



Mission College Academic Senate President's Report 4/10/08

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.

I want to start off this week by extending a warm welcome to our new Academic Senate Secretary, **Lauren Johnson**, who began work on Monday April 7. She comes to us with a background in journalism and television production, and we are absolutely delighted to have her join us! Please drop by the Senate office on Mondays or Thursdays to say hello to Lauren - and while you're there you can admire the renovation of the office, which is finally coming together to provide a more welcoming and attractive resource area for the Senate and the faculty. Lauren's extension is 5413, and her email is lauren_johnson@wvm.edu.

Area B meeting: Last Friday I attended the ASCCC Area B meeting at San Francisco City College. Area B is one of four regions of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and includes community colleges from Santa Rosa in the north down to Hartnell College in Salinas. It was a chance to share information on issues which affect us all as well as to review resolutions being considered for the Plenary Session next week. In an update on accreditation, Mark Wade Lieu pointed out that Area B has five colleges on warning or probation, partly as a result of Federal enforcement of the two-year rule for addressing deficiencies. There may be a lawsuit over the linking of SLO's and faculty evaluations in some districts, and there may also be legislation coming over the issue of accreditation as an "unfunded mandate".

Another thing that was mentioned at the meeting concerned the Basic Skills Initiative. There will be a Summer Institute in August targeting new FT and adjunct faculty in Basic Skills. Each college will be asked to send one full-time faculty member and four part-time faculty in developmental education areas to participate. Expenses will be paid by the BSI. In addition, online training is being developed for general faculty use as well.

Budget: There is a great deal of discussion taking place throughout the District about the current budget crisis and how to deal with it. Some of the discussions are highlighted in my reports on various meetings below. However, a common theme that is cropping up over and over again is the need for all of us to communicate and to work together as a team – faculty AND classified (and management as well!). We need to make sure that whatever happens over the next year, our processes are followed and our principles are honored even as we try to respond quickly and effectively to the situation. In order to make sure that happens, the four Senate presidents and representatives of the various bargaining units are meeting regularly to facilitate communication among different segments of the District.

As noted under GAP, below, the Senate needs to discuss some major topics very soon. The most important of these is the proposal to reduce the money used by the district to categorical programs to back-fill the gap between allocated state funds and actual operating expenses. Categorical programs don't get COLA to cover increases in salaries & benefits, supplies, etc. Those increases are normally paid by the District out of Fund 100. However, if our Fund 100 money from the state declines, we have less overall; that will have an impact on programs such as DISC, EOPS, Matriculation, and many others.

The Academic Senate needs to lead the discussion on how to address this issue and how to make the hard decisions that we are facing. What levels of service must be maintained? What can be cut? I plan to agendize this for our April 24 meeting, and Senators should start the discussions now within their divisions.

SHARED GOVERNANCE AND OTHER MEETINGS

As usual, please remember that these are only my notes. For more complete information, please consult the minutes of the meetings or contact the chair of the committee.

CHANCELLOR'S ROUNDTABLE, 4/7

- Stan reported on his recent trip to Kuwait with Raj Ayyar (see today's Senate item for more)
- The LAO may be recommending an increase in fees to \$26 per unit. This would likely have the effect of driving down enrollment further.
- Concerns were expressed about whether EMT is making decisions on issues inappropriately without getting input from Senates; Stan stated that EMT will go back to the colleges/senates to shape policy.
- The State is waiving the need for us to pay the 50% match on scheduled maintenance funds next year, which may free up \$300K in Land Corp. funds this year

DIVISION CHAIRS COUNCIL, 4/7

- The major topic of discussion was the budget and enrollment crisis. We are the only district in the Bay Area that has declining enrollment (FTES) even though our headcount is up.
- A need was expressed for short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans for dealing with the situation.
- Clement Lam pointed out that at least for next year, with no layoffs of faculty, we will have more money than normal given the number of students at the college. While that won't continue, we need to make the most of it and figure out how to get as many additional FTES as possible. It may not be possible to gain the full number we need, but even a few hundred would help.
- The question was raised as to whether or not we are "saturated" – are we already at the max. size we can handle?
- The district overall has had a decline of approx. 2100 FTES out of 18,000 FTES total – that equals a 10% drop district-wide. Since revenue is apportioned to Central Services before going to the colleges, that means each of the three segments needs to take about 1/3 of the total loss of revenue; about a 10% decline overall.

PROGRAM MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE, 4/8

- PMP is off and running! This first meeting discussed goals and needs of the process.
- Three major issues need to be addressed: How to do PMP for administrative areas? How to handle the "Forum" that reviews & "validates" the program reviews? And how to tie the results of the process into the planning and budgeting process?
- The committee was asked to make recommendations on these issues to the Senate for inclusion into the process by early May so that program review can commence as soon as possible. Some programs will be selected for review for next Fall.
- The committee still needs to select a chair. Since this is an Academic Senate subcommittee, the Academic Senate President should not be the chair, but the chair should be a faculty member of the committee.

