

**LOS RIOS DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE (DAS)**

**Minutes**

September 15, 2015

Los Rios District Office

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Roster			
DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE			
Brian Robinson	FLC	DAS President	X
Connie Zuercher	SCC	DAS Past President	X
Dan Crump	ARC	DAS Secretary	X
Tony Giusti	ARC	AS President	X
Gary Aguilar	ARC	AS Vice President	X
Alisa Shubb	ARC	AS Secretary	Excused
Tressa Tabares	ARC	AS Past President	X
Julie Oliver	CRC	AS President	X
Shannon Mills	CRC	AS Vice President	X
Scott Crosier	CRC	AS Secretary	X
Georgine Hodgkinson	CRC	AS Past President	X
Carlos Lopez	FLC	AS President	X
Paula Haug	FLC	AS Vice President	X
Francis Fletcher	FLC	AS Secretary	X
Ginni May	SCC	AS President	X
Troy Myers	SCC	AS Vice President	X
Steve Cirrone	SCC	AS Secretary	
Kirsten Corbin	ARC	District Curriculum Coordinating Committee (DCCC)	X
Greg Beyrer	CRC	District Educational Technology Committee (DETC)	X
Kathy Degn	CRC	District Matriculation & Student Success Committee (DMSSC)	
Robert Perrone		Los Rios Colleges Federation of Teachers (LRCFT)	
Guests:			
Annette Barfield	SCC	Counseling Faculty/LRCFT college president	X
Doug Copely	SCC	Physics Faculty	X
Jim Walker	ARC	Mathematics Faculty/chair, District Math Competency Committee	X

**Preliminaries (10 minutes)**

Call to Order at 3:07pm

- Approval of the Agenda---approved.

- Announcements---The Hiring Manual Task Force has finished its review of the manual. An online version will be available this week for distribution to local senates. Feedback from the colleges is requested before the next Task Force meeting on October 13.
- Approval of the September 1<sup>st</sup> minutes---approved.
- Public Comment Period (3 minutes per speaker)---none.
- Introduction of Guests---Doug Copley and Jim Walker.

### **Decision Items 15 minutes (per item)**

#### 2. Charge of Competency Committees

It was noted that the Mathematics and Reading committees are up-to-date in membership. The Writing committee has some outstanding courses to approve and DAS has also requested a rubric from the Writing Committee.

It was felt that, before there are changes, a review of the current charges is needed and members need to be informed of their roles and responsibilities.

Walker, a member of the Mathematics committee noted there has been some confusion on committee operations at the present. The committee would like to do a review of courses that currently meet Math competency in order to see if anything has changed with the courses. He also said that DCCC had instructed the committee that they could only look at the Course Outline of Record, not review things like tests, textbooks.

There doesn't seem to be a regular schedule of meetings. A suggestion was made to schedule one meeting in Fall for training and schedule other meetings on an as-needed basis.

It was also noted that participation from DCCC in training of the committees is needed.

In regards to quorum, it is essential to make sure that there are subject and subject-related faculty in attendance. If all the discipline faculty did not agree on a proposal, they should not be outvoted. But it was also noted that lack of participation from any group(s) on the committee should not stop the process.

There is the need for ongoing review of courses. Currently, once a course gets approved for competency, it does not appear to be reviewed again. The question was asked if it is appropriate for the committees to have the ability to do a review of current courses that have competency. Currently, there are only meetings when new courses are being considered for competency.

The question was also raised about having a "flag" in SOCRATES for current competency courses when they come up for review. Apparently, this is "technically possible." Could a curriculum or competency chair be alerted to this?

It was proposed for the DCCC chair to have a meeting with the chairs of the competency committees to discuss committee expectations, including the review of current courses that meet competency.

### **Discussion Items (15 minutes per item)**

#### 3. Equivalency Processes

ARC is interested on behalf of faculty; CRC would welcome a DAS discussion; FLC declines interest; SCC is interested (current Los Rios policy does not appear to be followed).

Next step is to gather information, including the contacting of the ASCCC on best practices, especially from multi-college districts.

#### 4. High-Unit ADTs (Associate Degrees for Transfer)

There are high-unit courses within certain ADTs. If the unit value of the courses needed for the ADT exceeds 60, then a college would most likely not be able to offer the ADT and, consequently, would need to drop the local associate degree.

SCC has started the discussion. The math and physics department chairs have met to discuss high-unit courses, with the possibility of changing majors programs.

Copely noted that universities have Teaching Assistants (TAs) for discussions. In the community college system, we have faculty holding these discussions. About 20 years ago, the VPI at SCC made some physics courses to have a 5-unit value instead of 4 units because there were hours that weren't being accounted for. Basically one unit is for discussion (lecture).

In response to a statement that it had been reported that "SCC has the problem solved," May noted that there has been "a solution for a small part of the problem." There is the need for conversations with involved parties. The possibility of a lab section, or a supplementary course, was mentioned.

Myers is a member of the FACCC (Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) and noted that FACCC is looking at possible solutions for high-unit degrees. He asked for STEM faculty to contact him in regards to concerns with the high-unit courses.

Action:

Robinson to discuss with Sue Lorimer, Vice Chancellor for Education and Technology.

#### 5. LMS Workgroup

ARC and CRC have sent names to Robinson for appointment.

A question was raised about the approval of tools (third-party products). Beyrer reported that DETC has not yet met this semester and suggested that faculty talk to their college LMS Coordinator. The plan is to have a concise one-page list of conditions to be met in order for a tool to be approved by DETC. The applications from faculty members for the approval of a tool would go to either DETC or the LMS Coordinator.

6. Items from College Senates & District for DAS consideration.

CRC---is there interest in having a discussion re: allied health lottery systems in addition to current admissions requirements?

Action:

Senate presidents report back on whether there is interest.

### **Reports---(5 Minutes per Report)**

8. Meeting with Chancellor King

Most of the talk was about safety. Dr. King noted that he has requested an external review of incident at SCC with a report to the Board of Trustees on October 21.

There have already been discussions at FLC, especially about locks for classrooms and the need for more POST-certified staff.

May and Barfield reported that they have held two open sessions with faculty.

There was discussion on whether there should there be professional development requirements in regards to safety. If required or mandated, that would be a union issue.

9. DCCC Report (Corbin)---no report

10. District Matriculation (Degn)---no report

11. Ed Tech (Beyrer)---no report

12. ASCCC (May)---no report

13. LRCFT (Perrone)---see Appendix A

## **Future Agenda Items**

1. Reassigned Time for Leadership Positions

**Adjourned**---adjourned at 4:33pm

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### APPENDIX A:

LRCFT report to District Academic Senate, September 15, 2015

1. The LRCFT is a sponsor of the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Sacramento “Women Take Back the Night” rally and march on October 10, 2015. It will take place at the Sacramento Native American Health Center at 2020 J St. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and educate the public on issues of violence against women; to celebrate women and girls, and support and empower survivors. The event is free, and open to anyone interested in taking a stand to end violence against women.
2. The LRCFT sponsored several forums throughout the District on campus safety, before and after the outbreak of violence at SCC. The Union is working with District administration on improving safety, with a particular focus on the El Dorado Center, at which no uniformed Los Rios police officers are assigned. Wayne Olts, the LRCFT college representative at the EDC, recently wrote an open letter to Chancellor King regarding safety at the EDC campus.