



ARC Academic Senate Approved Minutes

September, 10, 2026

Time 3:00-5:00PM

ARC Student Center Board Room

Meeting ID: 836 2610 4920

Zoom link [Zoom link](#)

Preliminaries

1. Call to Order: Called to order at 3:03 by AS President Veronica Lopez
 - Land Acknowledgement Statement read by Dr. Daniel Slutsky
2. Approval of the Agenda:
 - Agenda approved by consent.
3. Approval of the Minutes: Minutes
 - [August 27, 2026](#) approved by consent, with no change.
4. Introduction of Guests:
 - Angela Daroy VPI on Zoom
 - Araceli Badilla, Beacon on Zoom
 - Heather Fajardo, Biology on Zoom
 - Araceli Gonzalez, Ethnic Studies on Zoom
 - Megan Zane, Philosophy on Zoom
 - Ramona Thomas, Health and Education on Zoom
 - Kay Lo, Counseling, on Zoom
 - Kristina Casper-Denman, PCS-CTL on Zoom
 - William Wann
 - Michael Nakada as New Faculty Learning coordinator
 - Sara Lehmann co chair of Operations Council
 - Matthew Register to report on budget committee
 - David Miramontes Quinones VPSSE
 - Dean Marwa Harps
5. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)
 - Sarah Lehmann, Bookstore Advisory Committee: would like to collect information for the bookstore on all scantrons that are needed in the classrooms. There is a [list of scantrons](#) that the bookstore already orders. If there are any scantrons not on the list, please let Sarah or the Bookstore Advisory Committee know so the bookstore knows what to order. A senator asked if the bookstore sells bluebooks, and Sarah suggested that we look to see if bluebooks are on the list and if not, please include bluebooks as an item to be added to bookstore orders.
6. President's Report:

- NEW SB 707 (Durazo) Brown Act Modernization Act
 - **Guests** can remote in (i.e. join by Zoom).
 - **Senators** must be
 - in person (we must have quorum to conduct any formal business)
 - Attend remotely for **“just cause” or due to an emergency**
 - Childcare/caregiving obligations (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(1).)
 - Contagious illness (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(2).)
 - Physical or mental condition that prevents in person attendance (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(3).)
 - Travel while on official business for Los Rios or another state or local agency (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(4).)
 - Having an immunocompromised family member (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(5).)
 - Self or family medical emergencies (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(6).)
 - Military service obligations (Gov. Code §54953.8.3(c)(7).)
 - **There are limits on remote participation for members: Five meetings** per year if body meets 2 per month. Be sure to note which reason you have for attending remotely.
- ARC Directory - Faculty can manually update
 - Link on ARC Insider page under Employee Login
- Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) -
 - [ACCJC Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education](#) - June 2025 (page 2)
 - Work/writing for ACCJC report will tentative begin F27/S28.
 - [Distance Education Project Charter \(2026\)](#)
 - Administrative Lead, Dean Dr. Mikenna Modesto
 - Meeting days: 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month
 - Time: 2-3:30 pm
 - Modality: Zoom
- Facilities Management (FM) project schedule for the Library Elevator Modernization
 - Tentative dates: May 25th - July 31st, 2027.
- Preparing for Faculty Prioritization
 - [Fall 2026 Timeline](#)
 - Presentations on October 22nd - plan for extended meeting
 - Please take a look at the timeline and share this information with department chairs
 - Last year there were about 46 presentations, and the meeting went until about 6:00. Please come prepared for that meeting. There is no number

provided yet regarding how many full time positions there will be. Last year there were initially 28, but there ended up being 31 new full time faculty members hired. The prediction is that there will be fewer positions this year.

Consent Items

7. Approval of [Remote Attendees](#)

- Vivian Dillon (Career Education, Workforce, Public Service, & Apprenticeship) 1
- Jennifer Scalzi-Counselor MCT 3
- Jacqueline Yago (Business Division - FT) 3
- Marianne Harris (LIBR) 6
- Shannon Pries (English FT alt) 1
- Rachael Simon (Nursing) 4

8. Unite Center Faculty Coordinator Positions

- F26/S28 [Reassign Time El Centro Position](#)- updated
- S27/F28 [Reassign Time Pride Learning Community Faculty Coordinator](#) - updated
 - These items are back on consent because the questions were addressed according to Academic Senate purview (not union purview). AS President Lopez has asked our union to take a look at this. What is up for consent disincludes the language in red “the compensation for PT faculty is problematic...” in both documents. In the Duties and Responsibilities sections, the FTE should match, and this error will be fixed.
 - No one pulled from consent, so these job descriptions have passed, but our union partners will continue to work on this.
 - There was a request from a Zoom attendee for people to identify themselves and speak clearly so they can be heard over Zoom.

