Faculty Forum

Accreditation and Beyond

- The ACCJC site visit took place on November 4, 2013. The visiting team met with administration, faculty, classified and members of the Board of Trustees. The next step will be a letter to Interim Superintendent President Peter Allan regarding this visit, and ACCJC should inform VVC of its accreditation status by February 1, 2014.

- Completing the ACCJC Midterm Report is in progress. Members of the Accreditation Steering Committee, which has expanded to include new faculty, will be coordinating data and completing this report, which is due in March 2014.

- Look for the next VVC Convocation February 7, 2014. Due to the success of the Fall 2013 Convocation, workshops have been planned to assist faculty with new teaching paradigms, syllabi creation, distance education compliance, curriculum, and other valuable teaching methodologies.

- Members of the VVC Academic Senate Executive Team (ASET) attended the ASCCC Fall Plenary in Irvine, November 7-9. For more information, please see page 2 for a summary of workshops, and links to presentations dealing with the Student Success Act, accreditation, curriculum, and other academic and professional matters. There is also a link to the resolutions passed by Senate delegates on November 9, 2013.

From the Academic Senate President

On November 12, 2013, the Daily Press newspaper published an editorial and an opinion letter criticizing the VVC ASB for writing a resolution at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges that called for an investigation of ACCJC.

As faculty, we’ve been quite used to the erroneous and damaging attacks by the public on our profession and our professionalism. Attacking our students for simply exercising their Constitutional rights demonstrates a hostile attitude some in our community have to our institution. Our students were likened to a “mob”, influenced by the “teachers’ union” in writing and passing resolution 2.01: ACCJC Investigation.

It’s unfortunate that a small group of individuals, many of whom claim to “love” VVC, continue to find ways to demean our institution.

I would encourage faculty to support our students, and make sure that they know that we support their freedom of speech.

Have a wonderful winter break! See you soon!
— Tracy Davis
From November 7-9, 2013, members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee attended the ASCCC Fall Plenary in Irvine. Secretary Leslie Huiner, Past President Lisa Harvey, Vice President Claude Oliver, and President Tracy Davis represented VVC in two days of intense workshops dedicated to academic and professional matters.

The hot topic was accreditation and the ACCJC. Breakout sessions and working lunch sessions were devoted to discussion of the accreditation process for California Community Colleges, as well as the situation involving City College of San Francisco and the ACCJC. Information from these sessions were reflected in several resolutions passed in the Saturday delegate session.

Student cheating was a topic also covered extensively in the workshop “Egregious Student Cheating”. Student authentication in online classes, the rise in cheating by international students, and the call for more professional development activities for instructors to deal with unethical student behavior were discussed. For more information on this workshop: http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Egregious%20Student%20Cheating%20-%20What%20Can%20Faculty%20Do_0.pdf.

The forthcoming implementation of the Student Success Act was an intensive workshop designed for counseling faculty. Strategies for assessment, student orientation, and challenges for CCCs were covered. http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Implementing%20your%20Student%20Success%20Plan_0.pdf

Changes to Title 5 have been effective in significantly reducing the number of courses repeated. At the same time the Chancellor’s Office received about 10,000 new course submissions last spring for leveled activity classes. Leveled classes must show progression of skills. The presentation titled “Death of Repeatability” is available at http://asccc.org/events/2013/fall-plenary-session/presentations.

The Student Success Task Force Recommendations adopted by the Board of Governors require students to address basic skills and readiness in their first year. Title 5 changed in 2011 to allow for content review only for implementation of prerequisites. Our senate approved BP 4260 on prerequisites, requisites and advisories (a.k.a. the “Model District Policy”) in November 2012. The ASCCC paper “Implementing Content Review for Communication and Computation Prerequisites – Adopted Spring 2011” is available at http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Content-Review-Spring-2011.pdf The presentation “Prerequisites Changed My Life” is online at http://asccc.org/events/2013/fall-plenary-session/presentations.

