

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for April 26, 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.

At the last Board of Trustees meeting on April 12, I addressed prospects for finding ways to better and more consistently incorporate teaching and learning about democracy. You will recall that Chancellor Allen affirmed the importance of this in his missive to the district community about the Peralta budget situation.

Because it is so essential to the American way, I am pleased to report on an outcome from the spring plenary of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, which met the week before spring break. More than 100 voting representatives from the state's community colleges APPROVED a resolution to "endorse "The Democracy Commitment" as a project through which our many campuses and local senates may pursue programs and initiatives that support the democratic learning and engagement of our students."

This commitment (and I am quoting from the resolution text) "is a national community college initiative to provide a necessary platform for the 'development and expansion of programs and projects aimed at engaging community college students in civic learning and democratic practice'."

As a result of this approval (again, quoting the resolution), "the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges [was directed to] produce an action-oriented guide furthering the aims of 'The Democracy Commitment' for use by the California community colleges, addressing curriculum as well as other activities for students, faculty, staff, and administrators, with an initial draft of this guide available for review at the Spring 2012 Plenary Session." It is my hope that the senates of the Peralta colleges will support this initiative and recommend ways in which we can incorporate this guide and other activities into our college curricula.

You will find more information about this national initiative, "The Democracy Commitment," spearheaded by DeAnza College President Brian Murphy, at the following website: <http://www.deanza.edu/communityengagement/democracycommitment/>, and there is a budding Facebook page devoted to networking all participants. The chancellor and all college presidents are invited and encouraged to become signatories to the Democracy Commitment Declaration that is available on the website, and you'll find information there about how to get involved.

Somewhat closer to home, we are especially pleased to see the PCCD Smart Classroom Security Implementation Project on tonight's agenda for your approval. As you may know, smart classrooms are a long-awaited addition to our pedagogical toolbox and we have been disturbed about the absence of adequate security for them. Your approval of this contract and its successful and timely implementation will help encourage us to breathe more freely.

After months of consideration and attention, on Friday the Planning and Budget Integration Council, the ultimate district-wide shared governance body that is responsible for making

recommendations to the Chancellor, will be reviewing the second draft of a proposed and long-awaited Budget Allocation Model that will help guide the development of Peralta's 2011-12 annual budget.

This draft will be distributed to council members shortly, and the council will be sharing it with our college constituencies for additional feedback and input. You will be hearing more about this from Vice Chancellor Gerhard in the weeks ahead.

We are looking forward to next week's chancellor search forums at Laney and the opportunity they will provide for meaningful input to the search parameters. As Trustee Gulassa mentioned a few moments ago, the chancellor search forums will be on Monday, May 2, from 4:30 to 6pm and on Wednesday, May 4, from 12 noon to 2pm. Both forums will be held in the appropriately named Laney Forum.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.