



# Mission College Academic Senate President's Report 11/29/07

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.

I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving holiday break, whether you celebrated it with friends and family or by yourself. Now we're into the rush at the end of the semester, with only a couple weeks to finish everything that needs doing before the end of the semester.

**Board Self-Evaluation:** I have been asked to participate in the Board's annual self-evaluation process by completing a survey. This survey was distributed to those staff, faculty, and administrators who are representatives of groups and who are regularly in attendance at Board meetings – in other words, those who have frequent chances to interact with and observe the trustees as they conduct their business and interact with one another. The results of the survey will be incorporated into the actual self-evaluation, which will be conducted at a regular, public Board meeting.

**Land Corporation:** Questions continue to come up about the Land Corporation and its operations. I have attempted to make as many Land Corp. meetings as possible, and am keeping alive the issues about transparency and oversight. One positive development that all faculty should be aware of is that the Land Corporation website is being updated with the approved minutes of their meetings. There is a time lag – currently the most recent minutes are for September – but this is far better than in the past and represents a step forward in transparency. The Land Corporation website is linked from the District site, right below the Board of Trustees.

**New Programs and Curriculum:** I am extremely impressed by a number of new proposals which have been coming forward this semester. Several areas have been working on various efforts that may eventually result in new programs for the college. Under the current process in place, the Academic Senate must review new programs first, give preliminary approval, and then they move through several stages before coming back to the Senate for final approval. In discussions with the CRC, it seems that this process should be reviewed to see if there are ways it can be streamlined and possibly take advantage of CurricUNET as well. This is something the Senate and CRC will have to work on in the Spring, with an eye toward possibly making any needed changes in time for next year's curriculum cycle.

In the meantime, new programs and certificates should be approved following the current process, and I will be bringing one such request to the Senate next week from Counseling, for a Liberal Arts A.A. Others may come forward in coming weeks or months as well.

## **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.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 11/15**

- The accreditation self-studies for both Mission and West Valley were presented to the Board for approval. There was some criticism from one trustee about the fact that the Board had not had sufficient time to read both reports prior to the meeting, but a motion to carry the item over to the December meeting failed. There was also lengthy discussion of the wording of the evaluation in section E.IV.B1, which in both reports cited the FCMAT report's statement concerning perceptions of "micromanagement". However, after quite a bit of back-and-forth on the issue, Trustee Buck Polk (who was a part of the team working on Mission's Standard IV) stated very emphatically that he felt the wording was acceptable as it was written. Jack Lucas proclaimed "These are fine documents." Both studies were approved by the Board.
- The Board also approved a resolution in support of Prop. 92, the Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act (also known as the Community College Initiative). I have requested a copy of this resolution from the Board Secretary and forwarded it out to the Senate.
- The members of the Kuwait Task Force made a presentation to the Board on the recommendation that the District enter an affiliate relationship with Al Jeel Al Jaded Educational Institute (AJEI). President Hartley thanked both college Academic Senates for their outstanding work on this matter.

### **DIVISION CHAIRS COUNCIL, 11/26**

- Cindy Vinson came to the DCC to discuss staff development efforts for Division and Department Chairs for Spring. Initial requests mentioned in the proposal funded by Land Corp last year had been for training in budget processes, which will go forward, but she wanted to present some other ideas that also could come out of that funding. There was support for training relating to teaching and pedagogy, involving a software package called Articulate. Cindy also may be able to set aside some money to fund division retreats as well.
- Discussion of Supplemental instruction (formerly known as HBA): This continues to be a valid form of instruction under some circumstances. However, if it is to be used, it needs to be faculty-driven, and needs to be supported as a part of the curriculum either through a major course revision through CRC or as a separate course that is loaded and could be listed as a co-requisite to existing courses.

### **GAP, 11/28**

- GAP approved the prioritization of new faculty hiring requests, with some discussion about the LATC/Reading/Writing position (which was listed as an "automatic replacement"). Amelia Akers-Martin came to answer questions about this position, which is being requested to replace the LATC Coordinator who resigned last year but is requested for hiring as a lab faculty specialist. GAP has asked the LATC and Communications Division to come back in a couple of weeks to present their overall plan for dealing with the writing lab and LATC and how this position fits into that plan.
- Menlo College, a private four-year college, has approached Mission with a request to set up a partnership in which they would offer upper-division courses for a cohort of students in their Professional Studies program at Mission college. Students would be able to complete the upper division courses for a four-year Menlo College degree while physically staying on-site here at Mission. Many other community colleges have similar programs in place, and this was generally seen as a positive partnership for the College. Menlo College would have to lease space from Mission for this, but the space involved is minimal (one classroom) and there could be other possible benefits to the College.

### **DBAC, 11/28**

- DBAC was cancelled for this week as Interim Vice Chancellor Kozitza was on vacation.