

Minutes

Meeting Details

- **Team Name:** Student Equity Committee
- **Date:** September 19th, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- **Location:** Bradshaw Building – Second Floor, Hall of Fame

Call to Order

- **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Lorena Newson.
- **Information:** The committee was advised that our Leadership Retreat on October 3rd will be in place of our next meeting at the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties (Downtown Riverside) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Activity** – Led by Kristi Woods, she gave a literacy exercise that was administered to those wishing to register to vote as well as those who were registered voters during the Jim Crow era, from the 1870s up to 1965. She also introduced a jelly bean counting exercise (in a jar) where you must guess the right amount inside without going over. These tests didn't accomplish the intended goal of restricting Black voters as White voters couldn't pass the tests either. This activity was intended to show equity disparities leading up to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, reflecting just how important and powerful our vote (voice) matters.

Discussion Items

- **Approval of 9/5/2025 Meeting Minutes:** five minutes was given to SEC members to review; M/S/C – Wendy McKeen, Natalie Vazquez, unanimous approval.
- **ASRCC Updates:** Representative Alex Soto introduced herself to the SEC, along with Myeshia Jackson, ASRCC President, visiting the

meeting for the first time.

- **Faculty Spotlight Workgroup Update:**

- Monique Greene presented on the structure of the nominations, as well as separating the successful nominee from the Dr. Oliver Thompson award. It was decided through discussion that all nominees submitted for consideration would be brought to the SEC for review and vote for the successful nominee for the month. At the end of the year, the nominees throughout the year would be brought to the Faculty Development Committee for consideration of the Dr. Oliver Thompson award by meeting specific criteria.
- Categories/criteria for consideration are demonstrative commitment to DEIA, impact and outcomes, innovative practices, collaboration and community engagement, and service and leadership.
- Natalie Vazquez briefly discussed the Employee of the Month program revamp and how it aligns with the work of the SEC.
- Monique emphasized that any group (administrators, faculty, classified professionals, students) can recommend or nominate a faculty member for the monthly spotlight, but most importantly, students need to be in the process most as they are the ones experiencing the faculty in the classroom. She also extended the reach to ASRCC so that they may share the nomination forms and discuss this effort amongst their governing body.
- The successful nominee will be notified by Monique of the honor and ask if it's okay to share in the SPN.

- **Mini-Grant Update:** Lorena shared that the workgroup at present consists of Delia Tijerina and Kristi Woods; requested additional committee members to sign-up and serve. A discussion followed concerning the criteria to be kept from prior processes and implementation of a workgroup responsible for awarding the grants. Report out from the discussions led with the development of a rubric/point system for scoring, categories (process improvement, training, travel, teaching, etc.), as well as

presenting on what the next steps are for the program/project and is it scalable. Additional information consisting of additional activities outside the classroom (service area), defining submission criteria and qualifications, and seeking programs/workshops done elsewhere to bring the speaker to our campus instead of trying to focus the use of the grants for conference attendance. The intention is to begin a work by use of the mini-grant, not continue the work with it.

- **Student Equity Data Roundtable:** Led by Wendy McEwen, she introduced information about the team developing RCC's strategic plan consisting of nine goals with three to five objectives each. Wendy shared the format of the software and varying capabilities that can be set to obtain reporting data to track comprehensive SEPs. She showed the task tree (objectives) and the cards associated to a task where individuals or groups can visit and complete tasks based on the card(s) their assigned to or they select. Wendy asked for commitment from members to take on tasks, not necessarily to lead, but to help lighten the tasks assigned to the leadership councils to move things forward.

