

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for February 1, 2011**  
**Karolyn van Putten**

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

As you are undoubtedly aware, as a district, we've had a really rough start to this semester . . . IT challenges and outages, an untested system of wait-listing and permission numbers, overcrowded classrooms, students unable to get into classes, long lines for picking up financial aid disbursements, and more.

At the last board meeting on January 18, I reported to you on the recent formation of an Ad Hoc Committee, composed primarily of both senate and union faculty representatives, that is advisory to the chancellor on matters pertaining to program consolidation and viability. The senate members of this committee are primarily focused on proposing options and making recommendations that maintain the integrity of our academic programs. This focus is the outgrowth of our longstanding concern about number-crunching decision-making that does not take the extended view of program sustainability into consideration.

Since the last board meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee has met weekly on Tuesday mornings, for 2 and 1/2 hours, most recently this morning, during which time the chancellor provided us with specific accommodations and direction to support the work we are doing. Based on the output of several discipline meetings that began last fall, as of this morning, we've begun reviewing and organizing the ideas that faculty have suggested for ways to consolidate our course offerings across the district while preserving transfer, degree, and certificate pathways for our students.

The Ad Hoc committee has a web site, <http://eperalta.org/wp/consolidation/>, where our documents, agendas, and meeting minutes are posted and comments are open for feedback from the community, both internal and external. Please use this resource to follow our work, which will continue through the spring semester and perhaps beyond.

There are many things I could speak on tonight to express numerous areas of distress and anxiety. I will not.

However, I couldn't help but noticing when I was listening to President Obama's State of the Union speech last week, that in many instances for some of his comments, if we simply substituted the word "Peralta" for America, the statements would hold true.

I want to just remind us, as one of the members of the audience did a few moments ago, that none of us can do what needs to be done alone; no single individual, constituency, college, discipline, department, business or service unit. Not the unions or the senates. If we do not choose to work together toward common goals, we will fall, individually and in small or large groups, and Peralta will cease to exist. It's as simple as that.

Let it be clearly stated and known: if you're not actively engaged in helping us take corrective action, you're on the side of failure; actively or inactively hindering our progress. If you're not busy being reborn, then you're busy helping us die. There's no time or room for fighting. If you're fighting, you're killing. Period. As President Obama stated, "The future is ours to win." We will move forward together, or not at all -- for the challenges we face are bigger than administration or faculty or staff, bigger than Peralta, bigger than the California Community College system, and it goes on, and on. Just a reminder.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you.