



Academic Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

ARC Student Center Board Room

Meeting ID: 816 8060 2582

[Zoom link](#)

Preliminaries

1. Call to Order 3:04 PM by AS President Veronica Lopez
 - Land Acknowledgement Statement read by Past President Alisa Shubb
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - [03/12 Agenda](#) approved.
3. Approval of the Minutes
 - [February 26, 2026](#) approved.
4. Introduction of Guests
 - Angela Daroy, VPI
 - Kevin Lovelace, Business
 - Heather Fajardo, Biology
 - Melissa Fish, Dean of Dual Enrollment
 - LaQuisha Beckum, Psychology and LRCFT
 - Araceli Badilla, Beacon Program Coordinator
 - Lori Hokerson, Universal Design Accessibility Coordinator
5. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)
 - AS Secretary Andréa Pantoja Garvey recalled that back in AY 2022-2023 a District-wide task force composed of faculty and administrators was formed to work on establishing guidelines for optimal class sizes. She would like to know the outcome of that task force, if specific recommendations have been made and presented to the District Academic Senate.
 - The Faculty Coordinator of Work Experience indicated that the Career Center was told they would be moved to the Learning Resource Center (LRC) within 14 days.
 - ASB Vice-President thanked AS Vice President Daniel Slutsky and AS Past President Alisa Shubb for attending the ASB last meeting. Thanked also all faculty present in the room for their services to students. Wanted to talk about student voices in faculty hiring committees, more specifically, if students can or cannot serve in faculty hiring committees. Believe that students do matter and why students were not consulted in writing the faculty Resolution. Were students' perspectives not important? Students' stance in this matter is equivalent to how the Homebase Colocation was done and faculty were not consulted. Students' voices were not consulted and that was the equivalent to what happened to students when the faculty resolution was written. Students should have been a part of the conversation and that practice should not have changed.
 - Student representative, Political Science major, first-generation college student who will be graduating in the fall semester, stated they understand the faculty perspective but could have been notified earlier and it seems that the goal is to improve, but faculty need to know that we have around 28 committees this

semester and the student was told by the chair of the faculty hiring committee that they could not rank but that the student's notes would be considered by the hiring committee. Student emphasized that they underwent the training that every committee member did but now they can't participate in the hiring committee in a way that's meaningful. The student urged faculty to consider what this means from an equity perspective, from the perspective of representation. The student asked if faculty could respond to her comments and AS Past President Alisa Shubb clarified that we can't respond to public comments.

6. President's Report

- AS President Veronica Lopez reminded the faculty that the [2026 Ken Diebert Award for Outstanding ARC Part-timer](#) is still accepting nominations. The deadline for nomination submission is **Friday, April 10th, 11:59 pm**. Nominate a part-time faculty member whom you feel should be recognized for their work and achievement during their career at American River College. Candidates may be nominated by a student, staff, and/or faculty member.
 - Faculty interested in participating in the review committee, please contact the Senate Secretary, Dr. Andréa Pantoja-Garvey (GarveyA@arc.losrios.edu).
- **Faculty and Staff Campus Workshops (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM) (FLEX)**
 - **Tuesday, March 10th:** Session 2: Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Consent
 - **Friday, March 27th:** Session 3: WEAVE Programs and Recognize, Respond, Refer
- Fill Academic Senator Position for Fall 2026 - Review the [Senator roster](#).
- Please take a few minutes to complete two different surveys
 - Share your scheduling preferences on the survey link: [Academic Senate Meeting Questionnaire Link](#).
 - To set priorities and strengthen our shared governance efforts and Academic and Professional Matters (our beloved [10+1](#)): [Academic Senate Survey Link](#).
- Dual Enrollment and Twin Rivers and Natomas Unified School Districts strike.
 - A senator who teaches an in-person CECA class indicated that students didn't show up to class thinking that their class was cancelled due to the strike.
 - A faculty member made a comment about the impact of student access to digital technology.
 - A senator mentioned that the DuE students are just being placed in random classrooms or gyms with their laptops asking faculty teaching these classes to be mindful of that.
 - Dean Melissa Fish reiterated that our DuE Success Coaches are available to reach out to connect with students who need more support and assistance.
 - [LRCFT Response in MS Format](#)
 - [LRCFT Response in PDF Format](#)
- Academic Senate Leaders received a written response from the ARC Administration regarding the formal Senate Recommendation to Homebases, available in [MS Word Format](#) and [PDF Format](#) for your review.
 - AS President Veronica Lopez read the ARC Administration written response to the formal Academic Senate Recommendation to Homebases.
 - A senator commented that "you will receive updates" seems one-way, but then the written responses states "there will be consultation". So is it one way? Or is it consultation?
 - Another senator asked if the project team the letter referred to had a time-line? Or if project teams are the appropriate mechanism?
 - VPI Angela Daroy wanted to clarify two pieces:
 - Homebases will be going through to the project team and faculty will be a part of it and will be reporting to the Academic Senate. And the project team can help set up guidelines.
 - And a second question that VPI Angela Daroy raised is if Homebases in its entirety is a 10+1 matter. 10+1 issues are handled in a different pathway and they want to distinguish

