

DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE BYLAWS

Amended February 13, 2025

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Article I: Definitions

Section 1. The college academic senate president shall mean the elected president of an academic senate of a college in the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD).

Section 2. DAS representative shall mean a designated representative to the District Academic Senate (DAS) from a LACCD college. The DAS relies upon the DAS representatives to dutifully represent their college academic senates.

Section 3. Constitution shall mean the current Constitution of the DAS.

Section 4. Senate shall mean the DAS officers, the college academic senate presidents, and all designated college representatives to the DAS.

Section 5. The officers of the DAS shall be the president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past-president and the parliamentarian. The DAS Executive Committee (Exec) consists of all officers of the DAS, and all nine college academic senate presidents. The Exec presents issues related to academic and professional matters to the full DAS for discussion and debate, and through consultation and shared governance processes, communicates the will of District faculty to the Board of Trustees either directly or through the Chancellor on matters expressly reserved to senates under provisions of California Ed Code, state regulations, LACCD Board Rules and Administrative regulations.

Section 6. The DAS consists of four college representatives from each college (the college senate president and three designated representatives) and all the DAS officers. The college senate president may also designate up to two alternates. An alternate shall be eligible to vote at a meeting only in the absence of one of the four college representatives. The selection of college designated representatives to the full DAS shall be either by appointment or selection, whichever is the practice at the college senate. The DAS shall serve as the collective representative body of LACCD college faculty senates.

Article II: Dues

Section 1. Each college will be assessed annual dues in the fall based on a recommendation by the Treasurer and approved by the Senate Exec. The Treasurer shall notify each college academic senate president of the amount of the annual assessment by the second week of the fall semester. Payment

shall be submitted by each college senate to the DAS Treasurer as soon as possible thereafter. Non-payment of dues will result in the withholding of DAS financial support and the redistribution of those designated funds to other purposes.

Article III: Election of DAS Officers & Senators

Section 1: Election of Officers

- a. An election year is defined as any academic year that concludes in an odd-numbered year.
- b. The elected officers of the District Academic Senate shall be elected no later than the May District Academic Senate meeting in an election year.
- c. To be eligible to run for an officer position, the prospective candidate shall be a full-time faculty member in current active service in the Los Angeles Community College District who either (1) is a current District Academic Senate Executive Committee Member or Representative; or (2) has served on the District Academic Senate as an Executive Committee Member or Representative for at least two of the previous five years. A candidate who separates from full-time faculty service for any reason shall be deemed ineligible to run for office.
- d. All District Academic Senate officers and college representatives are eligible to vote in elections.
- e. The newly elected officers will take office on July 1st immediately following the election, and shall serve for a term of two years.

Section 2: Election Procedures

- a. The District Academic Senate shall adopt by majority vote procedures for the conduct of elections (Election Procedures). The Election Procedures shall include the process for conducting special elections.
- b. No later than the December preceding the election year, the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Chairperson and select four other members of the District Academic Senate to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Any members who subsequently decide to run for a District Academic Senate officer position shall be ineligible to continue serving on the committee and shall be replaced by the President.
- c. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall follow the District Academic Senate Election Procedures. The committee may propose revisions to the election procedures, provided that proposed revisions are enacted by the District Academic Senate no later than the March meeting of the District Academic Senate.
- d. The Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for notifying all faculty of a pending election, soliciting nominations for each elected office, conducting election, counting the ballots, and submitting an elections report to the District Academic Senate no later than the May District Academic Senate meeting.
- e. Once the election process is complete, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall be dissolved until the next election year or until such time there is a special election is triggered to fill a vacancy(ies) per Article IV of these Bylaws.
- f. Should a special election be triggered per Article IV of these Bylaws, it shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Election Procedures. A special election shall be concluded no later than one month from the date it is called.

