

Faculty Forum



Looking Ahead to Fall 2015

As we finish the Spring 2015 semester, your VVC Academic Senate Executive Board (ASEB) wants to wish all faculty a happy and relaxing summer!

Whether you are teaching during the Summer 2015 session, or using the summer to regroup and recharge, please remember that the VVC Academic Senate will be working throughout the summer to advocate for faculty in academic and professional matters.

In Fall 2015, the approved revision of the VVC Academic Senate governing documents will take effect. For more information on this, please see page 3.

The end of Spring 2015 will see the retirement of several full-time and adjunct faculty. To ensure continuity in the Area Reps for the Academic Senate, there will be special elections held in Fall 2015 to fill empty representative seats. In addition, there will be a special election for a third Adjunct representative, approved in the revised governing documents.

The new department reorganization will take effect in Fall 2015, replacing the current department structure. For more information on this reorganization, please contact the VVC Faculty Association.

Victor Valley
College
Academic Senate

Volume III, Issue 2

June 2015

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From the Academic Senate President

The VVC Academic Senate has been pleased with the number of faculty who volunteer for committee work; in the last few years, the AS has seen an increase in participation for AS and Shared Governance Committees.

Committee work is an important academic and professional duty. As

we have seen over and over again, it's faculty who are the driving force behind this institution. Not only are we on the front lines every day, helping our students to succeed, but we are an integral part of why VVC exists.

If you are not presently serving on a committee, and are full-time faculty, did you know that you are

obligated to perform 18 hours of committee work (or equivalent — check the new AS governing documents for details; see page 3)? It's true.

You will be seeing an "all call" for new and revised committees coming your way in the Fall 2015 semester. I encourage all faculty — full-time and Adjunct — to review these committees and

offer to serve. As the AS president, I am contacted by many faculty who have issues or concerns with campus policies and procedures. While I am happy to help, the best advice I can offer is to step up and be part of positive change on our campus by serving on committees to address these concerns.
— Claude Oliver

Spring Plenary Report

A Plenty-ary of Thoughts

By Carey Alstadt, SSSP Counselor

Being an idea person, I always enjoy opportunities like this where you can come away with a Santa Claus size bundle of wonderful goodies to take home, all with the hopes of sharing and implementing some new found proposal that might positively affect student success. To this end Spring Plenary did not disappoint. For instance, I hit upon some thoughts on how to increase faculty involvement in senate activities, as well as ways to expand faculty's participation on various committees. We all know the reality in which twenty percent of the people do eighty percent of the work. Yet *Chaffey College* seems to have gotten a hold on the issue, so perhaps theirs is a model to emulate.

In terms of other noteworthy nuggets gleaned from the April conference here are five worth sharing. First and foremost, was that literally everywhere and among everyone residing at the Westin these 3 days we all couldn't help but be discussing the huge importance on generating opportunities and funds for professional development. It is a ship that is in desperate need of re-charting. Second, and of equal significance was the importance CCC's need to be doing to extend the reach of their local CTE programs. Aside from schools staying in touch with their county job market needs, the curriculum structure has to be such so to allow for quick COR changes, new course approval and senate adoption. Ninety days was mentioned as the target.

A third major topic being discussed, of course, was Math. A good bit of focus was given to how CCC's are handling the Huntington Beach like wave crushing down upon us – as seen in the onslaught of having so *many* students simply not able to move successfully through the math sequence and onto transfer-level coursework. Two full breakout sessions were allotted to just this subject alone.

The latter two topics worth mentioning related to student services. The automation of everything from soup to nuts is soon coming to a student development operation near you. There exists an intense movement to state-wide automate many of the services once done on paper – student Ed Plans, Degree Audits, Early Alert, and on and on. A number of schools are serving as pilots in these areas. VVC, even now, serves as a test school for experimenting with using a common CC Electronic SEP's. Then finally there is the soon-to-be completed **Common Assessment** Instrument. Sitting in on a breakout for this I was impressed on just how well-conceived the project is, how efficiently it is coming along, and more importantly how it is designed to benefit students. The *new* product has the capability to clearly analyze an incoming student's strengths and weaknesses, thereby identifying skill sets in need of focus or replenishment. The tool should help math, English and basic skills departments much better target course or module offerings directly geared to areas where students require remediation.