between how 10+1 and non-10+1 issues are handled.

- A Senator stated that there is already a process for 10+1 matters, so why do we need to set up a project team to determine the process? The policy says if the Academic Senate recommendation is not accepted, there is supposed to be a written response as to why it was not accepted.
- A faculty member indicated that students talked about shared governance that also includes the Student Associated Body in HomeBases and we need to have student representation in the project team. "Plain and clear, it is a lot of words to say nothing."
- Professors got a major shout out from students at the ARC Donor Breakfast event today
 - VPI, Angela Daroy highlighted the curriculum, Common Course Numbering (CCN), AB 1705, Councils, Project Teams
- AS President Veronica Lopez wanted to reiterate the Faculty Hiring Committee configuration.
 - Classified professionals may serve on hiring committees. This decision is made relying primarily upon the content experts (usually the department chair).
 - Students may participate in the interview process at the determination of the committee.
 - If a student serves on the faculty hiring committee, the committee will decide how they participate. This may include ranking and giving feedback; ranking on select questions (for example, teaching demonstration) and giving feedback, ranking without counting rank in calculation and giving feedback; or giving verbal feedback (strengths and weaknesses).
 - Students will be "Hiring the Best" trained prior to joining a committee.
 - Committees must be faculty-weighted and may proceed without a student and/or classified professional.
 - A Senator emphasized that they are in three hiring committees: one for faculty, one for classified, one for administrator. For the administrator, a student is a part of the hiring committee as a full participant. They appreciated the distinction of the hiring committee being discussed at the Academic Senate because it helps clarify confusion.
 - AS VP Daniel Slutsky clarified that we had to fall back to long-standing practices because we were unable to agree with our ARC administration due to the lack of collaboration regarding the configuration of the faculty hiring committee.
 - Past President Alisa Shubb added that there are inconsistencies in the hiring manual and the Los Rios regulations but, at ARC, the long-standing practices have been consistently implemented: each faculty hiring committee determined the configuration of the hiring committee with the goal of keeping committees faculty-weighted.

Consent Item

7. Approval of [Remote Attendees](#): Unanimous consent
 - Valerie Bronstein (English adj)
 - Heidi Bennett (Business/Bus Tech)
 - Rob Juner (Nursing)
 - Mikhail Drobot (DCDT)
 - Shannon Pries (English ALT)

Action Item

8. Formation of Senate Election Committee for F26/S27
 - Nicole Mann, Chemistry
 - Jeff Sacha, Sociology
 - Caitlin Zumalt, Chemistry

Decision Items (5-10 minutes per item)

