

October 8, 2013

Good evening. I apologize for any slurring tonight – I just had some dental work done, and will be leaving after my report is done tonight. Thank you for your understanding.

The AS would like to thank Claude Oliver for providing extensive financial information for VVC when he represented the Academic Senate at the September BoT meeting. This information has been widely discussed in many college forums in the last month, and has prompted faculty interest in the college's financial affairs to a level the AS has not seen before. The AS welcomes this interest by faculty in our college budget, and believes this interest will result in an informed and active discussion of the college's financial matters.

Speaking of the budget, Dr. GH Javaheripour attended our AS general meeting last Thursday – we thank him -- where he presented a brief overview of VVC's budget to the assembled faculty. In this presentation, he stated that four full-time positions had been budgeted for hiring. The AS recommends that the list presented to VVC administration in June 2013 be used to hire four full-time faculty to increase our service to students, and provide our valued Adjunct faculty with the opportunity to apply for these positions.

In fact, the Academic Senate was hoping to welcome the new full-time AVA instructor at tonight's meeting; however, we recently learned that the individual chosen to fill this important position did not accept the offer that VVC made...apparently, the salary was too low, and not competitive with private industry. Thankfully, this program has many excellent Adjunct faculty to continue to serve students, but the program and the students would have greatly benefitted from a full-time instructor, and now, needed program review data and program planning will be lacking. The FAA recommended that this position be filled as soon as possible, so it is the AS hope that another hiring process will result in a full-time instructor in a timely manner.

As VVC looks to submitting the ACCJC follow-up report in preparation for the November site visit, the Academic Senate urges the BoT to support this institution in the coming weeks by presenting a positive answer to questions regarding the accreditation process. After a long and arduous process of collecting data, summarizing that data, and creating a narrative of VVC's achievements in the last year, the Academic Senate is confident that this follow-up report proves we have met the ACCJC recommendations for Program Review, SLO Assessment and financial stability.

On the agenda tonight is a proposed revision of BP 2210 regarding how the BoT officers are chosen. 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. The AS is not sure why there is a proposed change at this time, when the next scheduled BoT president is Dennis Henderson, as he is currently the longest-serving member of this body. His wealth of experience over the last several years provides the newer members with invaluable observational training that the proposed revision may not address.

As the current ASP, I spent two years as the VP in a similar situation. When one runs for the AS VP, it's understood it's a six-year commitment: two years as VP, two years as ASP, and two years as PP. This system enables new faculty to receive mentoring from previous officers, so the day-to-day business of the AS can continue uninterrupted by the steep learning curve inherent in the position of president. The current BoT policy also provides for uninterrupted leadership, and, by the time the newer trustees become BoT president, they will have enough experience to seamlessly transition from one individual to the next.

If the BoT wish to modify this policy, the AS suggests it wait until the next BoT president is rotated in...at this time, it appears that the proposed change is more of a block to the next BoT president, rather than a true revision of this

policy. Such an important office should remain available to *all* BoTs, who, in the current rotation process, will be able to serve as president. It is feared the changes to this BP at this time will result in a popularity contest, with public jockeying for position. The college and the community need to see continuity in practice on the BoT, and changing this policy now may create the sense of instability. As the AS has recommended many times before, stability is key for our college to succeed. Therefore, it is the AS view that the *current* BP 2210 remain in place.

Thank you.