By Sunday one could say a good time was had by all, I appreciating the fellowship of my VVC partners Claude Oliver, Leslie Huiner, and Eartha Johnson.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Spring Plenary was April 9-11, 2015, in San Francisco. For more info on the Spring Plenary, please see page 3!

Spring Plenary Report, cont.

AB86 and Adult Education

VVC is part of the Victor Valley Regional Consortium (VVRC) for Adult Education, which offers courses in the following areas: Basic Skills/High School Diploma/Equivalency; English Second Language (ESL)/Citizenship; Adults with Disabilities; Short Term Career Technical Education; Programs for Apprentices. As a result of AB86, in fall 2015 apportionment for non-credit instruction for Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) will increase to the same level as credit classes. See the full report at

<http://ab86.cccco.edu/portals/7/docs/plans/13-328->

[066%20Victor%20Valley%20Regional%20Consortium-%203.1.15%20Final%20Plan.pdf](http://ab86.cccco.edu/portals/7/docs/plans/13-328-066%20Victor%20Valley%20Regional%20Consortium-%203.1.15%20Final%20Plan.pdf)

(contributed by Leslie Huiner)

New VVC Academic Senate Governing Documents

Beginning in Fall 2015, the VVC Academic Senate will be implementing the changes in the Constitution and By-laws, ratified in Fall 2014.

Major changes:

- Process for removal of non-participating faculty from AS and Shared Governance committees.
- Recommended terms of service on all committees, so every faculty member has the opportunity to volunteer for the committee of their choice.
- Addition of a third Adjunct Faculty Area Representative; special election for this position will take place Fall 2015
- The AS Executive Board (ASEB) will be the sole appointer of all faculty to Academic Senate and Shared

Governance Committees, ensuring that all faculty have the opportunity to participate in committee service

- Definition and examples of what constitutes “college service” to assist faculty in meeting their academic and professional obligations
- Process for election of Department Chair Representative to College Council, and what that position entails
- Revised duties of AS President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President to reflect current AS practice
- Formalization of proxy voting by AS Area Reps
- Explanation of committee chair and committee member responsibilities, such as recording meeting minutes for

accreditation purposes, holding regular meetings, etc.

- Revision of regular election timeline to reflect current 16-week semester calendar
- Please remember that **all** committee appointments go through the Academic Senate Executive Board (ASEB)!

To examine the ratified governing document changes, please visit the VVC Academic Senate webpage, under ‘Approved Documents’:

<http://www.vvc.edu/offices/faculty-services/faculty-senate/resolutions.shtml>

VVC AS Executive Team, 2014-16

President — Claude Oliver
Vice President — Jessica Gibbs
Secretary — Leslie Huiner
Treasurer — Steve Toner
Past President — Tracy Davis

All VVC Academic Senate meeting minutes are online: <http://www.vvc.edu/offices/faculty-services/faculty-senate/minutes.shtml> as well as on SharePoint.

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

Senate Office Hours, Spring 2015

Expanded office hours to serve YOU better!

Mondays — 2:30-3:30 p.m.; 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays — 11:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.12:30-2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays — 1:30-2:30 p.m.; 5:20-6:20 p.m.

Thursdays — 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The Academic Senate office is located in Building 55, office 30, across from the VPI's office. The telephone extension is 2821.

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'.

Meetings for Spring 2015:

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Academic Senate Representatives, 2014-2016

- **2014-2016**
- Science: Richard Cerreto and Lisa Harvey
- Liberal Arts: Karen Tomlin and Lisa Ellis
- ATC: Patrick Malone and Tim Adell
- Academic Commons: Dave Hollomon
- Allied Health: Alice Ramming* and Terry Truelove
- Library/Counseling: Mike McCracken and Lorena Ochoa
- PAC: Ed Heaberlin
- Vocational: Gary Menser*
- Kinesiology: Debra Blanchard
- Public Safety Training Center: Dave Oleson
- At-Large Representatives: David Gibbs and Khalid Rubayi
- Adjunct Faculty Representatives*: Cheryl Elsmore and Glenn Akers

* Indicates empty, additional or open seat for Fall 2015!