9. [Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges \(ACCJC\) Midterm Report Draft \(1st read\)](#) (Sociology Professor, Dr. Jeff Sacha, Research Analyst, Dr. Diana Lopez, and Dean of Institutional Effectiveness & Innovation, Dr. Brenda Valles)
- [Academic Senate ACCJC Midterm Report Slides](#)
 - [Feedback Form for Academic Senate](#)
 - Jeff Sacha, Faculty Research Analyst, explained the midterm report is largely a compliance document following a template. From the faculty perspective how we, as a college, respond to the recommendations: following the new process for the institution-set standards and how to improve how DE courses can improve their RSI (Regular and Substantive Interactions).
 - DE committee how often and how are you communicating with students, to provide feedback, etc.
 - Working with the Student Senate to create surveys to ask students how they feel they are getting feedback.
 - It is an informational item, do not worry about editing for commas and periods. Spoke with Classified and Student Senates. But this Academic Senate is the only body that needs to have a formal signature of the AS President. They will then go through all the councils and the ELT (Executive Leadership Team).
 - Comments to be included in the [feedback form for Academic Senate](#) by Monday, March 23.
 - A senator asked a question about the feedback form as to why it is in this format. Dean Brenda Valles responded that it was procedural to capture everyone's feedback in one document.
 - Another senator asked for confirmation about the form if it was indeed this form with these questions and they confirmed it was this form.
10. [ARC Distance Education Project Charter \(2nd Read\)](#) (Distance Education Faculty Coordinator, Pamela Bimbi, and Vice President of Student Services and Equity, VPSSE, Dr. David Miramontes-Quiñones)
- VPSSE David Miramontes-Quiñones thanked everyone's feedback as it made the project charter more student-centered and elevated accessibility.
 - A senator emphasized how the new edits really transformed the document.
 - Dean Mikenna Modesto thanked everyone for their input.
 - Motion was made to approve the document as written. Motion second.
 - Motion passes with 1 Abstain. 30 Yes. 0 No.
11. [Dual Enrollment Faculty Coordinator Position for F26-S28](#) job description (**2nd Read**)
- A Senator mentioned that they want the emphasis to be holistic success, which has been in the minutes in the previous meeting. More specifically, an overemphasis on grades and unit completion risks prioritizing metrics over well-being, potentially leading to student burnout and poor life outcomes outside of academics. For some students, the most beneficial path may be stepping away from the program to focus on their overall development and mental health. This proposed change in wording aligns with the ASCCC resolution affirming that "dual enrollment programs are created for the benefit of students and not primarily for the benefit of a college's fiscal growth."
 - Additional suggestions were also made to the Job Description to read: The DuE faculty coordinator will work with the DuE team supporting ARC employee educators to meet the long term holistic needs of all DuE students, especially those who are disproportionately impacted, and to close our College's racial equity gaps with respect to access and student success outcomes. The DuE faculty coordinator will work with the Academic Senate in the areas of academic and professional matters (10+1) and update the Academic Senate on program updates.
 - Another Senator suggest to include revisions in the Desired Qualifications:
 - Experience with the college governance system and committee work
 - Direct experience working with student populations (1st generation, low-income, marginalized student populations, and disabled students) that are disproportionately impacted at ARC
 - Committed to collaborative work with stakeholders on projects and academic pathways
 - Demonstrated College leadership experience
 - Familiarity with dual enrollment programs and student population
 - Willing to learn and open to different approaches and new possibilities in their work with dual enrollment students and colleagues