EQUIVALENCIES COMMITTEE, 4/8

- The committee is discussing procedures to be used in processing requests for faculty service areas. The AB1725/Equivalencies committee, when meeting to consider Faculty

Service Areas, is supposed to have two members appointed by the Academic Senates of each college as well as an ACE representative from each college. Normally, when considering applications for equivalency, we simply have two Senate appointees. One of our current Senate representatives on the committee is Rod Pavao. Since he will be representing ACE in consideration of FSAs, I have issued a call for another faculty member to fill out the seats on this committee on behalf of the Senate.

GAP, 4/9

- GAP debriefed on the Accreditation visit. Various people reported on the interviews they had and what they were asked about.
- Harriett told GAP that the final recommendations of the visiting team were supposed to be confidential and were not supposed to be released to the college, even though they were in fact stated at the exit meeting. The results issued in our final report from ACCJC may be different than those recommended by the team. ACCJC and WASC are under pressure from the Federal regulatory bodies to enforce their internal policies requiring deficiencies to be corrected within two years of the accreditation report.
- In a report on Facilities, it was pointed out that although we generally have been referring to buildings #1 and #2 (the main building replacements) as “state-funded”, in fact funding is not assured – we are in the queue for funding. There’s an art to getting funded, and the projects must be sized “just right” in order to be funded (too large and we may be passed over in favor of projects that can be fully funded with money available). Some bond money is being used on these buildings with the consent of the Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) as it will help to raise our priority in the queue by demonstrating our willingness to shoulder part of the cost ourselves.

CBAC, 4/9

- Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion and prioritization of summer budget requests. There is \$153,000 allocated to summer on an ongoing basis and the committee received requests totaling \$207,000.
- A suggestion was made to revise the budget request forms in the future (those used for summer requests only) to include more information, specifically to include staffing plans showing how departments were covering vacations, etc. with their normal staffing and why additional funding was needed for summers.
- This raised the additional point that there is a need to address the needs of 12-month operations with recurring summer budget requests (A&R, the Library, Information Technology & Services, Child Development) – how can we provide adequate summer support? It may be necessary to look at new ongoing money in the future and decide whether to use it to provide base support to summer programs. It was also pointed out that CBAC could recommend to permanently allocate some of the \$153,000 for specific, ongoing summer programs.

DISTRICT COUNCIL, 4/9

- The major topic of the meeting was a review of the strategies proposed to deal with the budget shortfall next year. While normally this would be discussed first at DBAC, the Chancellor/Senate Roundtable recommended that it come to District Council this week rather than waiting till next week due to the time-sensitive nature of the issue.
- It was stated explicitly that the strategies proposed are recommendations only, and that no actions have been taken at present on any of them. Furthermore, three of the strategies would require Board approval to implement – specifically, two items relating to Fund 293 (which covers retiree medical benefits) as well as a reduction in the amount transferred to the account to build our 3% reserve. It was asked what the “Plan B” and “Plan C” are if the Board doesn’t approve these three items – which total \$7.9 million - and Stan replied that

- there would be “massive cuts” (not necessarily massive layoffs, but definitely massive cuts to the budget).
- Two specific strategies proposed need Senate discussion: The defunding of all “vacant” positions district-wide (which needs a process for deciding on exceptions) and the proposal to reduce transfers to categorical funds. Positions currently “in process” will move ahead if funding is secured for them.
 - Phil Hartley reported on the meeting with the State Chancellor’s office on supplemental instruction last month. Our District is being held to a higher standard of accountability on implementing S.I. than other districts around the state. Both West Valley and Mission must use the same accounting methods and processes for S.I. We have one set of guidelines from the State for implementing S.I. in the Fall, and a second set of guidelines for subsequent semesters.
 - Phil announced that West Valley is doing a Summer Curriculum Institute and he will be paying their CRC members on a project basis to come in and work on Supplemental Instruction curriculum proposals over the Summer. Harriett has made the same offer to Mission’s CRC and they are discussing it with John Williams. However, a comment was also made that it is not reasonable to assume that we can recover 856 FTES with S.I.
 - Finally, it was made very clear throughout the GAP meeting that budget solutions must be developed through appropriate processes. As a District, we need to work quickly but we also need to respect the process of shared governance, and we need to make sure that communication is maintained. Faculty, staff, and administration are working together better than we did several years ago but that improved climate is still fragile and needs to be nurtured. Top-down solutions will damage us badly.