

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for November 15, 2011

Karolyn van Putten

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

Because of their relevance to items addressed in previous DAS president's reports, I have extracted a few comments from the presentations at last week's board workshop on various fiscal matters that warrant additional exposure at this time.

For several months we have been awaiting substantive responses to our numerous inquiries about the budget for the Office of International Education. While some answers have begun to emerge, thanks to our vice chancellor of finance and administration, it is particularly gratifying to see a recommendation in the Fiscal Crisis and Management Team (FCMAT) report that addresses this need. The FCMAT recommendation is that the District "perform [sic] a detailed study of the financial profitability of the IA office's foreign student recruitment," and that it "use the April 19, 2007 report produced by the office of the inspector general as a guideline for the study." We are hopeful that addressing this recommendation will result in gathering and disseminating the remaining information we seek.

In Fiscal Advisor Tom Henry's presentation to the board on Accreditation Governance and Leadership, he mentions several topics relevant to Peralta in the Accreditation Top Ten. The first is "Ensure structured, sustainable participation in institutional decision-making (planning and governance)." The second is "Establish periodic assessment of decision-making (planning and governance) processes; use assessment for quality improvement." Number seven on this list is "Integrate Program Review and budget development". Finally, number 10 in the Accreditation Top Ten is "Set aside funds for improvement of institutional quality; consider having a percentage of the revenues dedicated to 'institutional improvement.'" We encourage the board and the district to ensure that this item is addressed in the budget for AY 2012-13.

Earlier today, the chancellor distributed a revision to last week's Intra-District Faculty Transfer Opportunities, to which you received a response from Laney machine technology Professor Louis Quindlen. Since sending that message, the chancellor attended today's District Senate meeting to hear and respond to some of the concerns articulated in Professor Quindlen's message. We believe that he heard some viable suggestions for how to address and correct some of the faculty staffing inequities we are currently experiencing and we will be looking for some additional corrective action that will help minimize the impact on our programs of possible intra-district transfers.

For example, as Laney Senate President Franeta mentioned earlier, since the money for each position follows the person, how will the college that lost the funding have the ability to hire another full-time faculty member to replace the person who voluntarily transfers, assuming the hiring freeze is ever lifted? Other impacts of this announcement include considerations of program viability, adjustments to articulation agreements, sustaining the ability to be comprehensive colleges, the quality of our program offerings, and the inadvertent, damaging effects on student equity at one or more of the colleges. All of these matters relate specifically to recommendation #5 in the current ACCJC midterm report preparation process.

Finally, picking up where the Chancellor's Ad Hoc Committee (CAHC) left off last spring, the District Academic Senate has assumed responsibility for framing and guiding the necessary 4-college dialogue related to how repeated budget cuts are affecting the ongoing viability of our programs and services, which we perceive to be a direct expression of faculty primacy in the areas of curriculum, standards or policies regarding student preparation and success, and processes for institutional planning and budget development.

We will use the questions that the CAHC finalized as our entry to examining specific programs, losses from which could have district-wide impacts. After eliciting responses to these questions from the relevant program faculty, we will review those responses and come to agreement about making useful recommendations to the District Education Committee and other shared governance entities. It is our intention to use this process to promote effective participation of faculty during January flex days, after which we will be better prepared to provide meaningful recommendations.

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