Faculty Forum

Accreditation Update

Time for an update!

As you are no doubt aware, the ACCJC sent its response to VVC regarding our accreditation status on February 11, 2013.

The main point: we are still on probation. While it’s obvious we demonstrated progress in critical areas, the commission noted we still need to be in full compliance in Program Review, SLO Assessments and a balanced budget.

The good point: rather than conduct another visit this semester, our next visit will be after October 2013. This is a good sign, as it shows the commission trusts us to complete the remainder of their recommendations then, rather than revisit us sooner.

The critical point: as faculty, much of the burden is on us. It’s important to complete Program Review and SLO Assessments as soon as possible. Every active course needs to show evidence of SLOs and Assessments; in addition, there needs to be documentation of continuous assessment, proving we are ‘closing the loop’, discussing, evaluating and modifying courses as needed to improve student learning.

From the Academic Senate President

By now, you’ve had time to digest the ACCJC response to our report submitted in Fall 2013 as to our progress in meeting the recommendations the visiting team requested. By now, you’re also pretty tired.

As we return from Spring Break, let me (hopefully) give you something positive as you take advantage of much-needed rest and relaxation: we’re almost there!

All the hard work faculty have completed over the last several months has borne fruit. SLO Assessments are constantly updated — and uploaded — revealing that we are above 90% and moving forward. Annual Updates are 100% complete.

The real task, at least in my view, is to remain supportive of each other. It’s no shock that the stress level on campus is high: attacks from the outside, attacks at the Board of Trustees meetings, attacks in the newspaper...after a while, it gets to you.

We know what we do; we know how hard we work to make this institution better. We also know how easy it is to take our frustrations publicly... As the Senate President, I certainly would never think of telling my colleagues what to do — or not to do — in terms of the public forum, whether in a meeting or electronically.

What I would recommend is that we don’t engage in faculty cannibalism: devouring those we may not agree with or maybe don’t even like (!).

We are all in this together, and I firmly believe that we can all continue to work together not only to fulfill ACCJC recommendations, but also to create a vibrant and dynamic learning environment and community.

— Tracy Davis
The Student Success Act (SB1456) is now law. This statute seeks to reward effective student behaviors and codifies several of the recommendations proposed by the Student Success Task Force that met between January 2011 and January 2012.

The law addresses three questions:
- How can colleges strengthen support for entering students?
- How can colleges incentivize successful student behaviors once they are here?
- How can the legislature enable more efficient statewide leadership and increase coordination among colleges?

How can colleges strengthen support for entering students?

Effective fall, 2014, students must participate in a diagnostic assessment, orientation program and the development of an education plan in order to enjoy priority registration. The VVC Student Services Committee, Faculty Senate and College Council have worked to update AP5055 (Registration Priorities) to comply with this mandate. Additionally, the Chancellor’s Office is working on a common, centralized, diagnostic assessment. Financial incentives will be provided to colleges who accept this instrument. There is currently no timeframe for implementation of the common assessment.

How can colleges incentivize successful student behaviors once they are here?

The statute mandates that registration priorities reflect the core mission of “transfer, career technical education and basic skills development.” Priority enrollment will be provided to students who are fully matriculated as described above and remain in good standing. Students will lose enrollment priority if they earn more than 90 degree-applicable units and/or are on academic or progress probation for two consecutive terms. Students must also remain in good standing to continue to receive Board of Governors (BOG) fee waivers.

Active duty military, veterans and current/former foster youth in good standing enjoy top enrollment priority followed by EOP&S and DSPS students in good standing. Districts have flexibility to set priorities for the remaining matriculated students in good standing. There are exemptions to the above and districts are required to provide a process for appeals and timely notification regarding the loss of priority enrollment benefits.

How can the legislature enable more efficient statewide leadership and increase coordination among colleges?

The legislature requires the Chancellor’s Office to create a “student success scorecard.” While the elements of the scorecard are being finalized, a revised funding formula will be enacted beginning in 2015-16. District matriculation funding will be based on 2014-2015 year-end scorecard data.

Please contact Tim Johnston at tim.johnston@vvc.edu or 760.245.4271x2154 should you have questions about the implementation of the Student Success Act (SB1456).
The State Budget and Community Colleges

On the ASCCC website, statewide AS President Michele Pilati provided a good distillation of Governor Brown’s proposed budget and how it will affect CCC’s (January 2013). Keeping in mind changes due to the ‘May Revise’, here are the essentials:

- $196.7M in increased apportionment funding. (How this will be allocated is a subject of much discussion.)
- $179M to buy down existing deferrals.
- $49.5M to support energy efficiency efforts pursuant to the recently passed Prop 39 ballot initiative.
- $16.9M to enhance online education efforts in the CCCs, including the creation of a centralized Virtual Campus into a single hosting system, so students could find online courses and access 24/7 support through a common portal.
- $300M in a shift of responsibility for Adult Education from K12 to the CCCs. (This would be shifting all of the work from K12 to the CCCs, but just 1/3 of the funding that K12 currently receives for Adult Education.)
- $15.7M in a shift of responsibility for Apprenticeship from K12 to CCCs.
- Replace long-standing provisional language concerning the funds for the Economic and Workforce Development Program with a requirement that the Chancellor’s Office submit an annual expenditure to the Department of Finance for approval (similar to SB 70).
- A 5-year phase-in of funding apportionments on completion rather than on census date enrollment.
- A 90-unit cap for students. Under this proposal, no state support would be provided for students that have exceeded 90 units. Students taking courses above the cap would be required to pay the full cost of instruction, with some provision for case-by-case waivers.
- Alter Part B BOG fee waivers to require students to complete a FAFSA and include the income of both parents and the student to determine eligibility.

Hot Off the Presses

This just in!

- Summer sections increased to 980 FTEs!
- The new Legislative Analysis Committee needs YOU! At the April 4, 2013, general Academic Senate meeting, the Legislative Analysis Committee was instituted. The committee charge: The Legislative Analysis Committee’s purpose is to review federal, state and local mandates/policies that affect VVC faculty and students. The committee will make regular reports at the monthly AS meeting, as well as via e-mail to ensure that faculty are aware of enacted and proposed government higher education policies. If this committee interests you, please contact Academic Senate VP Claude Oliver, Claude.Oliver@vvc.edu.
- Spring Plenary Report: Three members of the VVC Academic Senate attended the Spring Plenary in San Francisco. Look for reports and valuable information coming to your e-mail soon from Treasurer Steve Toner, VP Claude Oliver and President Tracy Davis.
- The April Rostrum, the newsletter of the statewide Academic Senate, is being distributed to faculty mailboxes! Important articles include 10 + 1 Myths, CCCCO recommendations on Professional Development, and information on new K-12 standards.
- Progress in assessing active VVC courses continues — the number is decreasing every day! However, we need to work together to reach our goal. Please look at lists sent out by the Accreditation Steering Committee and check your area for accuracy. If you see a course being taught by a part-time faculty in your area, please let that individual know.
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 Admin 8. Refreshments are provided!

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

**Meeting Schedule for Spring 2013**

- May 2
- June 6

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