Faculty Forum

Victor Valley College Academic Senate

Volume II, Issue 1

October 2013

Latest Updates

Happy Fall! Here's what's going on :

- Welcome to the new Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, Peter Maphumulo!
- Congratulations to Peter Allan, for his appointment as Interim Superintendent/President!
- Thanks to all who participated in the voluntary in-service day ("Convocation") on August 30, 2013. This event is the beginning of more opportunities to share in the growth of our institution.
- If you are in Program Review Track 'A' (primarily HASS division), it's time to begin completing this important PRAISE document. The required statistical data will be available September 2013; there is a great deal that can be completed before then, reducing the workload so as our busy Fall 2013 intensifies, simple insertion of the data portions can finish this document quickly and efficiently. The date for the draft of the comprehensive Program Reviews to be submitted to SharePoint is October 7, 2013. The Instructional Program Review Committee (IPRC) will conduct a peer review, and will suggest changes as needed. Final draft is due December 1, 2013.
- If you are completing an Annual Update this year, please submit by December 1, 2013.
- **For information on accreditation, please see page 3!**

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From the Academic Senate President

As we complete the first month of Fall 2013, I want to thank all of you for continuing to step up to the plate and going above and beyond your contractual obligations to support completion of the ACCJC recommendations 2, 3 and 6.

I'd also like to thank the faculty who attended the convocation on August 30, 2013! There was a fantastic turn out of faculty, and it seems that the information disseminated in the workshops was useful and pertinent. Look forward to another convocation coming your way soon!

On a somber note, it's a shame that VVC, and faculty in particular, are still being demeaned at the Board of Trustees meetings and in the local press. Unfortunately, I fear that these attacks will continue. I've received numerous e-mails from faculty throughout the summer through now, asking, 'what can we do?'

We are now at the point where we need to become more active in spreading the *facts*. These unfounded and malicious attacks will continue as long as we let them. Look for further communication from the Academic Senate on this issue in the near future! — Tracy Davis

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Information!

It's that time of year again! **Please tell your students that the application for the 2014 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship opened September 12, 2013.** There are two big changes to the application process:

1. **Faculty Representative role has changed:** Students are no longer required to be nominated by the faculty representative in order to compete for this scholarship. This means that community colleges are not limited to between two and four nominees as had been the case previously. All eligible applicants may apply. Faculty representatives will continue to play an important role by conducting outreach for this scholarship and by serving as a resource to applicants on their campus.

2. **Two-phase application process:** Starting on September 12, all eligible applicants may access the online application via the Foundation's website to complete a Phase One application. The Phase One application closes in early November 2013. If an applicant is selected as a semifinalist based on the Phase One application, the applicant will be invited to submit additional information in Phase Two of the application process. Phase Two of the application closes in early January 2014.

The foundation is currently updating its website and the faculty representative materials. They will alert the VVC faculty representative (Tracy Davis, Academic Senate President) when access to materials for the 2014 competition is available. Please note: due to the intense competition for these generous funds, it's recommended that students and faculty interested examine the materials closely before contacting the VVC faculty representative or the JKC Foundation. The application itself is approximately 80 pages long! For more info, please visit the Foundation's website: www.jkcf.org.

Applicants can access the application materials on the website: http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/undergraduate-transfer-scholarships/

Deadlines:

College Scholarship Program - deadline November 5, 2013

Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship - deadline November 7, 2013

Accreditation Update and News!

As VVC prepares for the upcoming November ACCJC Team visit, here's the latest in accreditation news:

- The Accreditation Steering Committee is currently writing the report to be submitted to ACCJC October 15, 2013. They meet every Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Conference Room.
- VVC's accreditation report will be submitted by October 15, 2013.
- If you have not yet submitted your six-year action plan for SLO assessments, please send your plan to David Gibbs, Chair of the Student Learning Outcome and Assessment Committee (SLOAC).
- If you are completing either the comprehensive Program Review (HASS division is in Track 'A') or the Annual Update, remember to include evidence of 'robust dialog' in your documentation of SLO assessment. If you need more information or assistance, please contact Jessica Gibbs, Chair of the Instructional Program Review Committee (IPRC).
- If you belong to a program that has a degree or certificate, please make sure that you have Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) submitted to SLOAC. Degree or certificate programs should also have an action plan to demonstrate continuous assessments of PLOs. If your program is 'new', such as a Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) Degree, make sure you include information in your Annual Update or Program Review providing evidence that your program will be initiating PLO Assessment.
- Information on the Convocation of August 30, 2013, will be submitted to ACCJC as further evidence of institution-wide commitment to continuous quality improvement.
- The ACCJC visit in November will be either November 8, 2013 or November 12, 2013.

The Importance of Shared Governance

As Fall 2013 really gets going, and faculty are in the midst of planning, assessing and evaluating their courses, it's important to remember the 'other' part of our duties as faculty: participation in college business via Shared Governance.

AB 1725 set the foundation for the system we have in place today: administration and the Board of Trustees should "rely primarily" on the recommendation of the Academic Senate in academic and professional matters (the famous '10+1').

Many faculty already serve on either an Academic Senate or Shared Governance committee, which exemplifies the concept of collaboration for the benefit of the institution as a whole.

It's also important to remember, especially in the current climate surrounding California Community Colleges, that Shared Governance exists on the state level as well. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends to statewide bodies, such as the Chancellor's Office, and even the state governor, issues dealing with faculty, curriculum, accreditation, and the like.

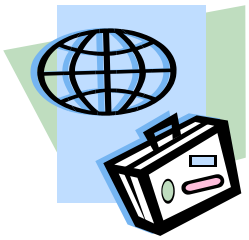
Please visit the following website for more information on the importance of Shared Governance:

http://www.asccc.org/

If you currently are not serving on an Academic Senate or Shared Governance committee, please contact Claude Oliver, Academic Senate VP!

VVC AS Executive Team, 2012-14

President — Tracy Davis
Vice President — Claude Oliver
Past President — Lisa Harvey
Secretary — Leslie Huiner
Treasurer — Steve Toner



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!

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

Meeting Schedule for Fall 2013

October 3

November 7

December 5

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