✓			Y	
Behrang Mokarami	Full-time	✓			Y	
Ben French	Full-time			✓		
Brian Rosario	Full-time	✓			Y	
Caitlin Zumalt	Adjunct	✓			Y	

Cheryl Tsushima	Alternate Adjunct			✓		
Chris Moore	Full-time	✓			Y	
Christian Speck	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Connie Ayala	Full-time Alternate	✓				
David Bell	Alternate Adjunct			✓		
David McCusker	Full-time	✓			Y	
Diane Lui	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Dyanne Marte	Full-time			✓		
Eric Black	Full-time			✓		
Erik Haarala	Alternate Full-Time			✓		
Heidi Bennett	Full-time		✓		Y	
Janay Lovering	Full-time	✓			Y	
Jeff Sacha	Full-time		✓		Y	
Jennifer Scalzi	Full-time	✓			Y	
John Burke	Full-time	✓			A	
Judith Valdez	Full-time	✓			Y	
Justus Carlisle	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Kim Herrell	Alternate Full-Time			✓		
Kris Fertel	Full-time	✓			A	
Lana Anishchenko	Alternate Full-Time			✓		
Marianne Harris	Alternate Full-Time			✓		
Mayra Mireles	Full-time			✓		
Michael Angelone	Full-time	✓			A	
Michael Nakada	Alternate Full-Time	✓			Y	
Mihaela Badea-Mic	Alternate Adjunct			✓		
Mikhail Drobot	Full-time			✓		
Nicole Mann	Full-time			✓		

Palwasha Ahad	Full-time	✓			Y	
Paul Knox	Alternate Adjunct			✓		
Raquel Tejomaya	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Rob Juner	Full-time		✓			
Sarah Lehmann	Full-time	✓			Y	
Seth Clark	Full-time	✓			Y	
Shannon Pries	Alternate Full-Time			✓		
Susan Chou	Full-time	✓			A	
Susan Ramones	Alternate Full-Time	✓			Y	
Tak Auyeung	Full-time	✓			Y	
Tim Finnecy	Full-time			✓		
Tracie Tweet	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Valerie Bronstein	Adjunct	✓			Y	
Vivian Orcasitas Dillon	Full-time	✓			A	
William Wann (Guest)	Full-Time	✓				
Ray Simmons (Guest)	Full-Time	✓				
Mieke San Julian (Guest)	Psychology	✓				
Pamela Bimbi (Guest)	DE Coordinator		✓			
Aracelli Badilla (Guest)	Beacon Coordinator		✓			
Angela Milano (Guest)	VPI		✓			
Amanda Lewis (Guest)	AA President's Office	✓				
David Miramontes-Quiñones (guest)	VPSSE	✓				
Doug Herndon (guest)	AVPI	✓				
Yeny Peña-Grafton (guest)	ZTC Liaison	✓				