Mission College Academic Senate President's Report 9/20/07

Minimal report this week – I've spent a great deal of time on accreditation over the past two weeks, and this is all I can manage.

This week, I received a letter from the ASCCC welcoming us back to a new year, and outlining some important dates and deadlines to keep in mind this year. There are a number of awards that the State Senate confers each year to faculty, students, and programs around the state. One such is the Exemplary Program Award, which is offered to two outstanding community college programs each year. This year's theme is "Innovative Bridges in Career and Technical Education", and each winner will receive \$4,000 cash prizes and a plaque. The call for nominations will be going out soon. Other award calls will be sent out as we receive them. Application materials and more information.

SHARED GOVERNANCE AND OTHER MEETINGS

As usual, these are only my notes from the meetings. For full official details, please consult the minutes of the meetings.

DC COUNCIL, 9/17

The main topic at this week's DCC meeting was the LVN-to-RN program and associated costs. A related topic was the effect that a recent change in the ACE contract provisions for reassigned time will have on the Health Occ. Department, as "contractual" reassigned time is now to be split evenly between the two colleges – previously, 2.0 reassigned time was allocated to the department to cover the time needed by the coordinators of the Pysch. Tech and LVN programs.

• GAP, 9/19

There was discussion of the Campus Master Planning process and timeline. While the "core group" working with the architect is very small, the "Planning Committee" is much larger and more inclusive, and open forums will be held as well as meetings with departments so that information can be shared and gathered from everyone. We also discussed how to proceed with review and approval of the Education Plan developed following last semester's EFMP forums. The plan will be reviewed publicly, edited, reviewed by the Academic Senate, and then reviewed again by GAP, with the goal to send it forward to the Board along with the Campus Master Plan early next Spring.

Daniel Peck also presented information about several initiatives coming forward to improve the research function of the college, including a "Balanced Scorecard" approach to assessing performance in certain key indicators. The main research agenda at present is student retention. The goal of research is to improve our institutional effectiveness.

• CBAC, 9/19

President Robles presented her goals and priorities to the committee (these are the same as those presented to the Academic Senate on 8/30). She focused primarily on those goals that related to budget planning, particularly the question of whether or not some major expenses should be considered "fixed costs" such as the production of the schedule or the cost of accreditation. She also talked about a presentation done by George Kozitza, Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance, to the Board's Audit and Budget Subcommittee on 9/18. In that presentation, he distributed a sheet showing that the budget as submitted is unbalanced, although there are a number of actions that could be taken to eliminate or reduce the deficit.

There was discussion of the current semester's budget request process, including some questions from the DC's on the committee about the prioritization process used as requests come in. CBAC also discussed the Academic Senate role in budget development, and I explained the intent and charge of the task force created by the Senate last week. Some concern was expressed that the current model was developed with a great deal of input and seems to work well, and about the composition of the task force.