



ACADEMIC SENATE NEWS

ELAC's Academic Senate is the voice of faculty in academic and professional matters.

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Senate President's Message

Welcome as we start what is shaping up to be a challenging new year. For example, your new Academic Senate leadership began its tenure this summer with the vacancy of the 1st Vice President. We will hold fall elections to identify a Senator to fill this position. Until then, there will be gaps in what we ordinarily expect from the Senate. Of course, this challenge pales in comparison to the challenges we face with the new SIS and the new direction from the state.

Implementation of the New SIS, PeopleSoft: One day we may celebrate our new PeopleSoft-based, Student Information System (SIS). Many who use PeopleSoft at other colleges rave about it. Sadly, there are not many reasons to brag about our district's implementation of the new SIS. You are more likely to hear negative reports of glitches or inadequate district training. Of course, this is no surprise to those familiar with LACCD's bureaucratic failings, such as long delays for your salary rating, sometimes without pay. Given our experiences with the district, we, as faculty, are in a better position than our students to overcome these frustrations. For some students, due to quirks in the system, even registering for a class is requiring manual workarounds by our admissions staff. Perhaps this is why 6 days before the semester our enrollment is only 87% of what it was the same time last year. To help our students (and lessen class cancellations), let's model the calmness and patience they will need to persevere and accept late Adds, even in the second week.



Implications of new state mandates: We all want to help students succeed. That intent has led the Governor, state legislators, and the California Community College's Board of Governors to take steps to redesign our colleges. Recently, [the Board of Governors adopted a new, ambitious Strategic Vision](#) and, in [a follow-up letter, the Chancellor has described Guided Pathways as instrumental for realizing this vision.](#)



This past April, the Guided Pathways concept was introduced at a joint meeting of Senators and Department Chairs. In May, participants in a Guided Pathways Taskforce meeting expressed interest in implementing Guided Pathways at ELAC. With backing from the Senate Exec, a group of faculty and administrators are researching how best to proceed towards implementation this fall. We can look forward to helping more students by offering clearer pathways with integrated support services that link to transfer/job placement opportunities.

Still, while the Strategic Vision holds great promise, it may lead towards more performance-based budgeting. If so, it will be another example of well-intended reforms coupled with exclusionary effects for less-prepared students as well as for students seeking life-learning and activities opportunities. We saw this recently with the "carrot" of the Student Success and Support Program and the "stick" of state-imposed limits on repeatability, attempts and total credit units. Now, the legislature will likely adopt AB 705 to require English and math placement based on high school grades and coursework. While data shows that many students will benefit, there are other students, e.g., older students, who may be better served using other measures or assessments. Under AB 705, students will have to complete transfer-level coursework in English and math within a one year timeframe, though ESL students are allowed three years for their English completion. These timeframes are likely to have substantial exclusionary effects for those who do not succeed. Students will need our creativity to lessen these effects.

I look forward to working with you to face these challenges head on in service to our students.

Jeffrey Hernandez
Academic Senate President

Fall 2017 Senate Meetings

The Academic Senate meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from **12:10 -1:30pm in G1-301A/B.**

All faculty are strongly welcomed to attend these meetings.

Sept 12

Sept 26

Oct. 10

Oct.24

Nov. 14

Nov. 28

Dec. 12

Fall 2017 Senate Exec

The Senate Executive Committee will meet on the following dates from **12:10 -1:30pm in the Faculty Center, F5-307**

Like Senate meetings, all faculty are strongly welcomed to attend.

Aug 29

Sept 20

Oct. 4

Oct. 18

Nov. 1

Nov. 20

Dec. 6

Other Key Events

DAS/District Summit:

Sept 22, LACC

ELAC Senate Retreat

Dec 1, 1-4pm,
Location TBA

Charlottesville Reminder

On August 12, in Charlottesville, Virginia, a neo-Nazi drove a car into a crowd of peaceful anti-racist activists, killing one and injuring 19 others. This act of domestic terrorism is part of an escalation of violent acts of hatred that as many have pointed out requires a response.

These calls for action remind us of the importance of what we do as faculty, which is at the heart of the opening line of our college mission:

East Los Angeles College empowers students to achieve their educational goals, to expand their individual potential, and to successfully pursue their aspirations for a better future for themselves, their community and the world.

By fulfilling our mission, we necessarily and unequivocally oppose neo-Nazism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and all other forms of racism and bigotry.

Faculty Center Room Access



The Faculty Center is located in **F5-307**. The center is available to all faculty and has ample work space and a balcony. A television with laptop connection capabilities is available in the center.

To **reserve** the faculty center, please follow the link: <http://www.elac.edu/facultyStaff/committees/acadsenate/facultyCenter.htm>. To access the room, faculty will need to possess the new (horizontal) ID card and request electronic access through the IT department. The request form can be found in the Campus Applications icon (inside the **Forms** and **InfoTech Support Services** folders, respectively) that is located on all campus computer desktops. If needed, a new ID card can also be requested on the same form.

NEW — Pay Your Senate Dues with Credit Card, Online!

In addition to the long-standing methods of check or payroll deduction, the ELAC Foundation worked diligently to create an online payment method to make it even more convenient to support these deserving students. Visit <http://elacfoundation.com/elac-academic-senate/>

Last year our funds supported students from 22 departments with awards of \$650.00 each. This is the **HIGHEST** amount we have ever raised and it was **SOLELY** due to your collective generosity. The Academic Senate thanks you for your continued support of our students!

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