

# Faculty Forum

## Accreditation: the Next Step



Victor Valley  
College  
Academic Senate

On February 7, 2014, the ACCJC notified Victor Valley College that we were affirmed in our accreditation. However, ACCJC also required our institution to complete two additional reports by March 15, 2014: a fourth Follow-Up Report and a financial report. These two reports are in addition to the Midterm Report, also due on March 15.

What does this mean? Essentially, the two additional reports are the ACCJC's way of telling us that we need to demonstrate that all the good work we completed for Follow-Up Report #3 has been sustained, ACCJC noted that the response to Recommendation 6 was not truly a 'plan' to resolve budget issues, what was sent represented more of a 'strategy'. Therefore, ACCJC wants definitive examples of how VVC is going to maintain a balanced budget.

The Accreditation Steering Committee, charged with the Midterm Report, has also included the Follow-Up Report (#4) as part of its charge. Since much has already been done to 'prove' compliance with Recommendations 2 (Program Review and Planning) and Recommendation 3 (Student Learning Outcomes), there is extensive evidence that we are indeed sustaining the progress demonstrated in Follow-Up Report #3. For Recommendation 6 (Budget), it will essentially be the responsibility of VVC administration to present accurate information, a clear and detailed plan, and evidence to support that plan.

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## From the Academic Senate President

It's been a wild ride, hasn't it? Now that we are beginning a new chapter in VVC institutional history, each and every one of us deserves to feel proud of our contributions to this college. We have "fully satisfied" ACCJC's Standards for Program Review and SLO As-

essment, based on the letter sent February 7, 2014.

### *Now what?*

As we move forward, it's imperative that we keep the momentum going.

### *How do we do that?*

One of the most interesting and important revelations of the in-service day (2-7-14) was the constant

request for more opportunities for collaboration, such as workshops and other work/social gatherings. Your Academic Senate is already working on Fall 2014 Convocation events, but will be promoting and conducting workshops related to activities such as Program Review.

Workshops and events are only part of the equation; just as important is continuing to communicate and participate in all facets of our college community. This isn't just for sustaining ACCJC Standards...this is the mark of a healthy institution.— Tracy Davis

## Coming Soon: VVC Academic Senate Governing Documents Revision

By the end of Spring 2014, the Academic Senate governing documents (Constitution and By-Laws) will be undergoing analysis and revision. Below is information regarding the rationale behind this analysis and revision.

*Why do the VVC Senate governing documents have to be revised?*

- ⇒ Clarification
- ⇒ ACCJC evidence
- ⇒ Updating due to evolution of AS both statewide and locally
- ⇒ Descriptions of Exec Officers, Adjunct and Area Representatives need clarification and expansion

*What revisions will be needed?*

- ⇒ Committees, including role of the Chair and documentation
- ⇒ Adjunct participation
- ⇒ Ensuring compliance with current practices for local AS, and if deemed necessary, statewide ASCCC
- ⇒ Budget and funding; Senate PRAISE
- ⇒ Voting timeline and procedures

*What is the timeline for the revision process?*

- ⇒ March 2014 – document as information item
- ⇒ April 2014 – list of changes, revisions presented as information item
- ⇒ May 2014 – 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised governing documents
- ⇒ September 2014 – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading
- ⇒ Late September-early October 2014 – voting on changes in line with current governing documents
- ⇒ October or November 2014 – results of proposed changes/revisions announced at monthly AS meeting by AS VP

How you can help the process: please read the proposed revisions over Summer 2014, and feel free to send your ideas and thoughts to any member of the Academic Senate Executive Team (ASET).

## Senate Elections

It's that time of year: elections for Senate Executive Officers and Area Representatives will be conducted Spring 2014!

Officer positions:

- Vice President (six-year term — two years as VP; two years as President; two years as Past President; service would end July 31, 2020)
- Secretary (two-year term; through Spring 2016)
- Treasurer (two year term; through Spring 2016)

Area Representatives (two-year term through Spring 2016):

- Science — two
- Liberal Arts — two
- ATC — two
- Academic Commons — one
- Allied Health — two
- Library/Counseling — two
- PAC — one
- Vocational — one
- Kinesiology — one
- Public Safety Training Center — one
- At-Large Representatives — two
- Adjunct Faculty Representatives — two

AS VP Claude Oliver will send out information on these offices and their duties. There will be two e-mail calls for nominations in March; final call for nominations from the floor at the April 10, 2014 AS general meeting. Voting will take place in May, after the May 2014 AS general meeting.

## Welcome to the new Aviation Hire!

Christopher Ohshita is VVC's recent addition to the Aviation Maintenance Department where he serves as the Aviation Program Director - Faculty. He came from Long Beach City College where he taught aircraft maintenance as a tenured professor for ten years. Unfortunately, after many years of severe budget cuts and lack of state funding, Long Beach Community College District decided to discontinue 11 out of 13 CTE programs offered, including aviation maintenance.

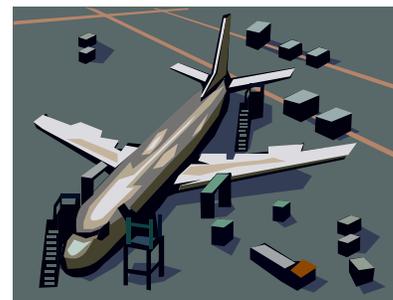
Christopher earned his Masters in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and hopes to pursue a Doctorate in Education in the near future. When asked what first drew his interest in aviation, he said he loved reading and watching television

programs about NASA Space Exploration Missions, and he especially enjoyed the spacecraft used in the early Apollo missions.

When Christopher isn't working on upcoming projects at work, he enjoys playing with his 16-month-old son Dylan, taking long nature hikes, and hanging out with his family. His vision for the aviation program includes providing quality aviation career training opportunities for the community, which will lead to pathways in higher education and employment.

Christopher can be found at the SCLA Airport Facility Monday – Friday and encourages everyone to come out and see what the aviation program is all about. If you have any questions,

please contact him via e-mail: [Christopher.ohshita@vvc.edu](mailto:Christopher.ohshita@vvc.edu), or phone: 760-246-9794.



## VVC AS Executive Team, 2012-14

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

### **Meeting Schedule for Spring 2014:**

**April 10**

**May 1**

## 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