



Academic Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

November 13, 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

3:00 PM (AS President Veronica Lopez)

Land Acknowledgement Statement read by Veronica Lopez

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Agenda approved

3. Approval of the Minutes

- [Oct 23, 2025](#): approved with no changes

4. Introduction of Guests

- Laura Perk
- Pamela Bimbi, DE Coordinator
- Rocio Owens- Math
- Marwa Harps, (New) Dean for Student Engagement and Completion
- Rachel Simon, Nursing New Senator
- Mike Drobot- DCDT
- Michael Crowder- English
- LaQuisha Beckum- psychology
- Sonya Reichel- Math Co-Chair

5. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)

- Faculty from PCS Division is very disconcerted by an email communication sent out to the PCS Division from the PCS Dean to inform that the division office would be relocated to the new CTE building effective December 22 as a result of the co-location of Homebases in the Learning Resource Center - where the PCS Division office is currently located. This is very disconcerting because this is another illustration of how decisions are made without collegial consultation.
- A senator would like to see recommendations on how Dual Enrollment students already have access to HandShake (an employment website used at ARC) and that already having access without any consultation is concerning. Who ensures compliance? How about work permit management? Age eligibility? Parent-guardian access to HandShake questions? This can have an adverse impact on our district relations with employers because most employers have different access to high school employees versus to college student employees through HandShake.
- A senator read a portion of a Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items which stated that Sac State had 142 cultural items that were found on Cameron Ranch, the land that ARC now occupies. Also noted that Homecoming and Native American Heritage Month was a good time to contemplate our occupying the traditional homelands of Tribal Nations.
- Another senator asked for some clarification about Dual Enrollment students. If a parent contacts an instructor, does the instructor have to respond to the parent or student? The consensus in the room is

that the student is protected by FERPA and that we, instructional faculty, are serving college students - we are not high school instructors. So faculty in dual enrollment courses do not have to see parents. Parents/guardians sign a form when enrolling their minor students in Los Rios colleges.

6. President's Report

- **For all Faculty** - Complete Academic Senate [[Survey Link](#)] to help identify alternate dates and times that might work better for more faculty. The deadline extended to **Friday, November 14th**.
- Highlight - Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (ASCCC) F25 Plenary - [Faculty and Local Academic Senates Voice in Dual Enrollment Resolution](#) passed by acclamation.
- Academic Senate Meetings Spring 2026 Schedule (*dates are out of cycle)
 - January 29th
 - February 12th and 26th
 - March 12th and 26th
 - April 16th* and 30th*
 - May 14th

Consent Item

7. Approval of [Remote Attendees](#)

- Unanimously consent
 - Heidi Bennett (Business/Business Technology)
 - Shannon Pries (English)
 - Jeff Sacha (Sociology; People, Culture & Society Division)
 - Lisa Delgado (Kinesiology)
 - Diane Lui (Fine and Applied Arts)
 - Mikhail Drobot (DCDT)
 - Rob Juner (Nursing)
 - Valerie Bronstein (English adjunct)
 - Sarah Lehmann (Library)
 - Mayra Mireles-Tijero (Counseling)
 - Brian Rosario (Economics/Business)
 - Adrienne Avila (Mathematics)
 - Judith Valdez (Counselor Student Support Services)
 - Susan Chou (Nutrition)
 - Jennifer Scalzi (Counseling)

8. Affirmation of [Faculty Prioritization Ranking](#)

- The official word is that ARC's number of positions from the District still ranges between 20-25.
- AS Vice President Daniel Slutsky explained that calculating the averages after the faculty prioritization ranking had some challenges for departments requesting multiple positions that did not have different names or numbers assigned to them. So Adam Windham standardized the "same" positions with the highest rankings and used those to generate their averages.
- Concerns with the "drag and drop" as well as the "arrow up & down" were raised: cumbersome and not accessible for blind Senators. Typing the number is accessible and faster.
- Faculty prioritization ranking affirmed by consent.

9. [Science Success Center Liaison Position JD](#) (Joel Keebler, Science and Engineering Dean)

- Joel Keebler was not present.
- Questions about if the position is open to both FT and PT. STEM senators shared that, in the past, the position has been filled by PT and FT faculty.
- Question about "stocking", "administrative duties", and "scheduling" in the job description.
 - Are "stocking", "administrative duties", "scheduling" under faculty purview? or classified staff or supervisors or managers' purview? Needs clarification. Perhaps, oversight, consultation, advisory since faculty coordinators do not supervise classified staff, the only type of "supervision" that faculty might do is of students in the classroom, for instance.

