May 13, 2014

Good evening.

The Academic Senate notes the passing of counselor Christine Cole, at VVC since 1998. Christine died last week after a long illness. Christine first came to VVC as a counselor for the TRIO program, and became a general counselor several years ago. I will tell you that many nights, as I finished class at 10:00 p.m., her car would still be in the parking lot, sometimes the only car besides mine. She will be sorely missed by the campus community.

The AS would also like to commend Evelyn Blanco for her fantastic representation of the VVC ASB on the BoT this year. We wish her well in her educational journey!

The AS completed its election process for executive officers and area representatives for the 2014-2016 academic years on Friday, May 9, 2014. 96 faculty cast ballots in this election, which is the highest number in memory! 52 Adjunct faculty also voted for area representatives, which is also the highest number; current AS Adjunct Representatives Cheryl Elsmore and Glenn Akers will be serving for another two years. The ASET will be, for 2014-2016:

- Tracy Davis, past president
- Claude Oliver, president
- Jessica Gibbs, vice president (three candidates)
- Leslie Huiner (unopposed), secretary
- Stephen Toner, treasurer (three candidates)

AS Area Reps for 2014-2016 are:
Science – Richard Cerreto and Lisa Harvey
Liberal Arts – Karen Tomlin and Lisa Ellis
Counseling Library – Mike McCracken and Lorena Ochoa
Academic Commons – Dave Hollomon
Public Safety Training Center – Dave Oleson
Vocational – Gary Menser
Kinesiology – Debra Blanchard
PAC – Ed Heaberlin
ATC – Tim Adell and Patrick Malone
Allied Health – Alice Ramming and Terry Truelove
At-Large – David Gibbs and Khalid Rubayi

The new term begins August 1, 2014.

This summer, the ASET will continue the revision process on new governing documents; ASET would like to thank Cheryl Elsmore for meeting with us last week to discuss the inclusion of more Adjunct faculty participation in the AS. The governing documents will have a second reading in September, and will incorporate suggestions from all faculty as much as possible.

The AS wishes to acknowledge the support of the BoT in recognizing Shared Governance in the case of the proposed BPs 2515, 2520 and 2525. The AS is sure that this recognition supports a new culture of respect, civility, dialogue and trust that the ACCJC and our campus
community is sure to appreciate. The AS also demonstrated its quick response to these proposals without stalling or derailing them. At the May 1, 2014, Academic Senate meeting, revised versions of BPs 2515 and 2520 were passed by the Representative Council, and Claude has copies of the revised documents for you. We hope that the BoT takes these revisions to heart, as the Academic Senate demonstrated its commitment to not only Shared Governance, but also to teamwork and compromise; in fact, our revision to 2515 cites the FCMAT report as well as other sources to support the concepts in these BPs. As for BP 2525, that proposal was tabled – with no date to return – at our April 10, 2014, AS meeting...however, via College Council, and, should anyone wish to resubmit this BP (with revision) for the September 4, 2014, AS general meeting, it can be brought back to the AS for review.

The AS also wishes to report that the AP 1201 Task Force is almost finished with the revisions necessary to this document. For those who do not know, AP 1201 deals with SG, including descriptions of constituency groups, roles and responsibilities, and SG committees integral to the successful operation of this campus. The AS is the sole representative of faculty in academic and professional matters, as noted in previous BoT meetings. In addition, as per language in AP 1201 the BoT ‘will “consult collegially” with the Academic Senate, which means that the Board of Trustees shall develop policies regarding academic and professional matters and will rely primarily on the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate’; these matters include governance, accreditation and budget development. The AS believes that the BoT will be more than pleased with the emphasis
on the SG process, which now includes references to ACCJC Standards and relevant BPs to support the role of the BoT, and should help the BoT with their SG role and responsibilities. We hope to have the revised AP 1201 ready for vetting by the September AS general meeting, and will be sending it to all appropriate constituent groups for review.

The proposed CA budget revision – the May Revise – was published earlier today, and provides additional funding for CCC’s. This is good news, and the revised figures include 2.75% enrollment growth, increases in Telecommunications and Technology Infrastructure, one-time physical plant and instructional equipment money, and no raise in student tuition from the current $46 per unit. Hopefully, the additional funding for CCC’s will mean a more stable future for VVC as well as other CCCs, and will help VVC maintain its balanced budget.

Ideally, as VVC moves into the next academic year, more attention by the BoT and VVC administration will be spent on prioritizing new faculty hires. The AS is pleased that categorical funds related to the SSA will result in an additional counselor, but the list presented now four times to admin and the BoT has not been acted upon...to the detriment of our students. Restaurant Management, Counseling, Library, English, Math, Theatre Arts, Sociology, Biology, Psychology, Music, Kinesiology...these are all disciplines who requested hires over a year ago, and nothing has been done. It is hoped that preserving the infrastructure of this institution, which is built on instruction, will be a priority for admin and the BoT for mid-year
hires to begin teaching in Spring 2015 to further help our students reach their educational goals.

Thank you.

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.