

# Faculty Forum

## Accreditation Update!

On November 7, 2012, the ACCJC visiting team spent the day interviewing all VVC constituency groups, examining the volumes of data on SLOs, SLO Assessments, Program Review, the Educational Master Plan, and so many other elements required for our compliance to ACCJC recommendations.

By all accounts, this was a positive experience for those involved, and the general consensus was that VVC did more than meet the seven recommendations, we exceeded what was asked.

There's already been some positive news related to accreditation: the Substantive Change Proposal (SCP) written by the Distance Education Advisory Task Force, was accepted by the Chancellor's Office. Usually, SCP's cannot be submitted if the institution is on the watch list; however, an exception to this was granted to VVC, since the SCP was on the list of recommendations. This acceptance will hopefully represent even more positive news in the future.

On December 6, 2012, VVC President Christopher O'Hearn sent a letter to the campus community (via e-mail), stating, "Though I cannot reveal the content of the report, I can attest to the fact that it is accurate, fair, and acknowledges the enormous amount of work that the college has undertaken to get to this point." The report will become public sometime in January 2013, after the ACCJC meets to deliberate our accreditation.

Hopefully, these positive signs are just the beginning of good news for VVC!



Victor Valley  
College  
Academic Senate

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## From the Academic Senate President

Well, it's been quite the semester, hasn't it? In addition to our regular classroom duties, we've really pulled out all the stops in complying with the ACCJC, completing Annual Updates, and participating in Senate and Shared Governance committees (35% increase here from last semester!)

The challenge, of course, is to keep the momentum going. It's natural, once a huge task has been finished, to want to relax and simply go back to 'business as usual'...but the reality is, much of what we accomplished this semester will be the 'usual' from now on.

Whether it's SLO assessments, uploading docu-

ments into TracDat, updating curriculum, entering into the new Program Review cycle...these elements, for the foreseeable future, are here to stay.

As we leave the campus for a well-deserved break, I sincerely hope we keep in mind the positives we've accomplished. I firmly believe the increasingly

open dialog between all constituency groups has made us a stronger institution. As we return to committee work and other academic and professional matters in the Spring, let's do our part to show a united faculty front and get what we need to get accomplished. We are all in this **together.**— Tracy Davis

## Senate Plenary Session Report

The Academic Senate Fall Plenary session held November in Irvine featured several workshops on curriculum topics. Presentation materials are on the senate web page at <http://www.asccc.org/events/2012/fall-plenary-session/presentations>. Here are some highlights:

- There are currently 22 TMC (Transfer Model Curriculum) AA-T and AS-T degrees for transfer, with Philosophy, Spanish and Chemistry under review
  - The Chancellor's Office is asking community colleges to approve TMC degrees for the majors which they currently offer, with a goal of 80% approved by Fall 2013 and 100% approved by Fall 2014
  - No additional TMC degrees will be approved until C-IDs are developed
  - By June 2014, all courses included in TMC degrees should use the C-ID (Course Identification Numbering System,) and non-conforming degrees will be revoked
  - Local graduation requirements are not compliant with the 60-units required for the TMC degrees
- For more information about C-ID see <http://www.c-id.net/> and TMC at <http://www.sb1440.org/>

## Considering the VVC Budget...

Every October the CCSF-311, containing information on VVC's official budget is released publicly. This year's document reveals some surprising truths regarding VVC revenue, expenditures and balances.

Based on the evidence provided, VVC is, compared to other institutions, in good financial shape.

For example, budgeted income for 2011-12 was \$45,995,984; the actual income was \$47,404,236, or a surplus of \$1,408,252. Budgeted expenditures were \$56,802,736; actual expenditures were \$49,907,887, or a savings of \$6,894,849. Combining the surplus in income and the savings from fewer expenditures means that VVC had an 'extra' \$8,303,101.

There's also an 'extra' \$3,208,048 from the estimated beginning balance and the actual beginning balance for 2011-12.

Please note that these figures do not include the GIC, which currently has over \$20,000,000.

Some other interesting budget facts:

- Due to the passage of Proposition 30, CCC's will receive

\$210,000,000 in additional funds for the 2012-13 academic year.

- About 3300 classes will be added statewide for Spring 2013.

(Source: Chancellor's Office)

One of the running issues with the VVC budget is the 'structural deficit' that involves expenses exceeding revenues. Please note that this structural deficit anticipates **no** growth money, **no** change in funding from the state, and the **current** overall economic issues to continue. Also keep in mind that the overbudgeting for expenses is included in any projections for the coming academic years. A budget is a projection, not necessarily a *reality*.