SB 440 (Padilla 2013) mandates community colleges create an ADT (Associate Degree for Transfer) for every approved TMC (Transfer Model Curriculum) for which we offer a major within 18-months of its approval by the Chancellor’s Office and creation of transfer degrees for “Areas of Emphasis.” The presentation titled “C-ID and TMCs: Making the Gears Turn” is at http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/C-ID%20and%20TMC%20-%20Making%20the%20Gears%20Turn.pdf

According to Patrick Perry, Vice Chancellor of Technology, Research & Information Systems, the California Community Colleges Student Success Score Card revealed that students in the astrological sign of Virgo have the lowest graduation and transfer rates. No kidding! His humorous presentation on “Scorecard, Salary Surfer and What’s Next in the Future of Technology” is at http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Scorecard,%20Salary%20Surfer%20and%20What%27s%20Next%20-%20Scripting%20the%20Future%20of%20Technology.pdf

Resolutions passed for Fall 2013 are online at: http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Fall2013SessionFinalResolutionsNovember192013.pdf.
VVC Academic Senate Goals, 2013-2014

1. Update governing documents
2. Encourage more involvement in statewide activities, including attendance at AS Plenaries, Curriculum Institutes and other statewide academic and professional conferences and events.
3. Work with ASB to create an authentic “student centered” learning environment, where students take responsibility for their education and life goals.

These goals will be discussed at the December 5, 2013, Academic Senate general meeting. A survey will be sent at the end of the academic year (May 2014) so all faculty can participate in evaluating the Academic Senate’s completion of these goals.

How can you help the VVC Academic Senate achieve these goals?

- Bring academic and professional activities to the attention of the Academic Senate Executive Team (ASET)
- Participate in on-campus and off-campus professional development activities, and report at the monthly AS general meeting
- Assist the VVC AS in working with ASB in our collaborative effort to encourage students to become actively involved in their educational journey
- Report at the monthly Board of Trustees meetings about student success, innovations in your classroom or lab, your contributions to VVC
- Read, analyze and discuss the Spring 2014 proposed changes and updates to the AS governing documents
- Participate in the survey at the end of Spring 2014 to let the VVC AS know how we did in serving you better!

Foundation Grant Recipients!

On November 19, 2013, the VVC Foundation announced the recipients of the Fall 2013 Foundation Mini-Grants.

All faculty are encouraged to apply for these grants to provide necessary and innovative projects to help our students succeed. The VVC Foundation will accept applications for Spring 2014 mini-grants at the beginning of the Spring semester. Visit the VVC Foundation at http://www.vvcfoundation.com.

**Khalid Rubayi**  
(Faculty: Electronics / Computer Technology) – to acquire competition grade robotics kits and a 3D printer to be used by a new robotics club and in a new robotics program that is being developed at VVC.

**David Steinback**  
(Classified: Automotive) – to provide tools and supplies for a class project in forklift repair that will fix a valuable piece of donated equipment used in several courses.

**Debra Blanchard**  
(Faculty: Kinesiology) – to purchase spinning cycles and instructional DVD for the campus weight room.

**Henry Ochoa**  
(Adjunct Faculty: Automotive) – to purchase basic tools for the diesel training program.

**Donovan Rinker-Morris**  
(Adjunct Faculty: Political Science) – to purchase a laptop computer for the Model United Nations team.

Innovation
The Victor Valley College Academic Senate represents all faculty in academic and professional matters.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, at 3:30 p.m., in room AD-8. Refreshments are provided!

Please visit the Academic Senate website, at www.vvc.edu, under 'Faculty and Staff'.

Meeting Schedule for Fall 2013:
December 5

Meeting Schedule for Spring 2014:
February 6
March 6
April 10
May 1

All VVC Academic Senate meeting minutes are online via www.vvc.edu, on the Faculty Senate section of the website, as well as on SharePoint.

Senate Committees should post meeting minutes on SharePoint. For more information, contact Justin Gatewood.

Academic Senate Representatives, 2012-14

- Science: David Gibbs, Jessica Gibbs
- Liberal Arts: Patty Golder and Karen Tomlin
- ATC: Maria Ruiz and Patrick Malone
- Academic Commons: Henry Young
- Allied Health: Alice Ramming and Jeanine Speakman
- Library/Counseling: Peggy Mayer and Mike McCracken
- PAC: Ed Heaberlin
- Vocational: Khalid Rubayi
- Kinesiology: Debra Blanchard
- Public Safety Training Center: Scott Jones
- At-Large Representatives: Michael Butros and Gary Menser
- Adjunct Faculty Representatives: Cheryl Elsmore and Glenn Akers