



Academic Senate Regular Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2025
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.
ARC Student Center Board Room
Meeting ID: 816 8060 2582
[Zoom link](#)

Preliminaries

1. Call to Order
3:00 PM (AS President Veronica Lopez)
Land Acknowledgement Statement read by Andréa Pantoja Garvey
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - Agenda approved with a friendly amendment to include new item 19. Moved old 19 to item 20.
3. Approval of the Minutes
 - [Nov 13, 2025](#): approved with no changes
4. Introduction of Guests
 - Araceli Badilla, Beacon Coordinator
 - Sonia Reichel, Math Co-Chair
 - Heather Farjado, Biology
 - Quisha Beckum, Psychology
 - Angela Kay Daroy, Vice President of Instruction
 - Rocio Owens, Math Co-Chair
 - Margaret Lednicky, Associate Vice President of Administrative Services
5. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)
 - Faculty shared a concern in regard to FT coordinator positions that may have a teaching component to their assignment. Thus, I am asking senate leadership to make a recommendation to the administration to assign specific percentages, or at the very least a range of possible percentages to job description (JD) language that are more clear and precise. The current draft of LRC Tutoring Coordinator JD is not specific about the amount of coordination time and the amount of possible teaching time this position may be assigned.
 - LaQuisha Beckum serves in the public safety advisory district as LRCFT representative and during their meeting on Monday, a campus safety report out. Can we have a campus safety report once or twice a semester that is ARC-specific? Does our college public safety meet regularly? Does it get reported to Campus Police?
 - Hannah Blodgett, Dean of Outreach and Pathway Communities, announced the launching of the HomeBase Report Tool in Spring 2026. There will be a flex activity on Jan 13, 9-10:20am. It is a referral tool that connects students to HomeBases, Beaver Cares, Student Center, DSPS, EOP&S, and other campus resources. It will also allow the college to gather data on campus services being utilized. If anyone has questions, Hannah Blodgett encouraged anyone to contact her.
 - Faculty public comment about Governance and Decision-Making by the current administration. When looking at IGOR at agendas and notes, the faculty member shared concerns that no notes have been published since May 12, 2025. Also concerns that no discussions or action items in the agendas since February 3rd 2025 - only report outs. What is happening in terms of decision-making? ACCJC Standard 4.3 states, "The institution's decision-making structures are used consistently and effectively. Institutional

decision-making practices support a climate of collaboration and innovation that advances the mission and promotes successful outcomes for all students.” It is urged that ARC demonstrates that it continues to meet this accreditation Standard.

6. President’s Report

- Request for part time senators to submit their forms for payment for services. ARC Senate [Faculty Part-Time Compensation](#) Form, also found in the supporting materials on the Canvas site.
- Also, take a look at the draft [2028-2029 Academic Calendar](#).
- ASCCC Foundation offering Scholarships to the [19th Annual African American Male Student Success Summit, March 5-6, in Long Beach](#). The deadline to submit is January 26 at 5:00 pm.
- [CRC Academic Senate Resolution Use of Student Success Data](#) and [LRCFT Email Response to CRC Administration use of Student Success Data](#)
 - Reminded how previously, CRC has attempted to use success data on Faculty PRTs. ARC AS President Veronica Lopez wanted to share the LRCFT response to CRC administration as well as CRC Academic Senate Resolution.
- AI Survey on Canvas AI Grading Assistant Early Access:
 - 33% - Yes, I may not be interested in using the tool, but other instructors may. Each individual faculty would have the option to use it or not use it at our campus
 - 22% - Yes, I am interested in interacting with the tool before it is released
 - 17% - No, I would prefer waiting to hear from other Los Rios colleges first before we turn this tool on at our ARC campus
 - 17% - No, I would support being given more time to further explore what has been done outside the Los Rios District to make a better-informed decision
 - 11% - Neutral
 - Based on the small sample size of 18, this will be turned on at ARC. ARC AS President reminded that this is an embedded tool within Canvas. No one is required to use it and several selections must be made to turn it on for your Canvas classes.
 - District funds will be available for professional development.
 - Questions ranged from how many respondents (18 responses), the name of the tool (AI grade assistant), and if there are tools for AI-detected (TurnItIn AI-version so far has no reliable tools available so far).
- Students on Faculty Hiring Committees. Shared the [Faculty Hiring Prioritization Justification](#) Memo from the ARC President Lisa Cardoza, reminded to keep in mind that the Hiring Committee should be faculty weighed. Directed faculty to the [2019 Los Rios Faculty Hiring Manual](#) and opened the conversation about students participation on faculty hiring committees.
 - Questions were asked about students' participation in the faculty hiring committee, which included:
 - If students are in the hiring committee, then students have to rank. Vice President Daniel Slutsky clarified that we, the Academic Senate Executive Team, were told that they have to rank - if they join the committee.
 - Another senator asked, isn't this unpaid labor? Then, the student is only given the option to withdraw from the hiring committee if they do not want to rank or can't rank?
 - Another senator asked, is there a way for students to get paid by way of service?
 - Another senator raised questions about equity and asked, what potential harm does it do to discuss with hiring committee members to give students the option to rank or not rank? How would the students know what to expect from the ranking process?
 - Another senator mentioned that they weren't even aware that having students in the hiring committee was an option.
 - Concerns about students' position in terms of their options once they join the hiring committee with the all-or-nothing model on ranking. Why not give more flexibility to students and the hiring

committee?