Article IV. Vacancies and Succession

Section 1. Presidential Succession

- a. If the office of DAS President should become vacant due to resignation from office, separation from

the LACCD, becoming an administrator, retirement, death, removal from office by the District Academic Senate or for other personal reasons before the expiration of their term, the 1st Vice President shall immediately assume office as President and serve until the expiration of the remainder of the President's term. A special election shall be conducted to fill the 1st Vice President position.

b. If the 1st VP Vice President is unwilling or unable to serve, he/she must call a special election to fill the unexpired term of the president. The election shall be conducted as set forth in Article 3 as expeditiously as possible. The 1st Vice President shall serve as Acting President until the special election is concluded.

c. The newly elected President shall assume the duties of the office immediately following the conclusion of the special election, and until the next regularly scheduled election.

Section 2. Other Vacancies

a. If the 1st Vice President succeeds the President under the provisions of Article IV, Section 1 of these Bylaws, the 1st Vice President position shall be deemed vacant and a special election shall be conducted to fill the vacancy. The newly elected 1st Vice President shall assume the duties of the office immediately following the conclusion of the special election, and until the next regularly scheduled election.

b. All vacancies in elected officer positions that occur due to resignation from office, separation from the LACCD, becoming an administrator, retirement, death, removal from office by the District Academic Senate, or for other personal reasons shall be filled by special election, unless the vacancy occurs in an election year. If the vacancy occurs during an election year, the Executive Committee, at a regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting, shall determine whether to call a special election or allow the President to fill the vacancy(ies) by appointment until the next regularly scheduled election.

c. Should the Executive Committee decide to call a special election in an election year, the special election shall be conducted per the requirements of the Election Procedures and Article III, section 2, of these bylaws.

d. Should the Executive Committee decide decline to call a special election in an election year, the President shall fill the vacancy(ies) by appointment to serve in the vacated positions until the conclusion of the next regularly scheduled election. The Executive Committee shall provide in writing to the full District Academic Senate its reasons for declining to call a special election.

e. The District Academic Senate may include in its adopted Election Procedures criteria for when a special election is required or not required to be held to fill a vacancy in an election year. The Executive Committee shall abide by such criteria when determining whether or not to call a special election in an election year.

Article V: Duties of Senate Officers

Section 1. DAS President

The DAS President represents District faculty in academic and professional matters at the District level and advocates for DAS positions on issues. In addition, the President is responsible for communicating DAS resolutions and positions to the Chancellor, District administrators and the Board of Trustees.

The President shall:

a. Preside over the DAS and District Senate Executive Committee meetings.

b. Serve as chief spokesperson of the DAS, and as such shall attend committee and regular meetings of the District Board of Trustees and other District-level meetings, as needed.

c. Call special meetings of the DAS when necessary and arrange monthly consultations with the Chancellor.

- d. Prepare the agenda for all DAS and DAS Exec meetings and notify Senate members via email at least 72 hours in advance of the time, place and agenda items to be considered, including noticed motions.
- e. Serve as an ex officio member of all DAS committees.
- f. Prepare, in consultation with the DAS Exec, an annual report of DAS activities.
- g. Serve as the voting delegate for the DAS at ASCCC Plenary sessions and shall attend Area C meetings.
- h. Appoint a Parliamentarian, who must be confirmed by a majority vote of the DAS.
- i. Perform other duties as assigned, including but not limited to, serving as DAS representative on various District-wide committees, task-forces, work groups, hiring committees, etc.

Section 2. First Vice-President: Equivalency

The 1st VP shall:

- a. Serve on the DAS Executive Committee.
- b. Perform the duties of the DAS President in the latter's absence.
- c. Succeed to the office of DAS President for the duration of the unexpired term if the presidency becomes vacant during a term.
- d. Serve as Chairperson of the District Equivalency Committee and work with district discipline committees on academic and professional matters.
- e. Perform other duties as assigned, including but not limited to, serving as DAS representative on various District-wide committees, task-forces, work groups, hiring committees, and other duties at the request of the President.

