

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for October 25, 2011

Karolyn van Putten

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

In tonight's report I will update you on the status of assessment district-wide, including some recent activities and future plans. As you are well aware, the Accrediting Commission expects all of its colleges to be at the level of proficiency with respect to student learning outcomes by fall 2012. On June 28 of this year, at one of your summer meetings, College of Alameda SLOAC and economics Professor Diana Bajrami and I provided you with a comprehensive overview of what that means and what the Peralta colleges are doing to meet the ACCJC expectation. At the conclusion of our presentation, Trustee Withrow asked if we were making enough progress to ensure meeting the ACCJC deadline. I assured him then and assure you now, that we will continue pushing in every way possible to meet this goal.

Near the beginning of the fall term, each college put some effort into re-energizing faculty around assessment, including discussions during professional development flex days, at college planning retreats, and other shared governance meetings. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Budd, the Vice Chancellor of Educational Services, convened a meeting of the college Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Coordinators so that we would have an opportunity to discuss our plans, our progress and how we might be helpful to one another. One outcome from that meeting is the intention to have a special Service Area Outcomes district-wide summit on November 17, where we anticipate gaining better clarity about the state of assessment as it pertains to student services areas, sharing best practices, and aligning our intentions.

In addition, Dr. Orkin, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, has begun working with the colleges and the district administrative center to devise processes and procedures for assessing business and administrative units. Monitoring the progress of these efforts is a standing agenda item for the District Academic Senate, where we also share information about what assessment efforts are working – or not – on our campuses.

During the most recent District Education Committee, Berkeley City College SLOAC Professor Jennifer Lowood presented the committee members with a description of the how BCC is aligning its course, program and institutional outcomes using curriculum mapping in order to track the essential connections between what we teach, how students learn and the college mission.

The point of the preceding brief summary is simply to provide some context for reminding you that there are multiple moving pieces to this effort and several interrelated dimensions to manage and inform.

Last week, Laney College had its first focused-on-progress Assessment Week and I am pleased to report to you that it was a success. Over the 9 hours of support that were available to the college faculty, thirteen disciplines kept scheduled appointments to work on various aspects of their assessment planning and entering data into TaskStream, our web-based evidence database, resulting in meaningful progress for the college. Twelve faculty members, including the College of Alameda SLOAC, Professor Bajrami, provided intensive, discipline-specific help to our colleagues. We expect to have a second Assessment Week on November 8, 9, & 10, which will focus on the relationship between assessment planning and teaching for learning. It is our intention to have similar activities during college flex days at the beginning of the spring term, and to have two more Assessment Weeks during the spring semester.

In a few weeks the Chancellor and Mr. Grivich will present you the next group of recommended board policies for approval that are based on the Community College League of California template. Since you have already passed an internal resolution in support of assessment, we are relatively confident that the intentions of your resolution will be included in the proposed revisions. Please stay alert to ensure that this occurs.

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