- Flexibility to meet the diverse needs of dual enrollment faculty and students in a changing environment
 - Experience working collaboratively with other faculty leaders
 - Experience in curriculum and designing culturally-affirming curriculum—culturally responsive curriculum
 - Experience with student support offerings such as tutoring, embedded support, and counseling
 - Experience with multiple teaching modalities (on-ground, hybrid, and/or online)
 - Interest in educational program development and grant-funded opportunities
 - A motion was made to approve DuE job descriptions with proposed revisions. Motion second.
 - Passed unanimously.
12. [New Faculty Learning Community Coordinator Position F26-Sp27](#) job description (**2nd read**)
- A Senator would like more clarification in the Desired Qualifications. What does Equity Expertise and Tribal sovereignty mean? Can these be reconciled?
 - AS President Veronica Lopez added tribal sovereignty to desired qualifications as a separate item.
 - A senator asked to add “one **academic** year” to make it clearer.
 - A senator asked who makes the determination of the length of the term. Dean Brenda Valles clarified that it depends on the applicant.
 - A senator asked the importance of clarifying whether this is a 174-day year or 164-day year. In other words, is a reassigned time for a full-time instructional faculty or full-time coordinator faculty? Dean Brenda Valles explained that it will depend on the faculty pool. It is important to communicate to the candidates that it is a reassigned time position.
 - A faculty member asked if the 0.5 FTE is paid in the semester the academy happens or in the academic year? It needs to be clarified.
 - A motion is made to approve the NFLC Coordinator Position as currently written. Motion second.
 - Passed unanimously.
13. [ARC Dual Enrollment Charter \(1st Read\)](#) (English Professor, Dr. Neue Leung, Co-Chair of Student Success Council, and Vice President of Instruction, Angela Daroy, and Diane Cervantes, Classified Professional)
- [ASCCC Fall 2025 Resolution on Faculty and Local Academic Senate Voices in Dual Enrollment](#)
 - To access the Charter, you need to be logged into Los Rios account.
 - Dr. Neue Leung went over the [slides](#).
 - Of particular note, as DuE participation grows, ARC must ensure (see slide 6):
 - Alignment with academic expectations
 - Clear faculty roles
 - Connection to institutional planning frameworks
 - Sustainable program growth
 - This work follows **collegial consultation processes** consistent with Title 5 and Education Code. Key principles include (see slide 7):
 - Academic Senate leads academic and professional matters
 - Administration manages operations, resources, and implementation
 - Curriculum and instructional quality remain within established processes
 - ARC Dual Enrollment Plan (2026–2032)
 - Detailed project timeline in slide 11. VPI Angela Daroy clarified that the timeline will be pushed back to start in Fall 2026.

Reports (5-10 mins per item)

14. LRCFT Location Safety Committee (LRCFT ARC President, Art Jenkins)
- The next meeting is Tuesday, March 16th at 1pm. If anyone has questions, feel free to reach out to Art Jenkins at JenkinA@arc.losrios.edu. The final meeting of the semester is scheduled for April 20th.
15. **Councils:**
- Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC) - Dr. Connie Ayala

- [IEC Written report for Academic Senate](#)
- Institutional Equity Plan Co-Leads AVPSSE Dr. Steve Roberson (AVPSSE) and Dr. Rick Ramirez presented Institutional Equity Plan and Progress.
 - Many participated in the breakout sessions on Spring 2026 Friday Convocation with Classified Professional and Faculty.
 - Started in the Fall and continued this Spring with surveys, townhall, and focused groups of students. Gratitude expressed to Diana Lopez, Research Analyst.
 - Currently analyzing qualitative data and working on their draft for reporting out in April/May.
 - AVPSSE Dr. Steve Roberson shared they are identifying common themes of qualitative research from the faculty and classified professionals but also from the student townhalls. Student surveys will close on March 13th. They have an AS presentation scheduled for April 16th (1st read) and a revised version (2nd read) for April 30th.
 - AS Vice President Daniel Slustky asked how they plan to present to the college at large. AVPSSE Dr. Steve Roberson mentioned that after the second read at Academic Senate, they will put the report up on the College website.
 - AS Secretary Andréa Pantoja Garvey asked a clarification question if posting the report in the college website is the presentation to the college or if it will be presented during Fall Convocation? AVPSSE Dr. Steve Roberson stated that if he's asked to present at convocation.
- Operations Council (OC) -
- Student Success Council (SCC) - Caitlin Zumalt
 - [SCC Written report for Academic Senate](#)

Discussion (10-15 mins per item)