Section 3. Second Vice President: Curriculum

The 2nd VP shall:

- a. Serve on the DAS Executive Committee.
- b. Serve as Chairperson of the District Curriculum Committee (DCC).
- c. Serve as representative of the DAS in the absence of the President and 1st VP as necessary.
- d. Report curriculum and board rule changes to the faculty at large and the DAS via email.
- e. Perform other duties as assigned, including but not limited to, serving as DAS representative on various District-wide committees, task-forces, work groups, hiring committees, and other duties at the request of the President.

Section 4. DAS Secretary

The DAS Secretary shall:

- a. Serve on the Executive Committee of the DAS.
- b. Maintain a DAS membership roster and record the attendance of members at DAS and Exec meetings;
- c. Record, publish and keep the minutes of each DAS and DAS Exec meeting.
- d. Distribute copies of the minutes via email to every DAS Senator - at least five days prior to the next regular DAS meeting.
- e. Arrange for the timely posting of all relevant agendas, minutes and DAS documents to the DAS webpage on the LACCD website and in a public place in compliance with the Brown Act, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.
- f. Make available copies of resolutions passed by the DAS, as well as the Constitution and By-Laws, when requested.
- g. Perform other duties as assigned.

Section 5. DAS Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- a. Serve on the Executive Committee of the DAS.
- b. Collect dues from all nine LACCD colleges, disburse funds to the colleges, and satisfy DAS debts, and maintain accurate, complete records of all DAS finances.
- c. Report periodically to the DAS on the financial condition of the DAS.
- d. Support ASCCC Plenary and Area C attendance by designated DAS members and make all disbursements as necessary.
- e. Along with the President, prepare an annual DAS budget and present it to the District Budget Office, after approval by the Exec Committee.
- f. Perform other duties as assigned.

Section 6. DAS Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President shall:

- a. Serve as a resource and provide counsel and advice to the current DAS President and the Exec Committee as requested.
- b. Serve ex officio on the Executive Committee of the DAS.
- c. Perform other duties as assigned without pay or other compensation.

Section 7. DAS Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall:

- a. Be appointed by the DAS President and ratified by a majority vote of the DAS for the session, a term of up to two years, ending with term of the DAS President making the appointment.
- b. Serve on the DAS Executive Committee and serve ex officio as parliamentary advisor to all DAS committees.
- c. Maintain and provide the official copy of the constitution and bylaws to new DAS members, and have it available at all DAS meetings, along with a current copy of Robert's Rules.
- d. Advise the President and the DAS on parliamentary matters as needed or requested.
- e. Perform other duties as assigned.

Section 8. DAS Senators

DAS senators shall:

- a. Attend all regular, special and summit meetings of the DAS and faithfully represent the position of their local senate at meetings of the full DAS.
- b. Assist local senate presidents to inform their college of actions taken and information transmitted from the DAS.
- c. Participate as needed in DAS committees or task forces.
- d. Sponsor and make arrangements for meetings of the full DAS on their home colleges.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1. The DAS shall meet a minimum of six times per year at places and times to be determined as soon as possible in the academic year.

Section 2. The DAS Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly.

Section 3. The DAS President, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, may call additional DAS

meetings or DAS Exec meetings as necessary.

Section 4. Upon written request of eleven members of the DAS regarding a time-sensitive or emergency issue, the president shall convene a meeting, at a time and place mutually convenient for as many members as possible and sufficient as to constitute a quorum, and in compliance with the Brown Act.

Article VII: Quorum and Session

Section 1. A quorum for DAS meetings shall consist of 50% of the official members plus one.

Section 2. Quorum for DAS Exec shall consist of senate presidents or designated representatives from at least five of the nine colleges.

Section 3. A session of the DAS shall be defined as the period commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year and concluding on June 30 of the subsequent odd-numbered year. During this period, all work and actions taken at regular and special meetings of the District Academic Senate, including its committees, taskforces, workgroups, shall be considered part of the same session. This session aligns with the biennial election and governance cycle and serves as the formal time frame for the deliberation and resolution of academic and governance matters.

Article VIII: Agenda

Section 1. The president shall prepare a DAS agenda with action items, discussion topics and noticed motions, and the time, date and location for each formal DAS meeting.