Round Robins (Upcoming or previous student equity-related events and activities) (15 minutes)

- Student Equity Roundtable Discussions (CAK-205, 12:50 – 1:50 p.m.)
 - Student-Parents – September 25th
 - International Student Club – October 30th
 - Disability Resource Center – November 16th
 - Student Athletes – November 20th
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations
- Conferences (information sent via e-mail with hyperlinks)
 - DEIA – Collective Equity Impact Institute
 - RP Group Strengthening Student Success Conference
 - ADES Summit 2026
 - 2025 AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
 - COLEGAS 2025 Annual Conference
 - HACU 39th Annual Conference
 - Native American Heritage Month Activities (TBD)

- Library – Daniel Slota introduced our new DEIA Librarian, Blanca Garcia–Barron, and encouraged the committee to welcome her into our community.
- Sharon Walker shared there will be an Academics Open House Tuesday, September 23rd and Wednesday, September 24th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in MLK, sharing academic support services available throughout the semester. There will be food, fun, and raffles as part of the event and she encourages all groups to come and support.
- Marc Sanchez shared the Transitioning Minds club will be hosting an expungement clinic October 11th, offering free live scans in preparation for their submissions.
- Co–chair Monique Greene reminded the committee of the Student–Centered Teaching and Learning Practices equity series taking place immediately following the committee meeting, with the focus of the first session on the Men of Color program and respective resource guide based on the work from PERC (Pathway Engagement Resource Course). Speakers include Dr. Corey Timberlake, Dr. Eddie Perez, Ben Vargas, Herb English, and Tommie Denson.
- Virginia (Ginger) White shared on October 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the breezeway of the Digital Library and the Math and Science buildings., the 4th Annual STEM Connections career and transfer expo will take place, 30–35 tables of resources, departments, clubs, academic and cultural supports, transfer universities and internships will be available to students.
- Natalie Vazquez shared the Classified Leadership and Success committee (CLAS) has been working on the Keep an Eye on the Tiger mentoring program for new classified professionals. The intention is to onboard them with information related to servingness, understanding the student equity outcomes, and training for classified mentees to effectively become a part of the RCC community during their first year.
- Kristi Woods shared with the committee that when visiting the RCC homepage, the graphic in the top corner (when clicked) defaults to upcoming events related to special programming for the month.
- Herb English shared BFSAs are donating 50 backpacks to low–income students at Central Middle School on Thursday, September 25th. Funds were raised to help meet the need expressed by the school for students experiencing financial hardships.

- Malika Bratton shared there will be Umoja Day on Tuesday, September 23rd, inviting 120 Alvord Unified Black juniors and seniors, encouraging them to continue their education by participating in dual enrollment and offering them the opportunity to become a college student after graduating high school.

Open Forum (10 minutes)

- Ben Vargas shared the Title V (HSI) grant has been discontinued – an extension was granted to utilize the funds we currently have for programming, professional development, redesign of the Glen Hunt center, and other HSI work.
- Ginger White also shared that the Title III funding was discontinued effective September 30th, which funds STEM programming and impacts the work of Luis Molina. Between both grants, a total of more than \$1.2 million has been lost.
- Wendy McEwen continued with acknowledging that RCC is nationally recognized as a model for summer research experiences based on the work done between these two grants.
- Co-chair Monique Greene acknowledged the hard work done by the teams with the grant funding, even in the current climate without grant funding, by going over and beyond for support and engagement of our students.
- Kristi Woods shared there will be no interruption of the Summer Promise experience as the Promise Program is petitioning to sustain the initiative by funding identified within the area. She also shared her views related to the ongoing social climate and the challenges that impact us locally and how our work needs to focus on action in support of our students, embracing our new normal and what that means in terms of the future.
- Al Weyant-Forbes highlighted the impact our new normal has had on our students this academic year by the increase in online students due to fear of their immigration status, which was supported by Sharon Walker in how these changes have changed the way academic support has to be delivered to students.
- Maurice Bowers elected to discuss creating a special Student Equity Hour with Lorena to allow students the space to come and share their concerns and experiences so that we can work to best support them while they focus on their studies and help to keep outside influences from coming and causing disruptions.

Acknowledgements

- Maurice Bowers gave recognition to Lorena Newson for celebrating one year as our Dean of Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement. Maurice also highlighted the need to support our student athletes by sacrificing time in our schedules to attend their games, not just when they achieve playoffs or the championship.

Good of the Order

Next Meeting

- October 3rd, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (Student Equity Leadership Retreat), the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties – Downtown Riverside.
- October 17th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., Bradshaw Building – Second Floor (Hall of Fame).

Adjournment

- **Closing:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. by Maurice Bowers.

Recorded and Prepared by:

- Maurice Bowers, Administrative Specialist – College Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement

Date:

- October 13th, 2025