

Faculty Forum

What Lies Ahead for VVC...

In March 2014, VVC submitted three separate reports to the ACCJC: Follow-up Report #4 (Recommendations 2,3 and 6); a special financial report (dealing with Recommendation 6); and a Midterm Report (part of the regular reporting schedule we complete). On April 16, 2014, the ACCJC visiting team for the fourth Follow-up Report interviewed faculty, staff and administration whose roles related to Recommendations 2, 3 and 6.

In July 2014, the ACCJC will make their decision on whether VVC has complied with the recommendations identified in Follow-up Report #4, and if we have sustained the progress we demonstrated in Follow-up Report #3, submitted in October 2014. The major question is this: does VVC fulfill accreditation Standards I-IV, as required?

As we all hope, the accrediting commission will recognize that yes, we do fulfill any and all requirements of accreditation, and we will receive another letter (as we did in April), affirming that we remain an accredited institution of higher learning.

What's next? Coming up in the next year, VVC will be completing a self-study report (part of the regular reporting cycle). The Academic Senate, administration, the Accreditation Steering Committee and others integral to the accreditation process will be revamping the current Accreditation Committee structure to ensure that we are in a continuous effort to collect evidence, report that evidence, and demonstrate that we are in a cycle of continuous quality improvement.

From the Academic Senate President

You may not be aware of the drama taking place at the state level Academic Senate (ASCCC): over the last month, the CCC list serve has been flooded with questions, comments, complaints and other 'interesting' thoughts on the state of the ASCCC. At the center of this drama seems to be the

relationship between the 2013-14 President, the Executive Board, and the Executive Director (the only paid position in the statewide organization). Apparently, the relationships began to deteriorate in December, when a monthly meeting turned raucous, and spiraled into the list serve comments noted at the beginning of this report.

At the recent Spring Plenary, the apparent dissatisfaction culminated in the current AS President losing a bid to continue for a second year (customary), along with the resignation of two other AS Executive Officers connected to the AS President.

Does this turmoil mean a lot to us at VVC?

Yes and no.

Yes, in terms of getting

necessary — and accurate — information in a timely manner on legislation, new laws, etc. *No*, in terms of how our local organization runs. *However*, I would recommend that interested faculty go to www.asccc.org to view the Exec Board minutes, the new election results, and their governing documents. — Tracy Davis



Victor
Valley College
Academic Senate

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Inside this issue:

Spring Plenary Report 2

AS Elections 3

*List of AS Reps,
2012-14* 4

*Senate meeting schedule
for Spring 2014* 4

Spring Plenary Report

From April 10-12, two faculty from VVC attended the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Spring Plenary Session at the Westin Hotel in San Francisco. Steve Toner, VVC AS Treasurer, and Kelley Beach, representing Counseling, attended several workshops relating to this plenary session's theme: *Academic Excellence; Strengthening Our Core*.

Offering Baccalaureate Degrees at the CC Level – The Chancellor's Office recently released a report on the topic of expanding the mission of community colleges to include the awarding of bachelor's degrees, with a recommendation that the topic "merits serious study". Currently, the ASCCC has an "oppose" viewpoint. Proponents for offering applied baccalaureates in technical fields, especially from nursing, auto and other CTE areas, cited that some degrees are not offered by the CSU or UC system as their main argument. After much passionate discussion and debate, it was resolved that "the ASCCC strongly recommend that before any action is taken to change the mission of the California community colleges to include the awarding of bachelor's degrees, a comprehensive feasibility study and environmental scan by independent researches be conducted..."

ACCJC – A resolution was passed to remove specific language referencing the ACCJC: "Resolved that the ASCCC work with the appropriate bodies to remove references to one specific accrediting agency in Title 5 and to replace the language with a neutral statement that California community colleges shall be accredited by a regional federally-recognized agency."

Hiring Full-Time Faculty – The body endorsed funding for Full-Time Faculty: "Resolved that the ASCCC endorse the inclusion of dedicated funding for the hiring of full-time faculty in the May 2014 revision of the California state budget as well as in future budget years;" and "Resolved that the ASCCC endorse the concept of revising or weighing the faculty obligation number (FON) to address in an equitable way full-time hiring of faculty among colleges throughout the California Community College System and to increase the hiring of full-time faculty statewide."