- Another senator mentioned that there was no explicit language about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for this position.
- Item got pulled from consent to get additional feedback.
- Item will come back in the December 11th meeting.

Decision Items (5-10 minutes per item)

10. Faculty Job Description Language (1st Reading)

- AS President Veronica Lopez reminded of the background about this, sharing that the original language ([page 3, section highlighted in yellow](#)) is not required by HR. Veronica was concerned that the current verbiage did not seem right and reached out to our LRCFT colleagues to take a look at it. For instance, “actively demonstrate a commitment to equity...” How does one do that? Similarly, “Teaching modality Requirement” verbiage does not align with the contract.
- Discussion took place over the [proposed updated language](#) w/LRCFT input as Veronica read aloud the proposed updated language. AS Past President Alisa Shubb clarified that bullet points would be switched, whereas the “Teaching Modality” and the “Dual Enrollment” would be options for each department to have the option to include or not in the job description.
 - Discussion about the “preferred experience in dual enrollment” or “preferred experience in delivering instruction in multiple modalities” took place. For instance, Senators raised the question if the option for Dual Enrollment is there, would that have the potential impact of implying that we are embracing more growth in dual enrollment? Wouldn’t including Dual Enrollment potentially discourage non-Dual enrollment applicants?
 - Senators were in favor of **removing** those options and simply stating on top that this job “may” include online, in-person, or dual enrollment.
 - Senators are asked to report back to their areas, solicit feedback, and make changes.
 - This item will come back for a second read on Dec 11th.

11. Math Resolution (1st Reading)

- [Waitlists & Enrollment Process for Linked Support Courses](#)
 - Math Department Co-Chairs Sonya Reichel and Rocio Owens reiterated this resolution was created in collaboration between Math, English, and Counseling Departments. It is about adding classes with waitlists for linked support courses.
 - AS President Veronica Lopez read the two Resolves.
 - Alisa Shubb commented on the powerfulness of this resolution and encourages that we bring it to the District Academic Senate.
 - One Senator suggested strengthening the 4th Whereas by explicitly outlining how disproportionately impacted students are affected. For instance, first-generation students, ESL, AB540, students who are placed below college-level courses, and many students in the EOP&S program who are impacted by linked support courses in the waitlists and enrollment process.
 - Changes will be made and Math Resolution will come back for a second read on Dec 11th.

12. Academic Senate Homepage Recommendations (1st Reading)

- AS President Veronica Lopez read aloud the Academic Senate Homepage [Draft Recommendations](#) included so far.
- One senator emphasized the importance of this document for faculty to take ownership, instead of the top-down approach from the administration. The Homepage started under an Administration Leadership that no longer is here. Faculty voice is important and we are already seeing this with the consolidation of the Co-Location of the Homebases.
- Another senator reaffirmed the importance of faculty voice in the direction of the Homebases at ARC.
- AS President Veronica Lopez further elevated the comments by reminding those present at the meeting that Homebases is a [10+1 matter](#) because this directly affects student success.
- Another senator proposed a change from Homepage “Liaison”, which implies someone who is navigating between systems, to Homepage “Coordinator” who has more of a central role and ownership, which better aligns with the 10+1 spirit of shared governance.
- Another senator asked what is the goal of the Homebases?

- AS Secretary Andréa Pantoja Garvey thanked the senator for the question and reiterated that one of the reasons she [voted No on the SEP application on October 9th](#) is because the role of Homebases (Identity-affirming space? or Welcoming space?) as a space that has not been demonstrated to “reduce equity gaps and meet target outcomes” (purpose of the SEP). Are Homebases designed to support all students or to eliminate equity gaps by focusing on students who are disproportionately-impacted (goal of SEP funds)? The purpose and vision of Homebase is unclear as a whole; and it is unclear its place in the SEP.
- A senator shared their experience as former Homebase liaison that the Homebases provide a space to guide all students. Additional discussion took place about the paradox of the Homebases since they are set up based on areas but the students who might need most guidance are the students who do not know their majors, the students with undeclared majors.
- Referring to the first bullet of the draft recommendations, Past President Alisa Shubb emphasized that she would like to see the Academic Senate being a part of shaping “a clear vision, goals, and objectives for the Homebases”, and not simply asking the administration to provide a clear vision.

