

Faculty Forum



Victor Valley
College
Academic Senate

Accreditation Update!

On November 7, 2012, the ACCJC will be visiting VVC to usher in the next phase of the accreditation process. This visiting team will be interviewing VVC administration, faculty and staff to determine how different constituency groups have completed the commission's recommendations.

From the upcoming visit, the commission will draft a report based on their examination of documentation and these personal interviews.

In December 2012, Christopher O'Hearn, VVC President, will receive this draft report, and will have the opportunity to respond to the impressions of the visiting team. This response will be a VVC follow-up report, and may include speaking at ACCJC headquarters in January 2013.

Ideally, the November visiting team will clearly see VVC's fulfillment of ACCJC recommendations; if their report is positive, we will see the fruition of the countless hours we've all spent to support our institution with updated Program Reviews and Assessments, as well as our improved campus climate.

Look for further updates soon!

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From the Academic Senate President

As we approach the upcoming election on November 6, I thought it would be helpful for VVC faculty to be informed of where the statewide Academic Senate stands on political issues.

The ASCCC has come out publically in support of Proposition 30, the tax increase that would

support K-14 education (which includes us!)

The ASCCC also urges faculty to carefully look at Proposition 32; as Michelle Pilati, current ASCCC President, states: "While Proposition 32 does not directly impact the academic and professional matters that are the purview of the Senate, it will have an im-

pact on faculty voice generally." (ASCCC President's Report, 10-17-12)

It's also important to remember we have a VVC Board of Trustees election for two seats. This is an extremely important election for the Board and for the college. We all know that the Board is the final say in budget, hiring and other vital decisions for VVC.

If you live here in the High Desert, please make sure you vote!

For more information on the ballot propositions, visit:

<http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/>

— Tracy Davis

SLO Assessment Update

On October 12, 2012, the report on student learning outcomes and assessment was turned in to ACCJC. The report confirmed that all course-level student learning outcomes (SLOs), program learning outcomes (PLOs), service area outcomes (SAOs), General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) and Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) are defined. SLOs and PLOs have been mapped to ILOs and, where appropriate, to GELOs. There are 700 active courses on record and 78% of these 700 courses were assessed over the course of the 2011-2012 school year. All ILOs and GELOs have also been assessed.

The next step in the assessment process is to use these data to plan for improvement in student learning. There will be trainings offered in the Fall semester on the use of TracDat. Also starting Fall 2012, all course- and program- learning outcomes must be assessed at least once every three years in alignment with the program review cycle. Assessment results within the PRAISE Report will create a link between assessment and resource allocation. Faculty across campus have already begun utilizing assessment data to improve student learning.

Program Review, PRAISE and Annual Update Info!

Program review versus PRAISE; what's the difference? And where does the Annual Update fit in?

Program review is the *process* in which programs at VVC evaluate and identify areas for improvement within their program.

PRAISE is the *comprehensive report* that is generated as a result of this process and is used for resource allocation decisions. Recently a revised process of program review was adopted at VVC. This new process implements a three-year rotating cycle of comprehensive program review, with the PRAISE (Program Review, Allocations, and Institutional Strategies for Excellence) reports due on the third year and **Annual Updates** to

those living PRAISE reports due in the interim years.

This year, all instructional programs at VVC are completing an Annual Update to last year's PRAISE report, due December 1, 2012.

The Annual Update allows programs to report change or progress made towards program goals and use results from assessments to request funding for program improvement. It is important that the Annual Update include an analysis of the program's data and discussion of outcomes assessment, both of which can be used to justify needs requests.

The comprehensive PRAISE cycle will begin in 2013 for Track A, then 2014 for Track B and 2015 for Track C.

Annual Updates will continue for those programs whose track is not submitting a comprehensive PRAISE report. The Instructional Program Review Committee is requesting a draft of the annual update from each program by November 1, 2012, so that we can show the ACCJC visiting team that VVC has implemented and is utilizing our newly revised process.

When your program has completed its draft, please send it electronically to Jessica Gibbs:

Jessica.gibbs@vvc.edu.

Important Scholarship Opportunity!

Please announce to your students the fantastic scholarship opportunity offered by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation!

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's scholarship programs are designed to encourage and support outstanding students who work hard and have financial need. These scholarships provide financial assistance and academic support to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

This foundation is a private, independent organization established by Jack Kent Cooke to help exceptionally promising students reach their full potential through education. Launched in 2000, the Foundation focuses in particular on students with financial need. The Foundation's scholarship and direct service programs support the education of approximately 650 remarkable students each year, while grant-making allows thousands more to engage in challenging

educational experiences. If you think any of your students would be interested in this opportunity, and would qualify (3.5 cumulative GPA,) please have them **e-mail** Tracy Davis, Academic Senate President, so links to the website can be sent. Students must be nominated by the foundation faculty representative, which has traditionally been the current Academic Senate President.

For more information:
<http://www.jkcf.org/>

Math Success Center Receives a Grant from Edison!

The Math Department wants to send out a big "thank you" to Southern California Edison for the \$25,000 grant it recently received, secured by the VVC Foundation. Monies will go toward motivational posters and training materials, student scholarships, tutoring, and 12 computers for the lab. The Math Success Center, located in the Academic Commons, is serving students Monday to Friday from 9 AM - 5 PM. The informal atmosphere of the Math Success Center allows students to study individually or in study groups, with tutors available throughout the day for one-on-one and group tutoring.

Fall Plenary Session

This fall's Academic Senate Plenary Session will be November 8-10, 2012, in Irvine. The theme is *The Transformation of Education: Evolution, Not Revolution*, and will be focusing on implementing faculty-led regulatory changes, responding to legislation, "closing the loop" to meet accreditation demands, responding to

drastic budget cuts, and, most recently, considering the impact of the Student Success Task Force recommendations.

Scheduled workshops include information on TMC's, SB 1456 (enrollment priorities), Basic Skills, Career/Technical Education, and other pertinent topics.

For more information on the plenary session, visit: <http://www.asccc.org/session/program-events>

Three VVC Senate Executive Officers will be attending this event: Lisa Harvey, Leslie Huiner and Tracy Davis.

VVC AS Executive Team, 2012-14

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

'Communication Day'

Is

Coming!

Join the VVC Community in November for a panel discussion on accreditation, program review, SLO/Assessments and other important issues facing VVC! Time and dates announced soon!

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:

November 1, 2012

December 6, 2012

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

All VVC Academic Senate meeting minutes and approved documents are online on our web site at <http://www.vvc.edu/offices/faculty-services/faculty-senate/>

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

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-8 (facing Bear Valley Road, near the Human Resources Building). All faculty are encouraged to attend!