Decision Items

9. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [Policy 7910](#) and Human Remains [Policy 7920](#) - (2nd Read)

- The NAGPRA Task Force under DAS spent 2 years, requesting feedback from 18 local tribes. Eight of the local tribes provided feedback.
- A senator noted that section 3.1 mentions the district’s commitment to decolonization, but that information cannot be found on any Los Rios websites. The senator requested more information.
 - Who are the stakeholders?
 - Who is accountable?
 - Can DAS work with the district to provide more information?
 - Answer: The district has stated that they will not make statements until NAGPRA policy is in place.
- A senator asked about 3.1.7 and requested that “Individuals from targeted populations who were dehumanized” should be added.
- A senator stated that 5.10.7 elevates colonial law and ignores cultural practices of people whose land is being occupied. And that it is in contradiction with 3.1.1.

- A senator asked about 5.4.2: The district must consult with tribes that are not necessarily federally recognized. The senator asked if we are also working with tribes not recognized by California and whether we are intending on cooperating with tribes that don't have state recognition? Answer: This was one of the strong bits of feedback provided by the tribes that were involved. If there is a nonrecognized tribe that believes remains belong to them, there are mechanisms in place to allow for these tribes to have access to the remains. Reminder: Eight tribes have collaborated and they have seen this document and agreed to it.
- A senator asked why the other eight of the 16 tribes did not agree to this. Answer: The protocols for communications for most of the tribes are very strict and procedural. Some tribes have very established procedures of who and how they communicate. None of the tribes refused to participate because they were opposed. Some felt that it was not necessary to collaborate. Reasons varied regarding why the remaining eight tribes did not participate.
- Vote: Yes, 18; No 3; Abstentions, 5.

Human Remains Policy 7920

- A senator has looked at other human remains policies at other educational institutions (University of Oregon's statement was read) and the senator is asking for a similar statement for Los Rios. Answer: The tribes very much wanted the NAGPRA materials to be separate from 7920, and as part of the process of honoring this request, it is possible that such a statement was left out in the Human Remains Policy 7920. The same senator indicated that there does not appear to be such a statement in the NAGPRA policy, and indicated that having such a statement in both spots would be essential.
- AS President Lopez indicated that we at ARC can write a resolution that embodies the spirit in what we try to do in honoring our Native American tribes in California. If the body would like that, we here at ARC can write a resolution.
- A senator quoted 1.1 and asked whose best practices are to work with human remains, noting that the Yale anthropology department has a statement saying they do not use human remains in their introductory anthropology classes. A senator indicated that Stanford University uses human remains, but the remains are donated, with consent.
- A senator indicated that technology might change things in the future. It's possible that the changes in technology may reduce the need for human remains. For example, there are high resolution images available that show the nervous system of a fly.
- Alisa Shubb, AS Past President pointed out that the document being brought to us has not been presented as an editable document, and that this is the result of two years of work.
- A senator asked about religious items also being included. Answer: A concern could be brought forward to the board or a resolution can be written.
- A senator indicated that there may have been an oversight by the committee, and the committee might be grateful to have questions asked and for other details to be considered.
- AS President Lopez pointed out that if ARC's Academic Senate votes "no", it might not change the outcome. There are three other campuses in the district voting as well.

- AS VP Daniel Slutsky made a motion to approve, and a senator seconded the motion. Support for 7920 passes, but we will give a split vote to DAS, to make sure the voice of the senate is heard in this way.
- Vote: Yes, 7, No 8: Abstentions, 11.

Reports (5-10 Minutes per Item)

10. Peer Review Teams Update - (Academic Senate Past President, Alisa Shubb)

- Tomorrow is the deadline for PRTs to be appointed. Many deans have given Alisa Shubb recommendations. Alisa is serving as Academic Senate President Designee. Deans should not be doing this work without chairs or coordinators, but they should also not be asking chairs and coordinators to do this work for the deans. Serving on a PRT should be in consultation with the department chair or coordinator, who makes recommendations to the Academic Senate President Designee. Review teams are not appointed until the Academic Senate President designee makes an appointment. For tenure track faculty, PRT should remain the same throughout the duration of your tenure track. After Year 2, 3, or 4, a faculty member may make a change to one member of the PRT. Within the first or second week of the semester, request a peremptory challenge through the Academic Senate President Designee. Departments should also assign tenure track faculty members a mentor, who will not serve on the PRT committee. A question was asked about how to make sure they are assigned a mentor. Answer: mentors are not appointed by the Academic Senate, so faculty can reach out to the department chair or to Alisa Shubb.