Section 2. Any DAS member shall have the right to place on the agenda any item the member deems pertinent to District Senate functioning. To place an item on the agenda, a DAS representative must notify, in writing, the DAS president in sufficient time to meet any Brown Act requirements before the meeting.

Section 3. Items, except for action items, may be also placed on the agenda with the approval of the majority present and voting in compliance with the Brown Act. Whenever possible, action items and resolutions shall be presented formally with explanations and resolves clearly stated.

Section 4. An agenda action item may not be voted upon at the same meeting it is introduced unless that item is declared to be urgent by a two-thirds vote of the DAS members present and eligible to vote. Non-urgent action items shall be put in the form of a noticed motion for consideration at the next regular meeting of the DAS as required by the Brown Act.

Article IX: Presentation of Issues

Section 1. The DAS President (or designee) shall terminate general discussion of an item at the end of ten minutes and shall call for a vote on the disposition of the item, unless time is extended by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 2. Each speaker may have a maximum of two minutes to speak on any single issue.

Section 3. Upon petition of a college senate president, received within ten business days of the publishing of DAS minutes, in protest of any action taken by the DAS, the matter referred to in the petition shall be reconsidered by the DAS at its next meeting. Reconsidered actions require a two-thirds vote of the DAS to affirm, discard, amend, or take any other action thereon.

Section 4. If the issue is to be considered as a formal resolution of the DAS, the Secretary will provide an identification number and approved title for future reference and retrieval. Formatting of a resolution shall follow the practices of the ASCCC Resolutions Committee.

Article X: Committees

Section 1.

1. The DAS shall have Standing Committees as described in this Article. The DAS and its standing committees may create subcommittees, task forces and work groups in order to facilitate the work of the standing committee. Subcommittees, task forces and work groups established by standing committees are subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
2. Unless otherwise indicated, the DAS President shall appoint all committee members and chairpersons. Except for committee chairs that are elected by the DAS and members that are specifically required to serve on committees as prescribed by these Bylaws, the DAS President shall consult with the appropriate College Senate Presidents to solicit advice and recommendations before appointing committee members and committee chairs. All committee members and committee chairs appointed by the DAS President under the provisions of this Article may be removed from the appointed positions for cause, such as poor attendance, documented lack of collegiality in committee meetings, documented lack of participation in committee meetings, and for repeated actions contrary to the positions and well-being of the District Academic Senate.
3. Any faculty member in the LACCD with a current faculty assignment is eligible to serve on DAS committees.
4. Committee members that are subject to appointment by the DAS President are generally expected to serve for a period of up to two years and may be reappointed at the discretion of the DAS President.
5. All chairpersons not elected by the DAS are generally expected to serve for up to two years with the possibility of reappointment at the discretion of the DAS President.
6. The DAS may overrule the President's committee and committee chair appointments by a two-thirds vote of the of the DAS.
7. All committee votes shall be made by those members present, in person or via teleconference. No Proxy votes are not permitted.
8. In the event a committee chair must be absent, the committee chair or DAS President may designate an acting chair for that meeting prior to the meeting being called to order.
9. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, the DAS President may establish on an ad hoc basis any task forces and workgroups needed to accomplish work on behalf of the DAS that is not already assigned to a standing committee. Ad hoc task forces and work groups established under this provision shall expire shall report to the Executive Committee and DAS and be dissolved after one year from its establishment, except that the Executive Committee may at its discretion authorize such task forces and work groups to continue for no more than one additional year.

Section 2. Executive Committee.

The DAS Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Senate, all college academic senate presidents, the Past President and the Parliamentarian. Other members may be added to the Executive Committee at the discretion of the DAS President with the approval of a two-thirds majority vote of the

full DAS. The chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be the DAS President.

1. The DAS Executive Committee shall assume the duties of the DAS during those months when the DAS is not scheduled to meet and act on behalf of the full DAS, if necessary, and with a majority vote of the full Exec.

2. The Committee shall assist the president in monitoring DAS committee work, setting the agenda of DAS meetings, and nominating members of the colleges to serve on DAS committees or subcommittees, and task forces.

