

SASLC Minutes

3:00 – 5:00 pm February 23, 2026

Zoom: [Link](#)

RCC Mission Statement: Riverside City College (RCC) is an open-access, Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) that builds upon the strengths and socio-cultural experiences of our diverse student population and the communities we serve. Our college advances equity, access, and inclusion by supporting the attainment of workplace skills, career technical certificates, degrees, and transfer programs, which promote social and economic mobility for our students and the communities they serve.

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda – Motion/Second,
3. Land Acknowledgement/ Updates
4. New Business

Highlight Summary:

The meeting focused on several key updates and discussions, including the introduction of a new partnership with La Sierra University, represented by Vice President Bobby Brown of Student Affairs and Ms. Ashley Vallin, who outlined plans for collaboration, particularly in transfer pathways and student support initiatives. Updates on the Student Equity Plan were shared by Dr. Newsom and Monique Green, highlighting progress, metrics, and funding opportunities through mini-grants to enhance student success for underrepresented groups. Strategic planning updates were provided by Dean McEwen, emphasizing Objectives 1 and 2, which focus on onboarding and enrollment processes. Additionally, discussions covered Vision Line reporting data, engagement center activities, and a Lunar New Year celebration event. The conversation ended with Professor Mike McCracken raising concerns about late-start classes, prompting suggestions for clearer communication with students, which will be addressed by following up with relevant administrative staff.

Land Acknowledgment and New Collaborations

The meeting began with a land acknowledgment delivered in both English and Spanish by Lorena Franco, recognizing the original and current caretakers of the land. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by Margaret and seconded by Lorena. The group welcomed two new colleagues from La Sierra University, Vice President Bobby Brown and Ms. Ashley Valen,

who introduced themselves and discussed their institution's potential collaboration with RCC, particularly in hosting trips for Upward Bound and veteran students.

La Sierra-RCC Transfer Partnership Initiative

VP Brown from La Sierra University expressed excitement about a new partnership with RCC, emphasizing their commitment to creating clear, affordable, and student-centered transfer pathways, particularly for underserved groups like veterans. VP Brown highlighted La Sierra's strategic initiatives to grow enrollment while retaining current students, and both he and Ms. stressed their intention to collaborate with other Inland Empire institutions to enhance educational opportunities and retain graduates in the region. They invited RCC representatives to visit the La Sierra campus for a firsthand experience and expressed optimism about the partnership's potential to benefit students in the Inland Empire.

La Sierra Diversity Partnership Discussion

The meeting focused on exploring a partnership between La Sierra University and a community college, highlighting La Sierra's commitment to diversity and inclusivity. VP Brown and Ms. Vallin discussed La Sierra's demographic representation, inclusive programs, and initiatives like "Home at La Sierra" for foster youth. Cruz-Soto emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships and suggested faculty and student exchanges to foster mutual learning and understanding. The discussion also addressed La Sierra's inclusive policies for LGBTQIA2+ students and its commitment to religious liberty without denominational restrictions.

Student Equity Plan Progress Update

Dr. Newsom provided updates on the Student Equity Plan, including meeting dates for the Student Equity Committee and data on closing equity gaps for various student groups. She highlighted progress made, including holding a Student Equity Retreat and attending a planning institute, and outlined upcoming initiatives, such as a youth conference and a messaging campaign.

Student Equity Mini-Grants Available

Dr. Monique Green, the Student Equity Faculty Co-Chair, announced the availability of mini-grants to support faculty and departments in developing data-driven projects to improve teaching and increase student success rates for disproportionately impacted DEI groups. The grants, which can be renewed, provide up to \$5,000 per academic year and must align with student equity plan metrics and the RCC Strategic Plan. Applications are due **March 31st**, and successful applicants will receive support, including data coaching and student equity support, as well as guidance from the Student Equity Committee.

Student Support Initiatives Review

The meeting focused on discussing the future of student support initiatives and the First-Year Experience (FYE) program. Professor Harman and Cruz-Soto emphasized the need to assess current student support structures and determine their relevance moving forward, with Walker planning to meet with Melissa to gather more information on past initiatives. Dr. Cruz-Soto also mentioned ongoing discussions about modeling FYE from the Promise program.

VisionLine Student Services Data Overview

Wendy McEwen presented an overview of Vision Line reporting, highlighting that student services-level data was collected for the first time in the fall, with 10,000 lines of student contact data reported. She discussed analyzing engagement sites using this data and emphasized the importance of tracking student services behavior to support student success. Wendy also shared insights from exit surveys and attendance data, noting that students who participate in engagement centers tend to have higher success rates. The group discussed potential improvements to data collection, such as integrating follow-up surveys after student meetings, and Wendy confirmed that Element 451 would support better tracking of student contacts in the future.

Lilia Acevedo (Educational Resource Advisor) announced that attorney Russell Jauregui would be visiting campus on March 19th to discuss Know Your Rights and recent changes in immigration laws.

Strategic Plan and Enrollment Updates

The meeting covered several key topics. The strategic plan was discussed, with McEwen explaining that SAS is responsible for facilitating Objectives 1 and 2, which focus on onboarding and enrollment processes. The plan is finalized and available in both digital and bound copies. Professor Carranza announced a Lunar New Year celebration for Thursday and mentioned plans to form an API/ANNPI faculty and staff group. Professor McCracken raised concerns about students enrolling in late-start classes without realizing the start date, suggesting a need for clearer communication. The group agreed to follow up with Admissions and Records about implementing a confirmation process for late-start class registrations.

- a. Other Business – N.A.
- 5. Open Forum & Other Announcements
 - a. N.A.
- 6. Adjourn (5:00)