

## **DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for January 24, 2012**

Karolyn van Putten

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

Assessment. As we begin the first semester of 2012, this word weighs heavily on our minds. 2012 is the year the ACCJC expects us, and that would be ALL of us (including administrators at every level) to be demonstrating proficiency at looking at ourselves to see what's working or not, and using the results of that self-examination to make improvements in support of student learning and success, as Trustee Handy just mentioned.

In order to do that, we must be able to show that we have completed at least one entire cycle of outcomes-generated, results-based decision-making, in student services, all district and college business and administrative units, and, of course, instruction.

Last week, during my remarks on District Flex Day, in reference to the importance and true meaning of assessment, I reminded all attendees that several of us would be "in your face . . . from every possible direction, at every possible opportunity." Certainly, that reminder applies to the board level as well. Although it will not always be nearly the first word out of my mouth when providing you these reports, you can be certain that it will be addressed, one way or another, in every DAS president's report that I deliver this year. This is so that you can be informed about what may become the most central concern, other than the condition and impact of our financial situation, during the next accreditation team visit.

While we make every effort to maximize the number of students in our classrooms, up to what is permitted by fire and safety codes, it is also important to realize and consider the impact on classroom assessment of having a larger number of students than can reasonably be expected to succeed, given their needs and the constraints of our current funding model. Despite what some administrators may attempt to justify as necessary, raising enrollment caps immediately before and during the first week of classes is not what we perceive as demonstrating support for the pedagogical and services needs of our student population. As my colleague, PFT president Dr. Matthew Goldstein noted earlier, we do better working together on these adjustments than working at cross purposes.

Some of you will recall from the remarks sent to you that on District Flex Day I also offered to start a Smart Classroom Faculty Teaching and Learning Cohort, if at least 3 other faculty members were willing to join me. It has been encouraging and enlivening to get immediate and ongoing feedback from my faculty colleagues who have accepted that offer and we are eager to do what we can to make good use of the investment the District has made in smart classroom technology.

In previous reports to the Board I have commented on our worries about the need for adequate and effective smart classroom security. Some responses to those worries have generated new ones. We understand the rationale given for installing surveillance cameras inside these

classrooms, but we also need to know that the privacy and academic integrity of our classrooms will not be violated. Specifically, it is not enough to rely on assurances that cameras will not be operating when classes are in session. Like the ACCJC, we need evidence to back up those assurances. Further, because the inevitable will occur, and recordings can be made by mistake, we want to know how the resulting tapes or digital files can be used. We expect to be involved in the development of mutually satisfying policies and procedures relating to this issue.

In closing, with mixed feelings, we applaud the interim appointment of a long-time faculty stalwart to Vice President of Instruction at Merritt College. With decades of experience as a dedicated and effective classroom instructor Professor Anita Black has also served previously as a Laney College administrator. In her capacity of DAS vice president I have relied on her for advice, wisdom, support, and a willingness to take on difficult and demanding roles as a faculty appointee to various committees, including the Chancellor search committee, so it pains me greatly to lose that. Nonetheless, the senate's loss is the administration's gain. I am confident that Professor Vice President Black will continue to function with integrity and fairness, no matter what position she occupies and eagerly await her return to our ranks.

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