Unit Creep and General Education Bloat – This continues to be an ongoing issue for our transfer students. The session programs opening statement described the content in a nutshell: "While the Senate Bill 1440's 60+60 unit cap promise to students is obvious, the challenge for faculty is complicated." The goal of the discussion was to encourage campus wide dialogue regarding curriculum development. There were and will continue to be many more questions than answers, of course. How do we balance pedagogy with practicality? Is there sound justification for the unit creep? Potential options presented during the discussion included alternatives outside of the classroom, utilizing the 'flipped' classroom teaching model, and not teaching to the lowest common denominator to preserve retention and persistence statistics. All fully agree that the final 'gate keeper' to this process is the Curriculum Committee. However, the Curriculum Committee may find a difficult road ahead if robust campus wide discussion and understanding does not occur first.

On Time Arrival – The session addressed course availability to complete published certificates and degrees. Many campuses are utilizing electronic educational plans to develop schedules based upon needs and objectives. Priority for offering of certificates and degrees are also determined through data collected via the electronic educational plans which are developed by the Counselors. (We do not yet have electronic educational plans in use at VVC; technological advancement and continued support will be imperative to meet the new requirements).

Strengthening Ties with Instruction and Student Services – The discussion focused on the struggles and challenges based upon the advent of Senate Bill 1456 and the implementation of the matriculation process (orientation, assessment, and educational plans) given limited Faculty and Support Staff and limited technological support. The bottom line remains communication and support from the Academic Senate is imperative. It is also essential that Student Services/Counseling holds a place marker on the Academic Senate agenda. *For a copy of presentation materials from the plenary session, go to <http://asccc.org/events/2014/spring-plenary-session/presentations>. For a copy of the resolutions, go to <http://asccc.org/2014-spring-session-resolutions>.*

Senate Elections

It's that time of year: elections for Senate Executive Officers and Area Representatives will be conducted May 2-9, 2014. Ballots have been placed in your campus mailbox on Friday, May 2, 2014. Voting will continue through Friday, May 9, 2014, at 5 p.m. (4 p.m. for the PSTC, as the ballot box has to be transported back to VVC main campus). By 5:30 p.m., the vote count should begin. Results will be sent to Academic Senate President Tracy Davis, who will announce the results.

2014-2016 Senate Nominations

Vice President: (1 position; three nominees)

Jessica Gibbs Patty Golder Hinrich Kaiser

Secretary: (1 position; 1 nominee)

Leslie Huiner

Treasurer: (1 position; three nominees)

Steve Toner Ed Burg Joe Pendleton

Science Building: (2 positions; three nominees)

Richard Cerreto Lisa Harvey

Liberal Arts Building: (2 positions; 2 nominees)

Karen Tomlin Lisa Ellis

Advance Technology Center: (2 positions; three nominees)

Maria Ruiz Patrick Malone Tim Adell

Vocational: (1 position; 1 nominee)

Gary Menser

Library and Counseling: (2 positions; 2 nominees)

Lorena Ochoa Mike McCracken

Allied Health: (2 positions; 1 nominee, 1 pending nominee)

Alice Ramming Sally Thibeault (pending nominee acceptance)

Performing Arts Center: (1 position; 1 nominee)

Ed Heaberlin

Academic Commons: (1 position; 1 pending nominee)

Dave Hollomon

Kinesiology (PE): (1 position; 1 nominee)

Debby Blanchard

Public Safety Training Center: (1 position; 1 pending nominee)

Dave Oleson (pending nominee acceptance)

At-Large Rep: (2 positions; 2 nominees)

David Gibbs Khalid Rubayi

New AS Officers and Area Representatives will begin their two-year term August 1, 2014; terms end July 31, 2016. The first Academic Senate General Meeting of Fall 2014 will be September 4, 2014, 3:30 p.m. in room AD-8. Please take the time to vote!



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.

Reminder: THE GRADUATION CEREMONY will be held Friday, May 30 at 5:00 pm in the VVC gymnasium. Faculty guides: Mary Sypkens and Glenn Akers! Please attend to show your support for our hard-working students!



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

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 Spring 2014:

May 1

First Meeting for Fall 2014:

September 4