3. The Committee shall function as the Goals and Priorities Committee. It shall make a formal annual report to the full DAS at its first meeting of the academic year.

The DAS shall consider the report and adopt, reject, or amend it. Once adopted, the accepted report shall become the DAS program for the current year. However, should new issues arise during the course of a year, they may be incorporated into the report as new DAS goals. Exceptions and amendments to the report shall require a majority vote of the DAS membership voting affirmatively.

Section 3. Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

1. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall be chaired by the Parliamentarian and composed of four other members of the Executive Committee appointed by the President.

2. The committee shall annually review the Constitution and/or Bylaws and bring any recommendations for amendments to the Executive Committee for further action.

3. Regardless of origin, all proposed revisions to the Constitution or Bylaws shall be approved by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as recommendations to the DAS, subject to review and revision by the Executive Committee, before being forwarded to the DAS for further consideration.

4. At the discretion and direction of the Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee may consider revisions to the Constitution or Bylaws proposed by any DAS member, or by any DAS committee. However, such consideration does not constitute a requirement for future action on the requested revisions by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee unless formally directed to do so by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. District Curriculum Committee (DCC).

The DAS Curriculum Committee shall be a standing committee of the DAS. It shall recommend policies, procedures and standards concerning curriculum planning and development, oversee the curriculum approval process, and make recommendations to the DAS on curriculum proposals, degree requirements, and inform the DAS of pending changes to District board rules and regulations, as well as state Ed. Code and Title 5 regulations.

The DCC shall be constituted as follows:

1. The nine local college faculty chairs of the college curriculum committees.

2. The President and the 2nd Vice President of the DAS.

3. A faculty member representing the AFT.

4. An Academic Affairs Vice President from one of the nine colleges appointed by the District VPAs (non-voting).

5. An Educational services representative (non-voting).

6. An Articulation Officer from one of the nine colleges appointed by the District Articulation Officers (non-voting).

The Committee shall be chaired by the 2nd Vice President of the DAS. DCC recommendations shall be reported to the DAS Executive Committee and sent to the full DAS for approval at the next DAS meeting.

Section 5. Equivalency Committee.

The Equivalency Committee shall be chaired by the DAS 1st Vice President and composed of:

1. Faculty representatives from each of the nine colleges,
2. The DAS President (ex officio),
3. The DAS 1st Vice-President (chair)
4. District Equivalency Coordinator (faculty)
5. The District Dean of Curriculum or designee (non-voting/resource)
6. A representative of the Office of Human Resources (non-voting/resource)

In the event that a college representative(s) has not been appointed or has been removed, per the provisions of these Bylaws, the appropriate college senate president(s) shall serve as the college representative until the new college representative is appointed. The committee shall meet at least monthly, but shall meet more often as need arises to ensure that all equivalency applications are considered in a timely and expeditious manner.

The Committee shall itself, or through subcommittees created by the Committee and chaired by a member of the Committee, be responsible for the following activities including but not limited to:

1. Considering applications for equivalency to the faculty minimum qualifications, consistent with all applicable District board policies, administrative procedures, and DAS processes.
2. Supporting, and engaging with district discipline committees and maintaining current discipline committee membership lists;
3. Monitoring changes to minimum qualifications at state and district levels;
4. Working with discipline committees to facilitate the identification, compiling, and updating of alternate degree titles for the disciplines minimum qualifications stated in the most recent edition of the Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in the California Community Colleges approved by the Board of Governors;
5. Recommending to the DAS equivalency application and review processes consistent with applicable District board policies and administrative procedures;
6. Recommending to the DAS standards of good practice for discipline committees to implement in the review and evaluation of equivalency applications;
7. Providing professional development training and guidance to discipline committees.
8. Reviewing and recommending revisions to equivalency-related BPs and APs, and screening of faculty internship candidates, and other matters assigned by the DAS President, Executive Committee, or the DAS.

The DAS Equivalency Committee reports and brings recommendations for action to the DAS Executive Committee and the DAS.

Section 6. Online Education and Academic Technology Committee.