- Specific references were made to Los Rios Regulation 5121, [Section 6.1.5.](#), and that Faculty Hiring Committees should be faculty heavy.
 - The Academic Senate Executive Team will take back to the President's Cabinet to have additional conversations about this matter needing, at a minimum, additional clarifications about students' options in how they can participate in Faculty Hiring Committees.
- AS President Veronica Lopez also announced the recordings from Chancellor Hiring Finalists on the [Chancellor Candidate Forum website](#), which is available in the Supporting Materials on Canvas for Dec 11, 2025 meeting. Chancellor presentations were made this past Monday, Dec 8.
 - Also brought to Academic Senators' attention was the [Los Rios FastTrack OEI Rubric Academy](#) memo.
 - ARC has submitted their application for [BSI designation](#).

Consent Item

7. Approval of [Remote Attendees](#)

- Unanimous consent
 - Nicole Mann (chemistry)
 - Lisa Delgado (Kinesiology)
 - Shannon Pries (English alternate)
 - Mikhail Drobot (DCDT)
 - Heidi Bennett (BUS/BUS TEC)
 - Mayra Mireles-Tijero (Counseling)
 - Judith Valdez (Student Support Services)
 - Kristine Fertel (ESL/L&C)
 - Michael Angelone (English)
 - Jennifer Scalzi

Decision Items (5-10 minutes per item)

8. Resolution [Support of Reducing and Clarifying Los Rios Counselor-to-Student Ratio](#) (1st Reading)

- There was a concern with the term "number of hours". Concerns as it's restrictive. For instance, if the counselor is scheduled for 6.5 hours, then there is no flexibility to do anything else other than student-contact hours.
- At the DAS meeting on Tuesday, Dec 16th, there is an agenda item on 2nd reading on this matter.
- Senator asked if the ARC Counseling Dept supports this resolution and there is overwhelming support with the only suggestion for change being the "number of hours."
- Categorical counselors have not had sufficient time to review this document. ARC ASET would like to know if we should abstain. Two counselors mentioned over the use of "hours" being a potential issue.
- Another senator suggested if we were to send out a Google Survey due Monday, Dec 15th, 6pm. One senator mentioned that realistically may not get a response; another senator said it would be good to send out a Google Survey. Timing is not good for this option.
- At DAS on Dec 15th, we (ARC ASET) are directed to make a motion to strike the 2nd Resolve with "Number of Hours", then ARC ASET would vote Yes. If the 2nd resolve is not struck, we will abstain.

9. Math resolution (2nd Reading)

- [Waitlists & Enrollment Process for Linked Support Courses](#)
- Motion to vote and seconded. [District Memo](#) from Associate Vice Chancellor of Instruction Frank Kobayashi, provided some solutions but they were not real institutional solutions, but rather solutions that involved more workload on faculty or classified staff. Discussion- appreciation of clarification of the paragraph change.

- Motioned and Seconded for approved with unanimous vote

10. Faculty Job Description Language (2nd Reading)

- Original language ([page 3, section highlighted in yellow](#))
- [Proposed updated language](#) w/LRCFT input
- ARC AS President Veronica Lopez read the proposed updated language and asked if there is any discussion.
- Motion to approve this updated language was made and seconded. Approved with unanimous vote.

11. Academic Senate Homebase Recommendations (2nd Reading)

- [Draft Recommendations](#)
- [Shared Homebase Data](#)
- [Shared Budget Data](#)
- Incorporated input and have a clean document now. Discussion about the history of the STEM center and MESA as a program housed within STEM took place. A senator from STEM clarified that STEM homebase and MESA may mean losing MESA affiliation due to the inclusion of non-calculus students, hence the name change to the STEM center. However, when the STEM building was planned, the entire space was for MESA because Homebases did not exist then. The current active membership is between 250 and 300 students. MESA specifies that the space exclusive to MESA should provide 4 square feet per student. Otherwise, ARC can risk losing MESA affiliation and the associated grant. After discussion and clarification of the history, the STEM homebase and MESA co-location word was revised to now read "The STEM HomeBase and MESA should both be located in the STEM Building".
- Discussion occurred also about how the MESA grant also requires a faculty coordinator and ARC has a Director, not a faculty coordinator.
- Past President Alisa Shubb suggested we take the time to further clarify the language about MESA and STEM HomeBase.
- A faculty member in the Student Success Council (SSC) stated that in their last meeting no clear dates were provided for the HomeBaseco-location. VPSSE David Miramontes-Quiñones was present at the Academic Senate meeting and AS President Veronica Lopez asked David Miramonte-Quiñones to clarify the point about the HomeBase Colocation move. ed and was asked to answer the question. David stated that HomeBased CoLocation will happen between December 19th, 2025 and its estimated completion to be done by January 9th, 2026.
- A motion to move the [AS HomeBases Recommendations](#) forward was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

