District Academic Senate Executive Committee

Friday, July 16, 2021
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Zoom URL: https://lacc.zoom.us/j/95616814755
Meeting ID: 956 1681 4755

MINUTES

Attendance

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Call to Order:

President Angela Echeverri called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves. She welcomed the new Senate Presidents at East (Mickey Hong) and Trade (Marvin DaCosta).

Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as written (Hernandez/Akl) M/S/P

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the June 4, 2021 meeting were approved as written (Hernandez/Akl) M/S/P

Public Speakers: None

Action Items

1. New Subject: Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) posting closed on 6-3-2021.
Minimum qualifications for RBT from the ASCCC disciplines list: Master’s in behavior
analysis, education, or psychology OR the equivalent AND certification as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) as set by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) – from DCC

M/S/P

2. Minimum Qualifications for new subject Game Art and Design (GAD): ASCCC
Discipline List: Multimedia – any degree and professional experience – from DCC
M/S/P

Atondo noted that the full District Academic Senate (DAS) had already approved Agenda items #2 and #3 as subjects, but neglected to include Minimum Qualifications (MQs) for those subjects. The purpose of these two action items is to delineate the MQs.

M/S/P

Noticed Items

Recommendation on CidiLabs design tools and UDOIT accessibility checker

Drawbond reported that the LACCD had previously been using Ally. However, several issues were noted, such as changes made for accessibility would not import into the Canvas shell. Ally could not fix the problems at this time. The Distance Education (DE) Coordinators recommend UDOIT as the accessibility tool to replace Ally. The UDOIT company will give the LACCD a discount if the District contracts for the colleges. Although the colleges will fund locally, the contract will be districtwide. The Vice Presidents have approved, but DAS approval is being sought. The DAS Academic Technology Committee has also recommended approval. The current contract with Ally expired June 30, 2021.

Echeverri will contact Ryan Cornner (Vice Chancellor of Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness – EPIE) for a timeline related to purchasing the software in time for implementation for the Fall 2021 Semester. If necessary, and if it is an urgent item, Echeverri could schedule a single-item meeting of the DAS Executive Committee (DAS Exec) for next week.

Discussion Items

LACCD Re-engagement Plan and Return to Campuses

Echeverri observed much uncertainty regarding the Fall 2021 Semester, especially with the highly contagious Delta variant of the novel coronavirus, and a District re-masking
mandate indoors but no requirements for social distancing. Some counseling faculty are concerned about counseling students in restricted spaces with inadequate ventilation and no social distancing. About 25% of classes districtwide are fully in-person for Fall 2021. If one includes hybrid classes, the percentage of classes with an in-person component is raised to 30%. Concerns were expressed as to what that return in Fall going to look like, and some Senators observed that students also need to feel safe to return in person. For example, in some cases, enrollment for online classes is high but that for in-person classes is very low. The HI FLEX classrooms at the colleges might not be finished by the beginning of the Fall Semester. More instructors are getting DE certified, but early deadlines for submission of schedules of classes for Winter and Spring 2022 are still in place.

Echeverri shared the Fall 2021 enrollment numbers, noting shortfalls of 33% to 40% in headcount compared to 2019. Of concern is that we are losing students disproportionately in some of our most vulnerable communities; we are also losing first-time students. Learning loss, especially in English and Mathematics, is of great concern, especially for entering freshmen. The “hold harmless” budgetary period for California Community Colleges (CCCs) has been extended for an additional year, and the CCCs will be receiving a 5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for this upcoming fiscal year. The State budget also has funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion, an increase in funding for part-time faculty office hours, as well as funding to increase the number of full-time faculty. At present, because all COVID-19 vaccines are being administered under Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorizations, the LACCD Board of Trustees will not issue a mandate for students or employees to get vaccinated. This position might change if the FDA gives its full approval to the vaccines. The LACCD Office of General Counsel will develop instructions for faculty if and when students refuse to wear a mask in their classrooms.