The Online Education and Academic Technology Committee is a standing committee of the District Academic Senate. The committee shall be composed of the following voting members:

- Faculty at large appointed by the District Academic Senate president (5)
- College Distance Education Coordinators (faculty) (2)
- LACCD Distance Education Coordinator (1)
- Faculty chair of TPPC (1)
- District Academic Senate President, ex officio (1)
- District Curriculum Chair, ex officio (1)
- Vice Chancellor of Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness, or designee (1) (ex officio)
- Vice Chancellor of Technology, or designee (1) (ex officio)
- College Chief Instructional Officer (1) (ex officio)

- College Chief Student Services Officer (1) (ex officio)
- DSPS Coordinators representative (1) (ex officio)
- Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (1) (ex officio)

The Chair shall be a faculty committee member appointed by the District Academic Senate President. Other non-voting resource members can be added to the committee by the District Academic Senate President as needed.

The committee shall meet monthly, excluding during intersession terms, and shall make recommendations to the District Academic Senate policies, procedures, professional development, and professional standards related to online instruction, web-enhancement of face-to-face instruction, and academic technologies that directly support the provision of instruction and services by faculty to students. The committee shall also be responsible for other matters or tasks assigned to the committee by the DAS Executive Committee or referred by the full DAS for study and/or consideration. In order to facilitate its work, the committee may create work groups or task forces. The existence of work groups or task forces created by the committee shall expire upon the completion of the assigned work. Standing subcommittees may be established with the approval of the DAS Executive Committee. The DAS Academic Technology Committee reports to the District Academic Senate and the DAS Executive Committee. The committee will consult with TPPC and discipline committees as needed.

Section 7. Professional Development College (PDC) Steering Committee.

The Professional Development College (PDC) Steering Committee shall be composed of the following:

1. PDC Coordinator – a faculty member selected by the DAS Executive Committee (Committee chair);
2. DAS President: Ex Officio
3. College Liaisons – 1 representative and one alternate from each of the nine (9) colleges appointed by the DAS President in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.
4. DAS Resources: As needed

The DAS PDC Steering Committee will oversee the DAS Professional Development College (PDC), which is designed to advance DAS goals, as well as identify and expand understanding and proficiency of key topics in higher education teaching and learning. Those topics shall include but are not limited to: Instruction and student services; Equity; Faculty leadership; Technology in academic settings; and culturally responsive andragogy. The DAS PDC Steering Committee will also partner with the DAS Executive Committee in planning and hosting DAS events. The PDC collaborates with various offices/areas within the LACCD administration, the AFT Faculty Guild, the ASCCC, the LACCD DE Coordinators, the faculty PD coordinators at the colleges, the DAS Sustainable Environment Institute, with the DAS Treasurer for budget needs/requests, and other relevant organizations as applicable to coordinate professional development activities.

The DAS Professional Development College Steering Committee reports to the District Academic Senate. The PDC Steering Committee shall be responsible for forwarding recommendations to the DAS regarding the scope and direction of the PDC; with the PDC Coordinator, providing status reports to DAS; and promoting and representing the PDC at appropriate venues.

Article XI: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the DAS in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the DAS may adopt.

Article XII: Exclusions from the Senate

Section 1. Any member of the DAS with more than three unexcused absences from regular meetings of the DAS within any year of their elected term can have that seat declared vacant by the DAS President. In the event of a declared vacancy, the local senate shall fill such vacancy according to their local senate procedures.

Section 2. By a two-thirds vote, the DAS may recall any officer and/or expel any officer or member for cause.

Article XIII: Amending the Bylaws

Any proposed amendment to the Bylaws must be presented to the DAS Exec for review, and if necessary, revision, to assure that the proposed amendment is in order with the Constitution before going to the full DAS for adoption. The proposed amendment shall be noticed at the next regular meeting of the DAS for action at the subsequent regular meeting of the DAS. Action may be postponed at the discretion of the DAS. If ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the full DAS, the Bylaw change shall become effective immediately and formal notice shall be sent to all senates of the outcome.