

## **DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for February 28, 2012**

Karolyn van Putten

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

Like you, no doubt, we appreciate the delivery tonight of a long-awaited Information Technology Strategic Plan for Peralta. As a member of the strategic plan ad hoc group and of the District's Planning and Budgeting Council, I can attest to its inclusivity of faculty as well as to its review and approval by the appropriate shared governance constituencies. This plan also has the approval of District Academic Senate (DAS) Vice President Bob Grill, who is the DAS member most knowledgeable about the plan's technical aspects.

While we support and appreciate the plan, we remain concerned about how it will be funded and seek assurances that limited general fund dollars will not be diverted from essential instructional functions. We understand that information technology undergirds just about everything that we do in the classroom, yet we do not want to see a trade-off of general fund dollars that pits course sections and smart classrooms against IT plan project needs. We firmly believe that those IT plan projects should be supported, whenever possible, by bond funds that cannot be used for instruction, and it was with this proviso that the Planning and Budgeting Council supported the IT Strategic Plan document.

As you may have observed, surveying the status of assessment at each of the colleges is a standing agenda item for the District Academic Senate. Although we are still heavily engaged in the details of conducting and documenting ongoing assessment of student, program and institutional learning outcomes, we believe that our efforts will result in a viable and sustainable demonstration of proficiency by the time that is expected of us. Speaking of which, we recently received one bit of good news about the reports colleges will be submitting to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

As Vice Chancellor Budd mentioned earlier this evening, the Commission has divided its reporting schedule into two sections, one set of colleges will submit reports on implementation levels in student learning outcomes assessment in fall 2012. The second set of colleges will submit reports in spring 2013. We're glad to know that all of the Peralta colleges are in the second set. That gives us a few more months within which to document evidence of progress.

In closing, I will mention a recent communication from Drew Burgess, an Art Department faculty member at the College of Alameda. Professor Burgess wanted me to know about the CoA Art Club he started that meets at 1pm on Wednesdays in Room D-316. Professor Burgess thinks, and I wholeheartedly concur that "each college needs rounded curriculum to build a culture of learning." He sees the Art Club as a way of helpfully connecting with students in a less formal manner than that of the classroom.

Although forming clubs is certainly a good way to support building a culture of learning, I must also acknowledge the not insignificant added workload that results from taking on a club sponsorship. In our current environment, with too few faculty available to do even more work, it is difficult for me to imagine where and how our already stretched faculty finds time to do these important "extra-curricular" activities. I commend Professor Burgess and each faculty member who sponsors a student club for stretching beyond expected classroom needs and demands to add something that brings joy and provides better services to students.

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