13. ARC Cluster Hiring Pilot 2.0 (2nd Reading)

- AS President Veronica Lopez presented the District bar graphs and line graphs from 2017 and 2025, indicating a slow improvement in diversity of hiring since 2017. 2024-2025 LRCCD HR Recruitment Efforts Data from the Fall Board of Trustees Retreat Agenda ([Item 6C, page 20](#))
 - Appendix C (pp. 69-71)
 - Executive Summary (pp. 84 -88) provides information based on the campus.
 - Data from LRCCD HR - [Ethnicity of FT Faculty \(2017-2025, graph\)](#)
 - Data from LRCCD HR - [Ethnicity of FT Faculty \(2018-2025\)](#)
- She then explained some of the adjustments made in the Cluster Hiring [Updated document for FA25](#), incorporating the comments:
 - Moved instructions to the top. Still asking for 2 questions but providing more options.
 - Added definition information for what ARC considers/defines as Disproportionately Impacted.
 - Adjusted Questions on the list based on comments provided.
- There were questions with alternative options that we started discussing live during the meeting after 5pm. Senators with class at 5:30pm had to leave at 5:15pm.
- A motion was made to move forward with the cluster hiring to finalize with the questions at the December 11th meeting.
 - Motion was seconded.
 - Item approved: 30 Yes, 2 No, 2 abstentions.

Reports (5-10 mins per item)

14. Black Serving Institution (BSI) Application - (Michael Crowder and Dr. David Miramontes-Quiñones, Vice President of Student Services and Equity, VPSSE)

- David Miramontes-Quiñones shared that, as an institution, we moved forward to apply for the BSI designation to recognize our work as a Black Serving Institution. This designation would be up to 5 years with the option of renewing again after 5 years. This opportunity started back in April, spearheaded when Dr. BJ Snowden was at ARC. The application is data-driven and has 9 questions to be addressed. It is an application at the state level (not federal level), currently with no funding included (yet), but David is hopeful that, as colleges across the state apply, some funding will eventually become associated with the BSI designation. The application is due Nov 21st.
- President Lisa Cardoza, VPI Angela Doray, and VPSSE David Miramontes-Quiñones have been working with Black Student Success Advisory Group, having monthly meetings.
- The college’s current services for our Black and African-American students are slowly but consistently demonstrating improvements in student success.
- Next goal: How do we maintain the work, if we get the designation? The group will continue to meet monthly.
 - Michael Crowder, Faculty member in the Black Student Success Advisory Group, shared that, at first, the advisory group had some hesitation to apply for the BSI designation, but as the conversations continued, they decided it was a good opportunity to continue the work. Michael

shared that there is a lot of work to be done, but this is also a good opportunity to be transparent and to get the work to be done.

- In the final stages of the process and in the meantime, David Miramontes-Quíñones stated that the college will continue to find ways to facilitate the success of Black and African American students.
- Question: if ARC gets the BSI designation, what does that mean? How will the funds be used? VPSSE David Miramontes-Quíñones clarified that, right now, there is no funding attached to the BSI designation. The hope is that there will be some state funding in the future.
- [Black-Serving Institution Slides](#)
- [Application](#)

15. District Equity Student Success Committee (DESSC) AI Workgroup - (Dyanne Marte, Liz Coleman, and Michael Angelone) (tabled)

- [Slides](#)

16. Draft [2028-2029 Academic Calendar](#) (tabled)

17. Councils (tabled)

- Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC) - Dr. Connie Ayala
- Operations Council (OC) -
- Student Success Council (SCC) - Caitlin Zumalt

18. Student Stipends for Shared Governance (Soraya Amin, Student Senate President and Sahar Hafiz, CAEB President)

- 4:35pm
- Soraya Amin and Sapeidah Saeedi explained that they had previously presented to the District without success over equity concerns with other campuses.
- Presentation on Stipends for Student Senators (SRF Allowance Uses), focused on Self-Funded Stipends. Each college reallocates a portion of its existing ASB discretionary funds.
- Students went over [their budget](#).
- Students presented proposals to address financial equity for all campuses including a \$2 fee per year for students. The total collected gets divided equally across all four colleges ASB.
- Comments included how the ASB does not get funds. Can the Academic Senate support ASB? Can ASB utilize other college's ASB as a model to support their request for sustainability over the years? Also to consider income tax, IRS, and financial aid for students. Lean on Students First, the educational experience, and a form of "work experience" for students as ASB students work on this resolution.

