

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees on April 24, 2012
Karolyn van Putten

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

Since returning from spring break and beginning with the chancellor search finalists forums, for the past two weeks some of us have been caught up in a whirlwind of activity that included preparations for and navigating the ACCJC team visit, contract ratification, a site visit, and 3 days of immersion in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges spring plenary, in addition to our usual professional responsibilities and shared governance committee meetings. With only four weeks remaining in the semester, the inevitable pressure that accompanies the end of an academic year is increasing and our available time is shrinking.

During last week's Academic Senate plenary, a large contingent of twelve Peralta faculty from all four colleges attended breakouts on such topics as community college governance restructuring and regulatory reform, course repeatability, financial aid changes, instructional materials, defining career and college readiness, and responding to the student success task force recommendations at the local level. Additional hot button themes were corporatization of education, lessons learned from Finland's world class educational system, textbook affordability and using assessment to guide planning. With respect to the last theme, participants discussed and explored some of the ways assessment processes and results can be used not only to create or justify changes to courses and educational requirements, but also for enrollment management and fiscal decisions, both of which require coordinating the academic calendar with the budget development calendar at the college and at the district.

At session, among others, we passed resolutions to limit taxpayer funded, need-based financial aid to public and private nonprofit colleges only, to protect early childhood education, and in support of legislation to enhance infrastructure components directly correlated to increased student success. One resolution that passed overwhelmingly is particularly relevant to you as a governing board. I will read those resolves now and you can review the whereases on the ASCCC web site.

“Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges undertake its own review of the virtues and failings of current district governing board and district administrative structures, with particular attention to the way limited and declining resources can be preserved for instructional and student services; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges consider pursuing modifications to existing district governing board and district administrative structures which would enhance college control and improve educational leadership and student success.”

Now that you have decided who our next chancellor will be, I want to publicly thank the four faculty members who served on the search committee, one from each of our colleges. Sincere, heartfelt and well-deserved words of appreciation go out to Professors Joseph Bielanski, Jr. (Berkeley City College), Mustafa Popal (College of Alameda), Matthew Goldstein (Laney College) and Audrey Trotter (Merritt College). To the best of my knowledge, they brought to this challenging and demanding task immense personal integrity, deep professional knowledge, and an abiding commitment to the best interests of the district, its staff and students, while maintaining the confidentiality expected of the process. I value highly their service on behalf of all of my faculty colleagues.

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