12. Questions for ARC Cluster Hiring Pilot 2.0 (2nd Reading)

- [Updated document for FA25](#)
- ARC AS President Veronica Lopez went over the questions while Vice President Daniel Slutsky went over the survey results, striking through the questions that were "voted out."
- Senator asked to revise wording in question 4 "disproportionately impacted student" to "a student or employee from a disproportionately impacted group." Important revision in wording was made.
- Motion was made, second, and passed with [31 Yes, 0 No, and 4 abstains](#).

Reports (5-10 mins per item)

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

- Michael reported out, going over the [slides](#), emphasizing the importance of information coming from local faculty, student, and manager users.
- Some of the charter's charges included developing model syllabus, identifying AI detectors, among others.
- Timeline and Milestones were presented with realistic adjustment for Spring 2026; a framework to be suggested aligned with Vision 2030.
- For example, Classroom level, AI assessment scale of ethical use and transparency in learning.
- A full draft of the framework will be shared out in Spring 2026.

14. Curriculum update (Aaron Bradford, Curriculum Chair)

- [Written updates](#). Aaron highlighted that on January 15th there will be a Flex activity on various updates, including non-credit courses, encouraging faculty to attend.

15. Councils

- Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC) - Dr. Connie Ayala [Written report](#)
- Operations Council (OC) -
- Student Success Council (SCC) - Caitlin Zumalt [Written report](#)

Discussion (10-15 mins per item)

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

- Presented the [slides](#) while explaining the importance of two kinds of maps: full-time and part-time maps to be sensitive to the reality of our students with 79% of our students. Mentioned that ARC is the only college that has part-time maps out of the 4-colleges in the Los Rios District because students were discouraged with the FT maps. At the same time, however, the part-time maps have been overwhelming to keep up, affecting the workload of faculty counselors.
 - However, the part-time maps that have students taking less than 6 units per semester (43%) take 5 years to complete their degrees and certificates.
 - Concern raised is that our institution is a 2-year institution but our published maps reflect a 4-5 year path.
 - Questions posed by faculty senators included:
 - Have students been asked about these maps?
 - Have students been presented with options such as 2-year plan, 3-year plan, 4-year plan "menu" and what that looks like in their lives?
 - What are the concerns about the optics of taking so long for completion? Our college serves students with full lives that have many responsibilities, life barriers, and do not have the privilege of time.
 - Concerns about recency for course work for certain degrees and certificates if the student is taking 5 years to complete their coursework, for instance. Counselors present at the meeting stated that, depending on the major, some of the courses may "expire" and a student may need to repeat a course that is 5-7 years old.
 - Another concern with published maps is that some students are bypassing the process of seeing counselors. It was suggested that perhaps labeling the maps as a sample so students can understand that, will see a counselor to customize the maps to themselves, and might address the concern of "optics". In other words, find a way to label the maps as examples and the students can use it as a basis and it is customizable, concerns with workload were raised.
 - Tak suggested using AI for compiling courses and prerequisites to do some of the work and make it a dynamic tool. And fix the encoding of the information. Something that can be done from Socrates with an export.
 - Many senators mentioned they support the 5-year maps as it is a more accurate reflection of the reality of our students who can only take 6 units as these 2-year maps are designed for privileged realities.

17. Dual Enrollment (Melissa Fish, Dean of Natomas Center and Tiffany Mpagazi, Dual Enrollment Director) 4:55pm

- [Slides](#) were presented by Dean Melissa Fish. The presentation started with an explanation of Dual Enrollment (DuE), distinguishing it from pre-college advancement. Within DuE, further differentiation was needed: CCAP (College and Career Access Pathways), which are cohorted, closed classes pathways students, partnered with high schools. But she emphasized that we have also seen students who are DuE students who have been navigating our system who are non-CCAP students and are navigating our system on their own. Currently, there are three pathways with DuE CCAP students:
 - GE social sciences pathway
 - CE/CTE pathway often in-person classes at the highschool

