

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for September 13, 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 we begin another academic year one matter at the forefront of the senate's consciousness is how we will maintain the integrity and viability of our programs and services while responding to state-mandated workload reductions. Along with this concern, we intend to focus on making recommendations that will support us in being able to grow again, whenever that may be possible.

You are certainly well aware that workforce reductions mean having fewer faculty and staff, and offering fewer sections and courses to the students in our community.

Last spring, as participants in the Chancellor's Ad Hoc Committee, we made an effort to propose some guiding principles and suggested practices that could be helpful in having these difficult conversations. The outcome of that effort was less practical than we hoped, and, not surprisingly, the conversations are becoming increasingly difficult.

The urgency and importance of these conversations is underscored and reinforced by the 5th recommendation we recently received from the ACCJC, that being: "... the District/Colleges must evaluate the impact of financial decisions on the educational quality and implement actions to resolve any deficiencies." According to the ACCJC, "the District/Colleges do not demonstrate the fiscal capacity to adequately support quality student learning programs and services."

We know that this topic will be addressed and some planning activity for resolving it, primarily driven by the colleges shared governance processes, will emerge from the District Education Committee (DEC) and is on the agenda for discussion at our first meeting on Friday. I will keep the Board advised of our progress in this arena.

I am pleased to report that the first phase of our district-wide smart classroom implementation project is almost completed and most of the level 1 classrooms are operational. Faculty is being trained in how to correctly operate the equipment in these rooms and security measures to keep it there are under development. Given the 3 years of planning effort that preceded this accomplishment, it is very gratifying to witness the excitement exhibited by those faculty members who are being introduced to educational technologies with which they were formerly unfamiliar. I will take this opportunity to publicly thank General Services Vice Chancellor Ikhara and his project management staff for the work they did to implement smart classrooms at the four Peralta colleges.

The integrated system of components in these rooms is already making it possible to expand into a modified form of lecture capture capability, using Livescribe Smartpen technology. The Livescribe system is being promoted statewide by Laney College Learning Disability Specialist Professor Stacey Kayden, as a methodology for supporting special learning needs. While it is certainly helpful for that purpose, it is also likely to be helpful to ALL students who need to review outside of class what a teacher said or explained in class. Expanding pedagogical possibilities that can better facilitate learning is the next iteration of the smart classrooms implementation project and incorporating Smartpen technology is one way we have begun doing that.

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