

November 12, 2013

Good evening.

The AS would like to thank VVC administration for their efficient scheduling of the ACCJC site visit last Monday, November 4, 2013. The AS would also like to thank Trustee Pinkerton for his presence at the early morning session to welcome the visiting team. It was clear to the faculty present at 8:30 a.m. that he was there to support the college.

It was clear from my conversation with two members of the visiting team that they recognized all the hard work faculty had completed regarding recommendations 2 and 3. In fact, that was a refrain throughout the meeting: "it's obvious how much work you've done". The team members were also complimentary regarding the May 2013 AS BoT report (which they referenced), and thanked me for clearly outlining the work faculty undertake in regards to authentic SLO assessment. It is clear that these representatives of ACCJC looked not only at the SharePoint materials provided for them, but also the BoT reports and minutes. The team members were also complimentary regarding our AS minutes, written and coordinated by AS Secretary Leslie Huiner. Although we have some time to wait before the official report of the ACCJC visit is sent to our institution, the questions and comments by the visiting team indicated that they acknowledged the substantial progress made in recommendations 2 and 3; in fact, they even made suggestions for our midterm report, due in March 2014. It is due to all of the hard work of all VVC

faculty, in addition to the work of the SLOAC and IPRC that we demonstrated compliance to ACCJC recommendations.

ASET members Leslie Huiner, Lisa Harvey, Claude Oliver and myself spent last week at the Fall Plenary Session in Irvine, where accreditation was a hot topic. We spent 7-8 hours in sessions, including working lunch sessions, also learning about developments in curriculum, the SSA, counseling, basic skills, and other relevant topics that will affect VVC. As the VVC AS delegate, I also spent Saturday voting on ASCCC resolutions that will form the basis for ASCCC action throughout the coming year. Resolution topics included accreditation issues, student athlete registration, CTE issues, and professional development. I urge all interested to visit the ASCCC website for presentations and the list of approved resolutions, at [www.asccc.org](http://www.asccc.org).

One of the topics always present in one way or another at the Plenary Sessions is student readiness and success. Whether it's Basic Skills issues, and how these students fit into higher education, whether it's a basic lack of preparedness on the part of many CCC students, it was clear that faculty at the Plenary Session were looking for ways to assist students in reaching their educational goals. As we have heard in past BoT meetings, students have reported on how VVC changed their lives, and that is in part to the excellent faculty we have, who go the extra mile to help their students. For example, the Math Success Center has made a huge difference to the students who take advantage of the services provided; unfortunately, the Edison grant used to start up this center is now gone...it's imperative that the good work the Math Success Center does continues beyond

this semester, and it's the recommendation of the VVC AS that funding for this center be institutionalized so it can be a vanguard for this college in student success at VVC.

But it isn't just about what the faculty can do to assist students which contributes to student success. Students have a responsibility for their academic achievement. As a community college graduate who transferred to a university, I am certainly indebted to my professors, and they did have a hand in inspiring me to go on and stand here today. But I also took responsibility for my own education; this isn't just academic achievement, but volunteering my time, working three jobs – sometimes at the same time – to pay tuition, applying for numerous scholarships, and above all, WANTING to succeed. As teachers, we have to emphasize that education will only be as valuable to our students as THEY wish it to be. They 'gotta wanna' do it. The VVC AS will be working with ASB – I've already briefly contacted ASB P Evelyn Blanco – to promote **true** 'student centered' learning...which involves the student taking an ACTIVE role in their education, and being responsible for their own learning.

On the agenda tonight is the second reading of the proposed revision of BP 2210 regarding how the BoT officers are chosen. As noted by the AS last month, in 2009, a rotation system was established to ensure that all BoTs were able to serve as president and other officers. This current practice is fair, and provides observational training for new BoTs, so when their turn arrives, they can draw on the wealth of information and knowledge of previous BoT presidents. Therefore, the AS once again recommends that the

BoT continue their present policy of rotation, which is clear, objective and demonstrates continuity of practice.

Finally, the AS welcomes notice that VVC is beginning the process of hiring a permanent Superintendent/President. Peter Allan has provided excellent leadership this semester, and no doubt will continue to see our institution through the next steps in accreditation and other important matters. However, it is imperative that VVC focuses on the next academic year, and that we have a president who is permanent and will guide us into the future. The AS looks forward to notice from VVC administration and the BoT regarding the hiring committee, and we are more than ready to take our allotted space in the process of finding our next institutional leader. The AS thanks the administration and BoT in advance for our customary inclusion in this process, and we are ready to go whenever you are.

Thank you.