



Mission College Academic Senate President's Report 10/25/07

Title 5 Section 53200 (b):
Academic Senate means an organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters.

Section 53200 (c):
"Academic and professional matter" means the following policy development and implementation matters:

1. Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines.
2. Degree and certificate requirements.
3. Grading Policies
4. Educational program development.
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.
6. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles.
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports.
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities.
9. Processes for program review.
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate.

There have been a number of discussions going on in various meetings over the past few weeks in which certain topics keep repeating.

The first question that I have heard from faculty in a number of different places concerns the work of the **Budget Allocation Model Subcommittee**, or BAMS. Last year the Academic Senate appointed two Mission College faculty, Jim Van Tassel and Ellen McAlister, to represent the Senate on BAMS. They have been working along with District and West Valley staff and faculty on the development of a new budget allocation model for the District. Questions have been raised about whether this committee is continuing to meet. According to the Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services, George Kozitza, the work of the committee is continuing and BAMS will be continuing to meet in November. The hope is that a new model will be ready and approved through shared governance in time to use for the development of next year's budget.

The second question concerns issues relating to **Hours by Arrangement** and the potential effects from the audit. This subject is being discussed regularly in every shared governance meeting I attend. However, until the audit is completed and any penalty is set, we do not have firm information about what the effects will be. I'm certain there will be effects, and that we will feel them across the district. However, I can say with absolute certainty that every time the question of layoffs has been raised, in every meeting, the response has been clear and unequivocal – layoffs are not being discussed. That doesn't mean that we will be able to avoid making some hard choices both as a college and as a district. The next few years are likely to require a number of difficult decisions. But if we react out of fear, rather than careful consideration of our available options and our future needs, then we are likely to make choices that may not serve us well in the long term.

Other news:

Last Friday I attended the regional meeting for **Area B** of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). As always, it was extremely informative. At this meeting, participants from local senates throughout the greater Bay Area reviewed resolutions that were developed by the ASCCC executive committee and by various subcommittees for the Fall Plenary Session. New resolutions and amendments were also developed by those present and forwarded for consideration by the body. Earlier this week I sent out copies of all resolutions to date that will be voted on at Session. I'm encouraging faculty to contact me directly by next Wednesday at the latest with their input or comments on any of the resolutions under consideration so that I will be able to take their comments into consideration in discussions and voting.

Next Thursday I will be flying down for the **Fall Plenary Session**. CRC Chair Brenna Wundram will also be attending the Session. There will be a Senate meeting Nov. 1, with Stephanie Kashima (MCAS V.P.) conducting the meeting. The following week, Nov. 8, we will not have a regular Senate meeting as we will have a special joint meeting with the Board of Trustees, the two college Academic Senates, and the two college Classified Senates from 4 – 6 p.m. at an off-campus location. That meeting will, of course, be open to the public.

SHARED GOVERNANCE AND OTHER MEETINGS

As usual, please remember that these are my notes only. For full, “official” details please consult the minutes of the meetings listed.

LAND CORPORATION, 10/18

- There will be a special meeting on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 9 -12 at Mission College to discuss the Land Corporations policies, processes, and priorities. This is a public meeting, and is intended as a study session – no decisions will be made. Breakfast will be served starting at 8:30. (For planning purposes, if you think you will be attending, please notify Linda Angelotti in the President’s Office at x5123 so that they will know how many people to expect.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 10/18

- The most interesting development at this week’s Board meeting was the pulling from the agenda of the acceptance of the ACE contract. There was confusion about who requested this item be pulled, as Ed Kleppinger reported on the outcome of the ratification vote under “oral communication from the public.”

DIVISION CHAIRS COUNCIL, 10/22

- Stephanie Kashima urged the DC’s to select a person from each division to attend the Nov. 15 & 16 training on SLOs in San Jose.
- DC’s were given packets with new faculty hiring requests. These positions were discussed, and it was pointed out that some positions that should have been “automatic replacements” were not listed correctly. The DCs will rank these positions next week, following the joint meeting with the Academic Senate.

GAP, 10/24

- GAP this week was entirely devoted to discussion of the Accreditation Self-Study report.

DISTRICT COUNCIL, 10/24

- Stan gave an update on the status of the Kuwait project, reporting on the endorsement of an affiliate relationship by both Academic Senates. The Kuwait Feasibility Task Force will be presenting their report to the Board on November 15.
- Albert Moore, the special assistant to the Chancellor, reported that the Accreditation mapping document is completed and has been sent out. He hopes that it will turn out to be a very useful reference tool; it outlines who at the District and at the colleges has responsibility for activities relating to each accreditation standard. This was a terrific example of collaboration between Central Services and both colleges.
- Christina Oborn discussed the need for an Institutional Review Board to assess research connected with grant proposals. This is a Federally mandated requirement for all federal grants. She has proposed a District board with a science and a non-science faculty member from each college as well as classified reps and others required by Federal regulations. Most questions concerned the scope of the review board’s responsibility and what types of research would need to be reviewed. Christina will return to District Council with answers on 12/5.

DISTRICT STAFF DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE, 10/24

- Patricia Stokke presented a proposal for reorganizing staff development at both colleges and central services, including increased release time for coordinators and other changes. This will be discussed at a future Academic Senate meeting.