19. AI Assisted Grading Tool at 4:22pm (Distance Education Coordinator, Pamela Bimbi)

- Works on assignments that have Rubrics. It pre-grades and, when it is used, students will get a notification ([Notification Students See](#) - Image). Instructors do get to edit.
- It is in the Early Adopter Program (EAP) now. Two campuses are going to use it (CRC and FLC are interested), one (SCC) not, and ARC has not commented yet.
- Here's the [AI Nutrition Facts](#).
- Pros: within Canvas so maintains student security
- Cons: start using students as test subjects; unknown impact on accreditation.
- One student on the committee liked it as a rough draft tool but not for actual grading of assignments. Teachers automating the grading and less faculty feedback. Students can already get feedback from AI
- Would informed consent be possible? Once activated can a student opt out?
- Questions:
 - If this is turned on, is there an option to keep it private to the faculty only?
 - There is a Beta "playground" but once it's turned on in a live course, then it will start shooting a notification to all students.
 - Because it's a tool that's integrated into the assignment with grading rubric, even if the instructor decided to not use any of the AI "enhanced" rubric and speed grader, the students still get notified that AI was used in grading the assignment.
 - Can we wait for feedback from other, smaller, colleges and wait and see what occurs and learn

from that?

- This is a common format for Canvas tools from ARC because we are a bigger campus.

20. Program Paths Update - (ARC Program Paths Committee Chair, Bill Simpson)(tabled)

21. Report Back (Feedback from College Areas) (tabled)

- Open Issues from any Previous Agenda Item

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

- District Academic Senate (DAS) and District Meetings
 - Chancellor' Brian King Cabinet meeting - Discussed planning for 2026/2027 budget. LRCCD has entered an unfunded growth period.
 - DAS - [Resolution in Support of Reducing and Clarifying Los Rios Counselor-to-Student Ratio](#). (First Reading). [Proposed amendment to R-2222](#) (Attendance Requirements and Reports) to define 'no-shows' for asynchronous online classes; to distinguish between No Shows and Application of Census drops; and to define excessive absences.. (First Reading). [Resolution in support of the Pan-African Virtual College](#) (First Reading)

- Other Areas

23. Items from College Areas for Academic Senate Consideration

Upcoming meetings:

- Board of Trustees Meeting: Nov. 12th, 5:30 pm: District Office Board Meeting
- District Academic Senate Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 18th, 3-5 pm, District Office Conference Room

5:20pm Meeting adjourned

(Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain)

ARC Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet & Roll Call 11-13-2025		In-Person	Remote Attendance	Absent	Item 13. 2nd read
Veronica Lopez	President	✓			
Daniel Slutsky	Vice President	✓			Y
Andréa Pantoja-Garvey	Secretary	✓			Y
Alisa Shubb	Past President	✓			Y
Adrianne Avila	FT		✓		Y
Ally Joye	FT	✓			Y
Behrang Mokarami	FT	✓			Had to leave at 5:15pm
Ben French	FT			✓	-
Brian Rosario	FT		✓		Y
Caitlin Zumalt	PT	✓			Had to leave at 5:15pm

Cheryl Tsushima	Alt PT			✓	-
Chris Moore	FT			✓	-
Christian Speck	PT	✓			Y
Connie Ayala	Alt FT	✓			Y
David Bell	Alt PT			✓	-
David McCusker	FT	✓			Y
Diane Lui	PT		✓		Y
Eric Black	FT			✓	-
Erik Haarala	Alt FT			✓	-
Heidi Bennett	FT		✓		Y
Janay Lovering	FT	✓			Y
Jeff Sacha	FT		✓		Y
Jennifer Scalzi	FT		✓		Y
John Burke	FT	✓			N
Judith Valdez	FT		✓		Y
Justus Carlisle	PT	✓			N
Kim Herrell	Alt FT			✓	-
Kris Fertel	FT	✓			Y
Lana Anishchenko	Alt FT			✓	-
Lisa Delgado	FT		✓		Y
Marianne Harris	Alt FT			✓	-
Mayra Mireles	FT		✓		Y
Michael Angelone	FT	✓			Y
Michael Nakada	Alt FT			✓	-
Mihaela Badea-Mic	Alt PT			✓	-
Mikhail Drobot	FT		✓		Y
Nicole Mann	FT	✓			Y
Palwasha Ahad	FT	✓			Y
Paul Knox	Alt PT			✓	-

Pat Wood	FT			✓	-
Rachael Simon	FT	✓			A
Raquel Tejomaya	PT	✓			Y
Ray Simmons	Alt FT			✓	-
Rob Juner	FT		✓		Y
Sarah Lehmann	FT		✓		Y
Seth Clark	FT	✓			Y
Shannon Pries	Alt FT		✓		Y
Susan Chou	FT		✓		Y
Tak Auyeung	FT	✓			A
Tim Finnecy	FT	✓			Y
Tracie Tweet	PT			Excused	-
Valerie Bronstein	PT		✓		Y
Vivian Orcasitas Dillon	FT	✓			Y
William Wann	FT faculty guest				
Marwa Harps	(new) Dean for Student Engagement and Completion				