

Riverside City College Student Equity Committee



Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 21, 2025

Attendees

Lorena Newson • Terry Welker • Brandon Owashi • Sal Soto • Virginia White • Al Weyant-Forbes • Natalie Vazquez • Rosalina Hernandez • Ryan Joseph • Tim Gutierrez • Maurice Bowers • Courtney Carter • Monique Greene • Tara Osekowsky • LaShonda Carter • Eddie Perez • Blanca Garcia-Barron • Marc Sanchez • Briana Boykin • Corey Timberlake • Melissa Harmon • Kheesa Slaughter

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Lorena Newson.

Meeting Recap

- A presentation on Ethnic Studies was shared with the committee.
 - The committee engaged in reflection and discussion following the presentation.
 - A poetry activity was conducted, with selected members sharing “I Am” poems.
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Activity

Community Building (Gratitude/Giving Thanks)

- A motion was made by Lorena Newson to move this activity to the end of the agenda.
 - M/S – Al Weyant-Forbes, Tara Osekowsky. Motion passed by majority.
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Announcements

- Student Equity Committee End-of-Year Celebration scheduled for December 12, 1–4 p.m. (CAK 224).
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Meeting Minutes Approval

- A motion was made by Herb English to approve the November 7, 2025 minutes; second by Al Weyant-Forbes
 - November 7, 2025 minutes were approved with one abstention.
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HBCU Tour Report Out

- A video presentation was shared highlighting the HBCU tour experience.
 - Reflections emphasized the impact of the experience on students and the importance of continued support.
 - The committee discussed funding considerations and logistical planning for future tours.
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Library Update

- A presentation was shared on Ethical Research and Community Knowledge.
 - Discussion included Native American research resources and the importance of centering community perspectives.
 - Emphasis was placed on ensuring library materials reflect and engage the student population.
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COLEGAS Conference

- Members shared reflections on attending the conference, including cultural connection and networking opportunities.
 - Discussion highlighted opportunities to strengthen HSI efforts through collaboration.
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One Good Thing

- Members shared positive experiences related to student engagement, classroom impact, and community events.
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ASRCC Student Update

- No student representative was present.
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Mini-Grants

- Monique Greene shared updates to the application process.
 - Deadline: March 31
 - Implementation: 2026–2027 academic year
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Faculty Spotlight

- The committee discussed outreach and nomination processes.
 - A vote was conducted for the December spotlight.
 - **Outcome:** Dr. Lashonda Carter selected.
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Round Robins

- Spring Flex scheduled for February 6; proposals are being accepted.
 - Updates were shared on student engagement efforts and pilot programs supporting specific student populations.
 - The Umoja program received statewide recognition for excellence and STEM outcomes.
 - Fundraising and scholarship efforts were also highlighted.
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Open Forum

- The committee discussed meeting modality (in-person vs. virtual).
 - Consensus: **Maintain in-person meetings.**
 - The committee reflected on meeting flow and effectiveness.
 - Recommendation: Conduct an end-of-term assessment to guide future planning.
 - Members shared student support experiences and the importance of communication and responsiveness.
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Community Building Activity

- A facilitated discussion explored the historical context of Thanksgiving and its contemporary meaning.
 - Members engaged in group reflection.
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. by Lorena Newson.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2026 – Bradshaw Building Hall of Fame @ 10 a.m.