11. District Budget Committee Update - (ARC Faculty Representative, Math Professor, Matt Register represents the ARC Senate)

Funding at the federal level has fluctuated quite a bit over the last few years. At the state level, funding depends on the stock market, which goes up and down. There is a cap on the money we get from growth. (If students pass first year math and English classes, we get money per student.) We have already reached the cap, and it's only September.

Notes: Nearly \$900 million organization, with \$215 million placed in reserves.

- If there is ever anything that anybody wants purchased for the classroom, we as a district can afford it.
- Encourage faculty to submit request. For reference, we could buy 1000 big screen TVs at \$1000 a piece, and that would be less than 0.5% of what we have in reserve.
- The blurb in the Budget Books (page 36) reinforces the thesis that the bucket system really doesn't matter for faculty; what matters is the 50% law (as money is spent from the general fund, 50% has to go toward faculty, which includes instructional assistants). The more money the district spends, the more money they have to put toward all of us. Mario Rodriguez is willing to come and talk
- If you would like to join, the group meets Wednesdays before the Board of Trustees meeting.
- Retro and COLA are doing is back-paying us to make it easier for them to pay us the legal minimum amount.

12. Council Updates

- Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC) – Dr. Connie Ayala
 - [Written report](#)
- Operations Council (OC) – Sarah Lehman
 - The council hasn't met yet, but Sarah shared with that council does:

Purpose and scope is to provide leadership for issues with day to day function and operations of the college, and the college budget (processes for budget development)

The committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month. There is a planning meeting the week before to discuss agenda items. Parking policies if there is an event, facility reservation process, bookstore transition, are all agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

A senator asked about the volume of air conditioners in the portable village.

A senator has noticed that a lot of the ADA doors on campus do not work. This committee needs a faculty member.
- Student Success Council (SSC) – Caitlin Zumalt
 - [Written report](#)

Discussion (10-15 minutes per item)

13. Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Liaisons - *time certain 3:20 pm*

- Kay Lo: General Counseling, currently serving as the CTL Liaison for Counseling to help provide professional development opportunities for counselors, support staff, and anyone who wants to come. Kay has asked counselors to provide suggestions for workshops. So far, attendance at the workshops offered has been strong. Kay will continue to reach out across campus for suggestions and collaboration opportunities.
- Michael Nakada New Faculty Learning Community (NFLC) Coordinator discussed guest speakers lined up already and is requesting others to sign up as guest speakers. Assignments for NFLC members could be asynchronously connecting with senators. A senator asked why NFLC is not mandatory for adjunct faculty. The response is that it is resource heavy, but it would be worth looking into a version for adjuncts. Another senator noted that ESL has just brought on several emergency hires who likely could benefit from this as well.
- Kristina Casper-Denman encourages people to attend Dr. Bailey's upcoming Friday workshops. She suggests going to the [Center for Teaching and Learning website](#) to find out about various other training events. Kristina shared that there is a surprise event coming up in December that has "something to do with Ireland".

14. President Lopez posed an inquiry on creating an ARC Standing Committee focused on AI (Artificial Intelligence) because she has heard there is interest in a standing committee of the senate that helps to support faculty when it comes to AI. She asked if there is

interest to create such a committee. This committee could help with syllabus language, explore professional development opportunities.

- A senator agreed that it is necessary to form such a committee, and is willing to participate.
- Another senator also agreed and would like to participate.
- A third senator asked if our Faculty Fellows would have something to contribute to the committee.
- A senator asked how this would be different from the AI Community of Practice. Past President Alisa Shubb indicated that a standing committee of the academic senate is not a community of practice, but a body that makes recommendations to the senate.
- A senator indicated that it would be helpful to have consistent policies on the use of AI, clarity on our policy, and how we enforce the policy. A senator over Zoom agreed with this.
- Another senator who has used AI a lot, shared that a lot of people want to know more about AI and what students can do with AI. The senator indicated that AI has the capability to log into Canvas and do homework for students.
- Alisa Shubb asked if it would be helpful for a committee to explore types of AI tools for instruction and for students.
- Another senator pointed out that there is a capability in Canvas for faculty to upload documents, such as a syllabus, so students can go in and ask questions to find information they need for the class using this resource. This senator asked for a training on this feature. The same senator indicated that some tools are available on Canvas for a while but then they disappear.
- A senator discussed research and data being reported, and suggested that a standing committee could look into this research. Another senator agreed, and shared information about research findings regarding AI. The senator also pointed out that professionals in the field are using AI to solve problems and that we can't tell students to not use AI when professionals in the cutting edge of their fields are using it.
- A senator suggested working with the Student Senate as well. The senator wondered whether our students understand how to use the tool to benefit themselves and not hurt themselves in the long run. There is a difference between Educational AI and AI in general. Educational AI "goes around" the answer but does not give the answer. Instead, it leads them to the answer by promoting thinking about the issue.
- The following comment was made by a Zoom attendee: I think it would be nice for the committee also supporting/providing guidance to those who are needing a more restrictive environment due to their discipline, and needing to regulate it without having consequences from admin that may want to push AI use. (Also, as we are talking about the positives of AI advancements, on the other side, Attorneys are being sanctioned regularly for the use of AI, as well as head officers are leaving Open AI due to the consequences that AI will use); not to mention the environmental impacts.

