Faculty Forum

Accreditation and the Senate

VVC Faculty are no doubt aware of the Accreditation issues the campus is facing during this Fall 2012 semester.

Of primary interest to faculty is the Program Review, SLO and Assessment recommendations sent out by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which were detailed at the July 18, 2012, Department Chairs meeting.

The result of this meeting saw an upswell of faculty support for completing SLOs and Assessments for Spring courses, and planning Assessments for Fall 2012.

Members of the Program Review committee met over the summer to revise and clarify the Program Review Process.

The VVC Academic Senate is committed to assist faculty in meeting the ACCJC recommendations. Your Academic Senate Executive Team has been working continuously in SLO/Assessments; Program Review and the Annual Update process; and budget planning.

October will see all constituency groups at VVC assisting the process of compiling data, writing reports, and verifying that we've met — and exceeded in many cases — ACCJC recommendations.

From the Academic Senate President

As we begin the new academic year, there's really one thing on everyone's mind: accreditation.

As you will see in the article above the VVC Academic Senate is playing an active role in assisting all constituency groups in securing our accreditation status.

In light of this, I'd like to share with you the goals of the VVC Academic Senate for the 2012-14 academic year:

- Increase faculty participation on committees
- Improve communication with faculty
- Improve accessibility to Senate Executive Officers

To that end, the VVC Academic Senate will be encouraging faculty to participate on Senate and Shared Governance Committees, as well as Academic Senate Task Forces.

This first issue of Faculty Forum is another step in informing faculty of important academic and professional information that impact us here at VVC.

Finally, I encourage all faculty to visit me in the Faculty Senate office, building 55, M 2:20-3:20 p.m.; T 1:20-2:20 p.m.; and W 2:20-3:00 p.m. The telephone extension is 2821!

— Tracy Davis
No doubt VVC faculty have seen the e-mails from Academic Senate Vice President Claude Oliver regarding Senate and Shared Governance committee service requests. Committee service is an important part of the Shared Governance process outlined in AB 1725. The VVC Academic Senate provides several opportunities for committee service; below are the standing committees:

- Academic Allocations
- Basic Skills
- Curriculum
- Distance Education
- Equivalency/Eminence
- Fair Employment Relations Representatives
- Honors
- Instructional Program Review
- Petitions
- Teaching Abroad
- Technology
- Sustainability
- Staff Development

In addition to Senate committees, there are college wide or ‘Shared Governance’ committees, in which faculty serve with other campus constituency groups.

These committees include:

- Budget, Finance and Planning
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Diversity
- Student Services and Success
- Facilities

Soon, each committee will have its description/charge and meeting information posted on the VVC Academic Senate’s SharePoint site. Information can also be found on the VVC website under ‘Academic Senate’.

If you are interested in any of these committees, please contact Claude Oliver via e-mail or at x.2391.

Abbreviations Used in AS Meetings and Documents

AS = Academic Senate
AP = Administrative Procedure
BP = Board Policy
MOU = Memorandum of Understanding (usually related to contract issues, but sometimes affects Senate business)
B of T = Board of Trustees
MSC = Motion, Second, Carried (related to action items on AS agendas)
ASCCC = Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
ACCJC = Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
WASC = Western Association of Schools and Colleges
EMP = Educational Master Plan
DEMP = Distance Education Master Plan
ASET = Academic Senate Executive Team
SG = Shared Governance
VVCFA = Victor Valley College Faculty Association (faculty union for full-time faculty)
CCA = Community College Association
AFT = American Federation of Teachers (union for part-time faculty)
NEA = National Education Association
CTA = California Teachers’ Association
FACCC = Faculty Association for California Community Colleges
What the Senate Does...Academic and Professional Matters

Although many faculty clearly understand the difference between the Academic Senate and the Faculty Association (union), sometimes there is confusion over what role each of these organizations plays on campus.

Here is what the Academic Senate does, usually referred to as ‘10+1’:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites.
2. Degree and certificate requirements.
3. Grading policies.
4. Educational program development.
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.
6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles.
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes.
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.

The ideal is that the AS will ‘consult collegially’ on these matters with administration. In turn, the district (including the Board of Trustees) will develop policies on these academic and professional matters through either or both of the following:

- Rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate. OR
- The governing board, or its designees, and the academic senate shall reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations.

(Summarized from Title 5 California Code of Regulations)

What the Faculty Association Does...

Unlike the AS, the Faculty Association deals with contractual matters: compensation, benefits, working conditions, etc.

Here is an overview of some of what the Faculty Association does:

- Affirmative action plans
- Arbitration, binding, of discipline
- Arbitration, binding, of grievances
- Academic calendar
- Class loads and class size
- Contracting out bargaining work
- Disciplinary procedures
- Discrimination (race, sex, religion, etc)
- Discrimination (union activity)
- Dues, other payroll deductions
- Grievance procedures
- Negotiation groundrules
- Overtime work, assignment of
- Personnel files, entries and union access to
- Preparation time
- Promotions and Seniority
- Release/reassigned time
- Retirement, early (SERPs)
- Safety

Do these roles overlap? What is the relationship between the Senate and the Union?

Although the roles of these faculty organizations differ, there are occasions where Senate and Union concerns either overlap or are complementary. For example, recent negotiations enabled faculty to receive compensation for writing and assessing SLOs.

There are some faculty who believe the two organizations cannot work together, or who believe that Senate and Union issues are naturally at cross purposes.

In reality, both the ASCCC and CCA/CTA recognize that academic and professional matters, AND bargaining matters can work hand in hand. In addition, both state organizations encourage dialog and cooperation between faculty serving as leaders in these two entities. After all, the ultimate goal of both groups is to advocate for faculty.

Open communication between Senate and Union leaders — and all faculty in general — ensures that both groups are respected for what they do, and recognize their own spheres of influence.
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.

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!

Fall 2012 meeting dates:

October 4, 2012
November 1, 2012
December 6, 2012

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

Academic Senate Representatives, 2012-14

In May 2012, the following faculty agreed to serve as AS representatives for the 2012-14 cycle:

- 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
- Part-time Faculty Representatives: Cheryl Elsmore and Glenn Akers

Your area representative will be informing you of issues important to VVC. Area representatives vote on approving AP’s, BP’s and Senate documents.

It is important that you contact your representative(s) with concerns, questions or issues related to Senate matters.

AS representatives are encouraged to report on what’s happening in their areas, as well as on AS agenda items.

If you do not know where your area is, or who represents you, please consult the list available on the VVC website, or contact AS Secretary, Leslie Huiner.

Of course, you do not need to be a representative to attend the Senate monthly meetings, held at 3:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month, in room AD-6 (facing Bear Valley Road, near the Human Resources Building). All faculty are encouraged to attend!