Planning for:

- DAS Meetings in 2021 – 2022
- DAS Academically Speaking Newsletter Summer 2021
- Collegiality in Action Technical Assistance Visit
- 2021-2022 DAS Calendar
- Fall 2021 Semester

Echeverri reported that Governor Newsom’s Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Brown Act expires September 30, 2021. She and some of the Senate Presidents expressed concern that persons will be reluctant to come to in-person senate meetings, either at the Educational Services Center (ESC) or at their colleges. Thus, there would be difficulty in getting quorum, both at District and at local senate meetings. Should the Executive Order expire and should there not be legislation to extend the suspension, the Brown Act does permit teleconferencing as long as the locations of all Senators attending remotely are posted. These posted locations could
include central college locations (which would permit social distancing) or faculty offices.

Echeverri stated that she is awaiting written reports from some of the colleges to include in *Academically Speaking* (the DAS newsletter). She encouraged the prompt submission of articles as she is hopeful to publish the newsletter in the next few weeks. She has still not received the dates for the collegiality in action/technical assistance visit, stating that she was hopeful that it could occur in the summer. Echeverri will follow up with LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez.

Referencing the LACCD/DAS Fall Summit, Echeverri requested suggestions for possible topics. They included: credit for prior learning; the eLumen rollout; culturally responsive curriculum; re-engagement at the colleges; what “back to normal” looks like at the college and global levels; Guided Pathways initiatives; meta-majors; changes in the student body, e.g., students attending a community college instead of a university or deciding not to return to college or to work; student focus groups (interviewed in advance of the Summit) with follow-up at the Summit; loss of first-year students; and COVID-19-related learning loss. Echeverri noted that Pierce will pilot a special Mathematics program in Fall 2021 to offer courses to help students who are not reading to take transfer-level courses in Math. Possible topics for the Fall Summit will also be discussed at consultation.

**Update on Ethnic Studies General Education Requirement and Faculty Hiring**

Atondo reported that there is nothing new on CSUGE (California State University General Education) Area F courses. Very few CCC courses have been approved statewide to meet this new Area F requirement. The CCC Board of Governors will institute an Ethnic Studies requirement for an Associate’s degree; there are no implementation guidelines at present. The related LACCD Administrative Procedure will need to be updated.

Echeverri reported that AB 1040, which was intended to provide funding for the hiring Ethnic Studies faculty, died in committee. With recent changes to Title 5 related to Ethnic Studies, it is surmised that there is a reluctance on the part of the California Legislature to have an additional bill on a similar topic. There were calls for the expansion of the groups identified in Ethnic Studies to increase inclusivity. Currently, there are four areas: African American, Asian American, Latinx, and Native American. Echeverri relayed the desire that the District expressed to hire 100 full-time faculty in Ethnic Studies. Currently, in the LACCD, there are 24 full-time faculty in Chicano/Latinx Studies, 2 in African-American Studies, 2 in Asian-American Studies, and none in Native American Studies. There were questions and concerns about how this initiative would fit into the faculty hiring prioritization processes at the colleges.
J. Hernandez observed that the intent of AB 1040 was not related to designating money for the hiring of full-time faculty, but, rather, to backfill state-mandated costs. On the subject of the CSUGE Area F requirement and the denial of so many requests from the CCCs, and from the LACCD in particular, for courses to fulfill that requirement, he recommended a motion from the DAS to the California State Universities to put pressure on them to explain their denial of those requests. J. Hernandez suggested that the courses be resubmitted in June and shared a link to what the Board of Governors had approved.

http://go.boarddocs.com/ca/cccchan/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C44RBY6D4553

Senators added that the CSUs are not being transparent, that denials of submitted courses are inconsistent, and that those actions will be problematic for our students as they try to transfer. Echeverri will include this topic on the DAS Exec Retreat agenda.

**AB 705 Task Force and Recommendations to Address COVID-19-Related Learning Loss**

Echeverri referenced the Math Success Academy at Pierce, and noted that it is a program, not just an offering of courses below transfer level. Pierce will pilot this program in the Fall. Math 75 is a new course intended to target students who drop Math 134 (accelerated elementary and intermediate algebra) or who have taken 134 or 228A (statistics pathway part 1) but who either withdrew or failed the course. Courses will begin the third week of the Fall 2021 Semester, and will include tutors and peer mentors. Reports on learning loss, especially among elementary and secondary pupils, is contained in BoardDocs. There have also been some lawsuits against some CCC districts related to the implementation of AB 705, alleging that those colleges have not been adopting the spirit of that legislation adequately.