- CECA in Natomas takes place at the Natomas Center
- Regulations driving DuE
 - AB 288 (2015) - Ed Code 76004
 - AB 30 (2019) - Reporting requirements
 - AB 368 (2022) - Clarified focus
 - AB 1244 (2024) - Amended Ed Code & partnership requirements
 - Pending regulations (not discussed)
- Vision 2030
 - 9th grader completion of college-level course
 - 12 units completed by high school graduation
- Questions raised by senators included why a 9th grader should complete 12 units by high school graduation? Shouldn't a 9th grader be focusing on taking 9th grade classes? What can't we focus on teaching students basic math and writing skills in high schools, and less college courses on transcripts? Now the Vision 2030 focusing on 9th graders completing college-level courses, what's next? Middle-school students taking high school courses? What's the impact on AP high school classes? How is this DuE affecting our college capacity? Why is our college being asked to provide so many services to high school students? Are the data supporting that our DuE students we currently serve the student population meant to serve? This is a nuanced and equity discussion. How about college debt for young students? For instance, the potential for a 17-year-old to take on a lot of college debt is a concern. Another side of equity is that too many Cs can affect the student's ability to get into certain UCs, elite institutions, and competitive programs such as nursing. Also discussed was that there may be a financial conflict of interest.
- Dean Melissa Fish reported that close to 90% of DuE students are successful in their DuE courses.
 - Clarification on the 90% was made by Past President Alisa Shubb that those numbers need to be situated because there is a concerted effort in dropping DuE students if they are not doing well in their classes so it doesn't show on their transcript. This 90% success rate reflects that as well.
 - One of the senators mentioned that Dual Enrollment is a 10+1 matter, reminding of a [ASCCC Resolution from 2016](#) affirming faculty involvement in the creation of dual enrollment programs, and hopes there are more faculty-led discussions about DuE as DuE programs continue at ARC.

18. Report Back (Feedback from College Areas)

- Open Issues from any Previous Agenda Item

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

- District Academic Senate (DAS) and District Meetings
 - Chancellor Brian King Discussed status of [Guided Pathway](#)
 - Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice Chancellor Meeting - District working on making it so faculty banking overload for Type C leave can easily see their progress/how much they have banked.
 - DAS - [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)
 - Board of Trustees Meeting - Discussion on Live Streaming meeting and what it would cost
- Other Areas

20. Items from College Areas for Academic Senate Consideration

Upcoming meetings:

- Board of Trustees Meeting: Dec 17th, 5:30pm: District Office Board Meeting
- Academic Senate Meetings for Spring 2026 Schedule (*dates are out of cycle)
 - January 29th

- February 12th and 26th
- March 12th and 26th
- April 16th* and 30th*
- May 14th

5:25pm Meeting adjourned.

- Have a restful 🧤🧣🧤 Winter break, everyone! We all deserve it!

Sign-In Sheet w/RollCall 12-11-2025

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

| ARC Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet & Roll Call 12-11-2025 | | In-Person | Remote | Absent | Item 9. Math Resolution | Item 10. Faculty JB Description | Item 11. HomeBase Recomm | Item 12. Qs ARC Cluster Hiring |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Veronica Lopez | President | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Daniel Slutsky | Vice President | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Andréa Pantoja-Garvey | Secretary | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Alisa Shubb | Past President | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Adrianne Avila | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ally Joye | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Behrang Mokarami | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ben French | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Brian Rosario | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Caitlin Zumalt | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Cheryl Tsushima | Alt PT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Chris Moore | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Christian Speck | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |

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|-------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Connie Ayala | Alt FT | ✓ | | | | | | |
| David Bell | Alt PT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| David McCusker | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Diane Lui | PT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Eric Black | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Erik Haarala | Alt FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Heidi Bennett | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Janay Lovering | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Jeff Sacha | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Jennifer Scalzi | FT | | ✓ | | | | | |
| John Burke | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | A |
| Judith Valdez | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Justus Carlisle | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | A |
| Kim Herrell | Alt FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Kris Fertel | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Lana Anishchenko | Alt FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Lisa Delgado | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Marianne Harris | Alt FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Mayra Mireles | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Michael Angelone | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Michael Nakada | Alt FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Mihaela Badea-Mic | Alt PT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Mikhail Drobot | FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |

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|-------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nicole Mann | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Palwasha Ahad | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Paul Knox | Alt PT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Pat Wood | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Rachael Simon | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Raquel Tejomaya | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ray Simmons | Alt FT | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Rob Juner | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Sarah Lehmann | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | A |
| Seth Clark | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Shannon Pries | Alt FT | | ✓ | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Susan Chou | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Tak Auyeung | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | A |
| Tim Finnecy | FT | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Tracie Tweet | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Valerie Bronstein | PT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Vivian Orcasitas Dillon | FT | ✓ | | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
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