16. Report Back (Feedback from College Areas)

- Open issues from any Previous Agenda Items
 - AS Vice-President Daniel Slustsky and AS Past President Alisa Shubb were invited to attend the Student Associated Body meeting on Friday, March 6th, to answer student questions about student participation in the Faculty Hiring Committee. Vice President Daniel Slustsky shared that they addressed many of the students' questions about the faculty hiring process and got the impression that some of the questions seemed to reflect lack of understanding of the various nuances in the hiring process. For example, how each hiring committee determines how students participate in the hiring committee and how faculty hiring committees need to be faculty-weighted.
 - AS Past President Alisa Shubb added that they had 25 minutes, with President Lisa Cardoza starting by stating that she has a Students-First perspective as her guiding principle and that's why she came to American River College, emphasizing that she (President Cardoza) wanted students to be full participants in the hiring committees. President Cardoza proceeded to share that due to inconsistencies in the documents and because there is shared governance and we couldn't come to some agreement, that's why we are in this situation. At that point, AS Past President Alisa Shubb shared that she disagreed with President Cardoza, indicating that there are different ways to be a full participant in the hiring process, not just ranking during the interview. The impression AS Past President Alisa Shubb got during the 25-minute at the ASB meeting is that students directed all of their questions and comments to the Academic Senate, not to the College President.
 - A senator asked if it was fully expressed to the student body if this commitment to join a hiring committee potentially involved not going to class? And also that they are not really being full participants as they are not able to read these applications to make a more intentional ranking? Was all the work involved fully spelled out? Because the Hiring the Best training does not cover any of the workload involved in the process.
 - AS Past President Alisa Shubb explained that this level of detail was not given. What was

explained during the 25-minute allotted time is that it was out of concern, including that their time was not being compensated. However, students directed the questions back to the Academic Senate and asked: "what are you (AS) doing about it?"

- Robust discussion continued about if students fully understood what faculty were advocating in these conversations about student participation in the faculty hiring committee since, based on students' earlier public comments and the questions that were asked on Friday (March 6th), they seem to be getting the impression that the Academic Senate have been contributing to silencing students voices.
- Another senator, who has been a faculty member at ARC for multiple decades, mentioned that faculty hiring committees used to be composed of a Dean and multiple discipline-specific faculty because they are hiring someone who will be working with a content-expertise. Now, the faculty hiring committee also involves a dean, a manager, a classified staff, and a student, thereby no longer being discipline-specific faculty-weighted. If a student will be joining the faculty hiring committee, for many disciplines, there are discipline-specific parameters that would be important to have their specific students giving input. For instance, ESL faculty hiring would prefer ESL students because a student from another discipline may construe the cadence of speech too slow, yet that is an important instructional strategy in ESL classes.
- Another senator suggested that letting go of an administrator in the faculty hiring committee (instead of two administrators, having one administrator) could have helped solve the faculty-weighted committee and then adding a student in the faculty hiring committee.
- Another senator, who's working on the current District-wide revision of the hiring manual, mentioned that ways to elevate student voice is to bring teaching/hands-on demonstration as part of the hiring process as it is done in the other institutions such as Sierra College. Another important point brought up is that we are hearing at Academic Senate from ASB students but they are not necessarily representative of many students who are in our classes who will be working with the faculty being hired, who may not have the available time to serve in hiring committees yet would appreciate the opportunity to provide input in a teaching/hands-on demonstration if incorporated as part of a class they are already taking.
- Another senator echoed the previous senator's point by stating that each member of the committee is offering an expertise, a lens. In the case of the student lens is their experience with faculty as an instructor, as a counselor, as a coach that is valued. So how can we maximize student participation that is not restricted to one student in the faculty hiring committee?
- Another senator was confused as to why students from the ASB feel they were not kept in the loop? Aren't our AS minutes public? AS Vice President Daniel Slutsky clarified that Brett Sawyer, ASB Supervisor, has mentioned it in their (ASB) meetings.
- A faculty raised a concern with the way the administration went about this. They think the administration probably promised to students their full participation in faculty hiring committees without faculty input, thereby contributing to this climate. It was like this with Homebase Co-Location and it was like this with the Faculty Hiring Committee.
- A senator suggested if it is possible to have a written agreement with the administration.
- Another senator mentioned that it is very nerve-wrecking for adjunct faculty that one student can have so much weight on their life careers when some students can't even decide on their majors.

