



Mission College Academic Senate President's Report 2/14/08

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.

The news this week is not good, at least on the budget front. As everyone knows, we are in a serious situation financially. The defeat of Proposition 92 in last week's election didn't help. However, the colleges and the District are working together to face the issues. As a faculty member who has worked in colleges through a number of budget crises, and who was one of those pink-slipped in March 2003 (on the same day I received tenure!), my sense is that while the problems may be even more severe this time around, people – trustees, administration, faculty, and staff – are working together in a much more effective and collaborative way this time around.

I will be passing out copies of a document from the State Chancellor's office at today's Academic Senate meeting showing the Governor's initial January budget proposal and the System Office's assessment of what that means to the community colleges. As has been noted before, this is only the beginning. The "May revise" will contain changes to these figures.

As we all know, in addition to the overall state budget situation, we also have our own unique challenges within this District. Because of fallout from the HBA audit, we are now in a position of trying to seek "restoration funding" from the state for past years. The Governor's budget proposal would limit growth next year to 1%. Normally, restoration is funded before growth. It is not clear whether restoration will be limited or not. However, it's also worth noting that we are not alone – 53 out of the 108 community colleges statewide are seeking restoration monies.

In meetings of nearly every group district-wide right now the major topic of discussion is finding solutions to the loss of FTES. Proposals seem to fall into one of four major areas:

- Enrollment management, including managing waitlists and scheduling sections at optimal times;
- Restoring FTES through academically appropriate, faculty-driven, and legally supportable use of "supplemental instruction";
- Developing new programs and curriculum to attract students to Mission; and
- Marketing ourselves to attract new students and encourage our existing students to take more classes.

The annual Board Budget Workshop will be held here at Mission next Saturday, February 23. The meeting begins at 8:30 am and there will be a continental breakfast. There is sure to be a lot of discussion of how the District will deal with the budget situation we're in, and the results of this meeting will have a major impact on how we move forward. Since the Board will also be conducting business at this meeting, I will be there – but I encourage as many other faculty as possible to attend. Ideally, someone from each division would be present to hear the discussions and report back to faculty.

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, 2/7/08

- The major topic of discussion was a study session on the Facilities Master Plan for Mission College, the same plan presented at the campus forum a week ago.
- Business conducted included approval by the Board of the job descriptions for four new District administrative positions. These positions – internal auditor, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Research, Planning and Advancement, and two positions overseeing various aspects of construction – were approved through District Council. The Board made it clear that they were approving the job descriptions only at this time, not the actual hiring of anyone into the positions. During discussion it was pointed out that the two facilities positions were being paid for through bond funds and would replace externally contracted vendors, and the research & planning position is already partially funded from a vacant existing position.

DIVISION CHAIRS COUNCIL, 2/11/08

- Azar Babakan, the new assistant in the Office of Instruction, will be returning to West Valley this week due to scheduling conflicts. This will leave a significant staffing crisis in the O.I., which will be worsened by the fact that there are administrative vacancies in the office as well.
- Cindy Vinson gave a report on Distance Learning.
- Daniel Peck presented on ARCC, which will also be discussed at Senate this week.
- There was discussion of the resolution drafted by the Division Chairs in October relating to the Nursing program, and clarification of the status of that resolution was given.
- The budget situation and its effects on scheduling were a major topic. The DCs asked for the specific legal language relating to how summer FTES is counted for purposes of making base, and I agreed to carry the question forward to Harriett on their behalf.

CBAC, 2/13/08

- In addition to the items mentioned at the beginning of this report, there was discussion of the budget process for this Spring. The intent of CBAC had been to go through a full budget request cycle in Spring 08 to prioritize requests for funding for 08/09, so that money could be disbursed earlier in the year (as soon as it was released). There was discussion about whether this was worth doing given the likelihood of little or no new money coming in this year. The decision was made to go through the process, as some categorical funds will probably still come to the college through the IELM grant; however there may be significant restrictions on the type of budget requests that will be considered.
- Fund 17 accounts generally need to be expended in the current year. Plans for expending the money will be accepted in some cases if there are specific needs that require carrying over, but they must be specific and submitted to Worku's office in advance.
- Worku's office will be doing training on budget processes. Requests were made for several types of training – on the basic accounts (Fund 100, 17, and 120); on Datatel; and on expense transfers.
- Spring & Summer budget requests need to focus on increasing enrollment and FTES; summer sections will be funded at \$100 per section for supplies and duplicating.

DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2/13/08

- There was a great deal of discussion about two specific position requests going forward to the Board so that the hiring process can move forward. Both positions were for grant-funded faculty for the LVNRN program. These positions were not prioritized by the Academic Senate and questions were asked re: whether the positions would be filled if the program was not approved by the Senate or was not able to secure funding. The positions are “contingent upon funding” as well as approval; the hiring process would stop if the Senate or the Board of Registered Nursing failed to approve the program. Questions also were raised about whether the positions were temporary, or tenure-track. The expectation is that they will be ongoing. We must do tenure review on faculty unless they are temporary, and these

positions are not going forward as temporary hires although they are grant-funded. The positions must be filled in order for the BRN to approve the program.

- The Chancellor did raise a question about whether the prioritization of new faculty hires was a recommendation to the President, or whether it dictated to the President. My response was that the Academic Senate works in consultation with the DCC, who makes a strong recommendation to the President.

JOINT DISTRICT COUNCIL/DBAC MEETING, 2/13/08

- This meeting continued the discussions of last week's joint meeting by focusing on District enrollment management efforts with a repeat of the presentation made by Dr. Antoinette Wheeler and Ernie Smith to the Academic Senate last Spring.
- Linda Francis presented an overview of enrollment for the District over the past several years, which I will share with the Senate this afternoon.
- It is recognized that program review must drive the development of new programs or efforts. It's essential that it be tied to budget and planning.
- Linda pointed out that dollars are already set aside in the budget book to allow new programs to run at a lower productivity while getting underway.

