Riverside City College

Student Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

Date	**Friday, October 2, 2026**
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location	Virtual
Modality	Zoom
Attendance	See attendance section below

1. Welcome and Icebreaker

The meeting began with an icebreaker inviting participants to select a virtual background representing a favorite place or dream destination. Participants shared their selections and the personal significance of their chosen locations.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The committee considered the minutes from the previous meeting (September 18, 2026). The Zoom chat documents an affirmative vote, 1st motion by Maria Maness, 2nd motion by Al Weyant-Forbes.

3. Foster Youth Programs Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Whitney Ortega

The presentation provided an overview of programs and resources supporting current and former foster youth, including Guardian Scholars and NextUp. Information was shared about foster youth support beginning in high school, the Foster Youth College Access Demonstration Project, student eligibility, and access to educational and supportive services.

The presentation highlighted opportunities for coordination among programs to support foster youth enrollment, persistence, and educational success.

4. Student Development and Wellness Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Naomi Abesamis

The presentation provided an overview of the Student Development and Wellness Division and its role in supporting student engagement, belonging, leadership, and overall well-being.

Programs and services highlighted included Associated Students, Student Life and Leadership, Student Health and Psychological Services, the Basic Needs Resource Center, Residential Scholars Housing Program, and connection to Student Equity.

Discussion focused on strengthening student awareness of campus resources, reducing barriers to accessing services, and improving coordination among programs. Opportunities to reduce stigma associated with basic needs assistance and develop a comprehensive list of food and emergency assistance resources were also discussed.

5. Student Equity Plan Metric Breakout Sessions

Participants joined virtual breakout rooms organized around the Student Equity Plan metrics. Teams were asked to review progress toward their goals, identify existing strategies and opportunities,

discuss challenges and barriers, and document additional resources or institutional support needed.

A shared Metric Progress workbook was used to capture discussions and next steps.

6. Breakout Session Report-Outs

Metric teams worked collaboratively to document progress, identify opportunities for improvement, and outline next steps for implementing Student Equity Plan strategies.

Transfer- Bring back transfer Thursday, encourage faculty to give incentives for transfer activities, build a database of HSI transfer institutions

Completion- Increase outreach to improve utilization of the Rainbow Engagement Center. Data shows that students who went to the REC over the last three years graduated at higher rates than the average student.

Persistence-Pilot Strength Finders assessment with English class. Explore community mentor program for foster youth.

Transfer-level Math & English- No information updated in workbook.

7. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Attendance

Alicia Berber, Jennifer Bielman, Briana Boykin, Julian Cobb, Blanca GarciaBarron, Natalie Halsell, Melissa Harman, Rosalina Hernandez, Ryan Joseph, Maria Maness, Wendy McEwen, Wendy McKeen, Luis Molina, Lorena Newson, Whitney Ortega, Sharon Walker, Terry Welker, Virginia White, Tara Osekowsky, Brandon Owashi, Marjorie McPike, Al Weyant Forbes, Courtney Carter, Tommie Denson