15. Report Back (Feedback from College Areas)

- Open Issues from any Previous Agenda Item- none

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

- District Academic Senate and District Meetings Sac City's noncredit ESL courses are all filled, and they are going well. There will be an ESLwork group (recommending body to DAS)
- Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services: Title V has changed, so policies and regulations need to change in accordance.
- Question on zoom: I do not see any Los Rios policies and regulations about noncredit. Is this something that is being developed? Question has been given to DAS president and there is no current news.

17. Items from College Areas for Academic Senate Consideration

Future Returning items

- A senator asked about the prerequisite checker. President Lopez asked Jamey Nye about this and he indicated that it is too complicated with so many departments. A senator indicated that this is already in effect for math and English. A senator indicated that the current system is not equitable because students are allowed to enroll in classes they are missing prerequisites for, and then on the first day of class, the students are told they cannot take the class. This can set them back a year. A senator stated that it is possible to create a tool (AI) that can flag the students who are missing prerequisites. VPI over Zoom noted that one of the big challenges is outside transcripts.
- Program Review updates
- Revision of the [LRCCD Emergency Closure Distance Education](#) addendum
- District Equity Student Success Committee (DESSC) [Los Rios Artificial Intelligence Guidelines](#)

Meeting adjourned 4:57

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

ARC Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet & Roll Call 09-10-2026	Role	In-Person	Remote	Absent	NAGPRA	7920		
Veronica Lopez	President	✓						
Daniel Slutsky	Vice President	✓			yes	yes		
Mieke San Julian	Secretary	✓			yes	yes		

Alisa Shubb	Past President	✓			yes	no		
Adrienne Avila	FT			✓				
Ally Joye	FT	✓			yes	yes		
Amy Gaudard	FT	✓			yes	no		
Andrew Boyd	Alt FT							
Ben French	FT			✓				
Caitlin Zumalt	PT	✓			yes	abstain		
Cesar Reyes (parental leave Fall)	FT							
Cheryl Tsushima	Alt PT							
Chris Moore	MCT PT	✓			yes	yes		
Christian Speck	PT	✓			yes	yes		
Connie Ayala	FT	✓			yes	no		
David Bell	Alt PT							
David McCusker	FT	✓			no	no		
David Munoz	FT	✓			yes	abstain		
Diane Lui	PT			✓				
Eric Black	FT			✓				
Erik Haarala	Alt FT							
Heidi Bennett	FT			✓				
Jacqueline Yago	FT		✓		yes	no		
Janay Lovering	FT			✓				
Jason Keith	FT		✓		yes	yes		
Jennifer Scalzi	FT		✓		yes	yes		
Judith Valdez	FT			✓				

Justus Carlisle	PT	☒			yes	no		
Kevin Van Den Bogert	FT	☒			abstain	abstain		
Kim Herrell	Alt FT							
Kris Fertel	FT	☒			yes	abstain		
Lana Anishchenko	Alt FT							
(Leroy) Adam Austin	FT	☒			yes	no		
Lisa Delgado	FT			☒				
Marianne Harris	Alt FT		☒		abstain	abstain		
Michael Angelone	FT			☒				
Michael Nakada	Alt FT	☒						
Mihaela Badea-Mic	Alt PT							
Mikhail Drobot	FT			☒				
Nicole Mann	FT	☒			abstain	abstain		
Paul Knox	Alt PT							
Pat Wood	FT			☒				
Rachael Simon	FT		☒		yes	yes		
Raquel Tejomaya	PT	☒			yes	abstain		
Ray Simmons	Alt FT	☒						
Seth Clark	FT	☒			abstain	no		
Shannon Pries	Alt FT		☒		yes	abstain		
Susan Chou	FT	☒			abstain	abstain		
Susan Ramones	Alt FT							
Tak Auyeung	FT	☒			yes	abstain		
Tim Finnecy	FT			☒				

Vivian Orcasitas Dillon	FT				yes	abstain		
Marwa Harps	guest							
William Wann	guest							
Malia Haymes	interpreter							
Jayden Velasquez	Student Senate							