We used to be funded at just over 10,000 students. Now, we're funded for 8800 students. Our student population hasn't decreased; we're just serving fewer students.

Each 100 FTES during fall, spring, or summer, taught hourly, costs the district approximately \$125,000. Therefore, even if we were to offer a summer 2013

session with 600 FTES (same as summer 2012) instead of the currently proposed 300 FTES (half of summer 2012) we would not get reimbursed for \$375,000 from the state for unfunded FTES above our cap if we choose not to move them forward into next year's FTES count. As pointed out above, we have a starting balance in excess of \$11,511,149. This is known as the "bridge reserve."

The big question is "Can VVC afford to offer our students more courses during the summer 2013 and not get reimbursed?" Or should we add the \$11.5 million "bridge reserve" money to our over \$47 million reserves (\$20+ million in general reserve) and (\$27 million in the GIC fund earning 12% interest annually) and deny students more course offerings this summer or any other future semester?

Finally, it's important to remember that VVC is not a 'for profit' entity. Our mission statement makes that perfectly clear. We are a nonprofit, community-based institution that has a responsibility to serve our community's educational goals.

## Summer 2013

One of the continuing concerns for faculty is the state of Summer 2013. We've all heard our students complain about the cancellation of Winter session, and there are fears that Summer will follow.

The good news, as noted on page 2 of this issue of *Faculty Forum*, is that VVC **has the funds** to make Summer 2013 work for students. At the December 6, 2012, Academic Senate general meeting, VPI Peter Allan committed to publishing the Summer schedule by Friday, December 14, 2012, and also to being as inclusive of what students need as

possible. He followed his statements up on Monday, December 10, 2012, with a reconfirmation of the need for viable summer classes.

Faculty might be interested in the results of survey recently conducted on Summer 2013.

This survey was sent to Community College CIO's regarding Summer 2013, here's some interesting data (30 CCC's responded, including VVC):

- Only VVC responded that it 'considered' canceling summer classes

- 17/30 who responded indicated that Summer 2013 would be the same or 'about' the same as 2012; 12/30 planned to expand (some in double digits %); 5/30 planned cuts (1 by 50%)
- 5/30 responses indicated that Summer 2013 would be 'reduced' (not all colleges gave specific responses)
- The consensus was that courses offered should fulfill GE, transfer and CTE requirements; 'high demand' courses were also noted

Let's hope the Summer 2013 VVC schedule helps *our* students!

## Communication Day

In keeping with the momentum generated by faculty's participation in ACCJC activities, 'Campus Communication Day' (CCD) was developed this semester. With two events completed (November 16 and December 4, 2012), plans are underway to publish a schedule for Spring 2013. Future CCDs will be scheduled at various times and days, so faculty can ideally attend around their busy teaching schedules.

The goal of the CCD is to bring all constituency groups together to hear the latest news, learn what other campus entities are involved in, and provide a relaxed environment to engage in meaningful discussion. The goal is to make Campus Communication Day a regular and long-standing event that creates a culture of professional dialogue for improvement at Victor Valley College.

## Remembering Our Veterans

At the November 1, 2012, general Academic Senate meeting, Carl Durham provided a brief presentation on services available to veterans on our campus.

For admissions and records, window 12 is dedicated to serving veterans. This is also where veterans can find out information on other services available to them

at VVC. The VVC website has additional resources, including information on the VVC Veterans' Club: <http://www.vvc.edu/veterans/>.

As faculty prepare their Spring 2013 syllabi, please consider including this information for veterans in your classes. If you use Blackboard for both onsite and

online courses, the Announcement page is also a good location to indicate where these students can find assistance.

If you would like additional materials on veterans' services, please contact Carl Durham, x. 2795.

## VVC AS Executive Team, 2012-14

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

### VVC Holiday Party!

Date: Friday, December 14,  
2012

Where: Student Activity Center

Time: 12-5 p.m.

Refreshments provided, but if  
you want to add a favorite dish,  
contact Robert Sewell at x.

2395

Live music from 1-5 p.m.!

*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](http://www.vvc.edu), under 'Faculty and Staff'.*

***Our first meeting of Spring 2013 will be:  
March 7, 2013!***

Academic Senate meeting agendas, minutes, meeting dates, area representatives, approved documents, SLO and curriculum committee information are available on our web page at <http://www.vvc.edu/offices/faculty-services/faculty-senate/>

Senate Committees should post meeting minutes on SharePoint. For more information, contact Justin Gatewood.

The Academic Senate office is located in Building 55, Office 30. Phone extension x2821.

## 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