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

- District Academic Senate and District Meetings
 - AS President Veronica Lopez wanted to bring back and clarify to the body that the [Resolution in Support of the Pan-African Virtual College \(PAVC\)](#) involves bidirectional faculty exchanges. She noted the following resources:
 - [CCC Vision 2030 - International Education Opportunities](#): The goal of the Pan-African Virtual College is to use the California Virtual College platform to support bi-directional faculty and student exchanges and provide African-centered pedagogy in lower division and career technical education courses.
 - Article: [California Community Colleges, A²MEND and University of Ghana Collaborate to](#)

[Establish Pan-African Virtual College](#)

- Also, AS President Veronica Lopez emphasized the following edits & added Resolved to the resolution by ARC and FLC, respectively:
 - Resolved, that the Los Rios District Community College District Academic Senate **fully** supports district participation in the Pan-African Virtual College; and
 - **Resolved, that, given the Ghanaian stance on LGBTQ+ rights, the Los Rios Community College District should be aware of potential risks to LGBTQ+ students and faculty and do all in its power to mitigate potential risks, wherever and however possible; and**

- Other Areas

18. Items from College Areas for Academic Senate Consideration

- Nothing was brought up.

Upcoming meetings:

- District Academic Senate Meeting, April 7, 3-5 pm, District Office Conference Room
- ARC Academic Senate Meetings for Spring 2026 Schedule (*dates are out of cycle)
 - March 26th
 - April 16th* and 30th*
 - May 14th

5:10pm Meeting adjourned.

Sign-In Sheet 03-12-2026

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

ARC Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet & Roll Call 03-12-2026		In-Person	Remote	Absent	Item 10 DE Project Charter	Item 11 DuE Faculty Coordinator Position	Item 12 New Faculty Learning Community Coordinator
Veronica Lopez	President	✓					
Daniel Slutsky	Vice President	✓			Y	Y	Y
Andréa Pantoja-Garvey	Secretary	✓			Y	Y	Y
Alisa Shubb	Past President	✓			Y	Y	Y
Adrienne Avila	FT			✓			
Ally Joye	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Behrang Mokarami	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Ben French	FT			✓			
Brian Rosario	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Caitlin Zumalt	PT	✓			Y	Y	Y

Cheryl Tsushima	Alt PT			✓			
Chris Moore	MCT PT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Christian Speck	PT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Connie Ayala	Alt FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
David Bell	Alt PT			✓			
David McCusker	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Diane Lui	PT			✓			
Dyanne Marte	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Eric Black	FT			✓			
Erik Haarala	Alt FT			✓			
Heidi Bennett	FT		✓		Y	Y	Y
Janay Lovering	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Jeff Sacha	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Jennifer Scalzi	FT			✓			
John Burke	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Judith Valdez	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Justus Carlisle	PT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Kim Herrell	Alt FT			✓			
Kris Fertel	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Lana Anishchenko	Alt FT			✓			
Lisa Delgado	FT			✓			
Marianne Harris	Alt FT			✓			
Mayra Mireles-Tijeros	FT			✓			
Michael Angelone	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Michael Nakada	Alt FT		✓		Y	Y	Y

Mihaela Badea-Mic	Alt PT			✓			
Mikhail Drobot	FT			✓			
Nicole Mann	FT			✓			
Paul Knox	Alt PT			✓			
Pat Wood	FT			✓			
Rachael Simon	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Raquel Tejomaya	PT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Ray Simmons	Alt FT	✓					
Rob Juner	FT		✓		Y	Y	Y
Sarah Lehmann	FT			✓			
Seth Clark	FT			✓			
Shannon Pries	Alt FT		✓		Y	Y	Y
Susan Chou	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Susan Ramones	Alt FT	✓			A	Y	Y
Tak Auyeung	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Tim Finnecy	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Tracie Tweet	PT			✓			
Valerie Bronstein	PT		✓		Y	Y	Y
Vivian Orcasitas Dillon	FT	✓			Y	Y	Y
Angela Daroy VPI	VPI		✓				
David Miramontes-Quiñones	VPSSE	✓					
Mikenna Modesto	Dean	✓					
Lori Hokerson	UDAC		✓				
Charisa Gorre	Dean		✓				
Araceli Badilla	Beacon		✓				
Kevin Lovelace	Faculty Business		✓				

Heather Fajardo	Biology		✓				
Melissa Fish	Dean		✓				
LaQuisha Beckum	LRCFT		✓				