

DAS Vice President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees – March 23, 2010
Anita M. Black

Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening Trustees, Chancellor, District Administrative Staff, College Presidents and members of the public.

On behalf of our DAS President, Dr. Karolyn van Putten, who could not attend tonight's Board meeting, due to the loss of her beloved mother, I was asked to give a brief report from the District Academic Senate.

As Dr. van Putten stated on previous occasions, faculty are keenly interested in participating in the dialogue, contributing, supporting and meeting the colleges' ever more difficult choices facing us in these troubled times. For some of us, the prospects we face are daunting, especially when we are confronted with budget reduction scenarios consisting of "a minimum of 3%, plan for 5%, but get ready for 10%" in 2010-2011. Keep in mind, all of this as we prepare for our most serious challenge—accreditation weaknesses and demonstrating our commitment to correct the situation.

With that said, we are officially requesting and recommending the following:

1. Place an immediate hiring freeze on all PCCD positions, with necessary positions filled on an interim basis for at least one year.
2. Do not use PCCD Measure A funds to purchase property in Berkeley for the development of student housing. Revenue generating proposals should use other funds. Measure A funds are needed for the Peralta colleges educational facilities, i.e. for such expenditures as student desks, urgent renovation and/or replacement to meet basic standards of health and safety, earthquake compliance, and access, as well as the changing needs of 21st century classrooms, labs, libraries and student support services. Having already acknowledged, paraphrasing General Services Vice Chancellor Dr. Ikharo that our true need is far greater than the amount of bond monies currently available, using even 1/390th of Measure A for speculative land proposals is contraindicated.
3. Correct our most damaging accreditation deficiency by contracting with PeopleSoft programmers to customize our financial and student administration systems. Contracts should be short-term, outcome driven and thoroughly tested with end users.
4. In solidarity with our collective bargaining agent and as previously reported by DAS President van Putten, to focus on addressing our accreditation deficiencies, the DAS feels we are better served by extending the current contract until at least some of these troublesome matters are resolved. As educational entities that cannot survive without it, it behooves us to maintain our concentration on our accreditation status.

It is our understanding that official board policy makes it incumbent on you to accept our recommendations or to provide, in writing, an explanation for why you have not done so.

That concludes my report for this evening. Thank you.