

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees – February 23, 2010**

Karolyn van Putten

Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening trustees, chancellor, district administrative center staff, college presidents and members of the public.

With student demand at an all-time high, even as the state allocation for community colleges shrinks, we are sharpening our focus on enrollment management and its importance, while maintaining the quality and integrity of our educational offerings. Faculty have a keen interest in participating in these dialogues and there is ample support for how our contributions can be beneficial, as the colleges make increasingly difficult decisions that become part of our assessment practices. The ARCC report data that you heard about earlier will be useful in this regard.

We are facing the prospect of eliminating 240 sections from the fall schedule and the impact of imminent faculty retirements. As faculty numbers dwindle, the current budget crisis threatens our ability to replace them, while the district plans to continue spending more money on the left side of the 50% law.

In alignment with that, at this time **we are officially requesting a written explanation for the Board's continuing focus on hiring a vice chancellor of human resources**, particularly without following agreed upon participatory governance processes.

We are aware that our PFT contract is due to expire the end of June 2010 and while that is a matter that falls under the purview of the collective bargaining agent, the district senate has concerns about the possibility of contract negotiations detracting and distracting our attention from the serious accreditation weaknesses the district has a commitment to correcting.

We believe that the district's interests are better served by extending the current contract until at least some of these troublesome matters are resolved. In addition, it is essential that we concentrate on getting our affairs in order if we want to successfully attract desirable candidates for several open high-level positions.

Finally, for the record, there is growing alarm among faculty about the district's entertaining proposals for student housing development that would use scarce bond resources for what some perceive to be real estate speculation. We are actively monitoring the status of these proposals and examining their viability.

In memory of University of Alabama biology professors Drs. Gopi Podila, Maria Ragland Davis and Adriel Johnson, that concludes my report for tonight. Thank you.