

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for July 17, 2012
Karolyn van Putten

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

In the absence of full senate input during the summer break, tonight's report will be brief, while touching on matters of lasting concern and importance.

Starting with the most important matter that of our accreditation status -- continued on warning. While the commission's action was not thrilling happy news, neither was it surprising. Specifically in reference to recommendation #5, that of having sufficient resources to sustain providing quality student learning and support services, it is easily apparent that reductions in state funding have had a downsizing impact on our collective ability to meet as much of the community demand as there is need. It must also be recognized that some of this downsizing impact is, at least in part, a function of how we as a district have allocated our decreasing resources. As mentioned in a previous DAS President's Report to the Board on March 27 of this year,

“Just as the district has allocated funds to improve its financial eligibility status, administrative capacity and board governance processes, it remains critical that the district also allocate FTES- and FTEF-based funding to help accelerate our progress toward demonstrating proficiency in the area of student learning outcomes and support services.”

In that context I was referring primarily to the assessment arena, which remains in need of sustained funding attention, however, the statement holds true in a larger sense, and for the last phrase I will now substitute, “It remains critical to allocate funding to help accelerate our progress toward demonstrating sustainability in the area of educational programs and support services.”

Although, since July of last year, we now have a district-wide Budget Allocation Model that is based on SB361 guidelines, we also realize that the district has been hampered in its ability to apply that model by the constraints on its resources. Vice Chancellor Gerhard has stated that the new parcel tax funds will be helpful in meeting the expectation of full implementation of the model. We anticipate getting more details on how this will be accomplished and fully engaging in the dialogues at Planning and Budgeting Council that will contribute to making these decisions.

Just as critical, however, are the dialogues and decisions awaiting our attention on exactly how and what we will do to show the Commission a viable plan for addressing, in my view, three much-needed processes. They are, 1) determining the true costs of maintaining each of our programs, 2) identifying areas of program refinement/reorganization that are more closely focused, whenever possible, on pathways to AA-Transfer degrees and verifiable career technical successes, and 3) determining ways in which the colleges can better collaborate on our academic offerings and services along with a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of district services, in order to make more efficient uses of our still-

limited resources. We expect the Academic Senate to continue to play a central role in any and all decision-making that affects academic programs.

In closing, and on behalf of the entire District Academic Senate, I officially welcome Chancellor Ortiz and the opportunities I'm confident he will support for meaningful change, enhanced mutual respect and honest collegiality. That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.