**LACCD Participation in California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI)**

Miller explained that all of the District’s online courses are in the exchange (this permits all students to enroll in any online class in the state). Colleges which are listed as participants will be placed higher in the search results for students looking for online CCC classes. The Peer Online Course Review (POCR) is a system at the college developed to help improve courses, especially in an online platform. The presumption is that those courses have met the appropriate rubrics and are considered excellent courses. POCR courses will be higher up on the exchange search results. Should the LACCD participate as a district, students would not have to go through CCC Apply and complete separate admissions applications to take online courses at multiple colleges in multiple districts. There would also be potential financial aid benefits to students.

It is unknown if the LACCD can join as a district with not all of the colleges participating. Maddren reported that there had been robust discussions at Valley, with votes on this topic at 2 separate senate meetings. The motion to participate in the Exchange had been voted down on both occasions. Maddren agreed to place this item on the agenda.
at Valley’s senate, but also requested data that participation in the Exchange will produce and has produced enrollment increases.

**Update on Tutor Classifications**

J. Hernandez reported on a fruitful meeting with VC Cornner and Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Mercedes Gutierrez on this topic, noting that there might be a possibility to reinstate Tutor classifications III and IV. Although the reclassifications of unclassified employee positions was done in committee fashion, it might have been more helpful to use a desk audit approach. Echeverri will send out a reminder email to follow up.

**Sustainable Environment Institute & LACCD Sustainability Efforts**

Echeverri reported that Chancellor Rodriguez increased the budget for SEI (Sustainable Environment Institute). George Leddy, the Coordinator, has been increased from a .2 to a .4. A .6 is available to hire a faculty member to help faculty develop curriculum across the disciplines to include sustainability. Echeverri asked the Senators to encourage faculty to apply for the .6 position when it becomes available.

**Update on Administrative Retreat Rights Policy**

Echeverri gave a brief report on the background, noting that the LACCD does not have a written administrator retreat rights policy, and that the LACCD and the DAS need to reach mutual agreement on these policies and procedures. There have been many meetings between the DAS task force and the LACCD administration on this topic. Educational administrators with faculty tenure in the District retain tenure (Education Code Section 87454) and may return to a faculty position in the LACCD. At issue is a request from the represented administrators, i.e., deans, for a grandparent clause granting current administrators without faculty tenure in the District the same rights as those who do. Also under discussion are the policies pertaining to unrepresented educational administrators who have a retreat rights clause in their employment contracts.

**Resolution on District-Wide Survey on Social Justice, Work Ethics, and Personnel Diversification**

Hernandez distributed a resolution made by the East Los Angeles College’s Senate’s Committee on Academic Freedom and Ethics (CAFÉ). Randall Gust, a faculty member at East, spoke about the resolution as well. Echeverri will notice a motion in August for future action, and requested feedback from the local senates.

Owing to the length of the meeting, the following agenda items were postponed.
Administrative Procedure 4106 (Formerly E-10): Registered Nursing Standards

Concerns about Lack of Collegiality and Bullying Behavior in the LACCD

Institutionalizing District DE Coordinator Position and Funding College DE Coordinators

Workgroup to Review Chapter 5 Administrative Procedures and Creating a Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services Committee of the DAS

Professional Development College Future Direction: COVID-19 Learning Loss, Support for Hard-to-Convert Classes, AB 705, Online Instruction and Services, other

Follow-up Items

- Faculty Participation on College Financial Intervention Teams (FIT)
- District Payroll Support for Local Senate Dues Paid Through Payroll Deductions
- Designation in PeopleSoft and Process for Adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Zero Cost Textbooks (ZCT)

Other Concerns: Accreditation, Board Rules Project, Website Redesign

Reports

- Officer Reports

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Treasurer

- Other Reports:

- DBC
- TPPC

- Academic Technology
- Professional Development College
- Hard-to-convert courses
- DE Training Workgroup
- Guided Pathways
- Others

Upcoming Meetings:

LACCD Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 – Zoom
District Budget Committee: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – Zoom
Consultation: Friday, August 13, 2021 – Zoom
Board Standing Committees: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 – Zoom
DAS Executive Committee Retreat: Friday, August 20, 2021 – Zoom
DAS Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021 – Zoom

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lourdes M. Brent, DAS Secretary