

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for September 11, 2012
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Thank you Mr. President, and good evening trustees, chancellor, district administrative center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

As we begin another academic year, here is a short list of those additional matters which require Senate attention during Academic Year 2012-13, not including our expected participation in approving or supporting board policies and district procedures currently under revision.

First and foremost on this list is maintaining curriculum integrity while downsizing course offerings. We realize that the reduction in our funding has had an impact on our ability to offer all of the courses we have previously offered at every college in the district. Given that, it is imperative that the four colleges collaborate on both course offerings and scheduling so that all of the courses students need to complete a program of study are available at one of the Peralta colleges every semester. This requires a great deal of coordination, largely amongst the administrators and department chairs on each campus.

Associated with the preceding item, the second matter requiring focused attention is establishing ongoing communication and information sharing processes through inter- and intra-discipline dialogue. To be completely candid, we're not at all sure how to go about doing this, but we'll be figuring it out as the year progresses.

Third, during my comments on the District Flex Day program, I reminded attendees that we need to be thoroughly prepared for the possibility that some programs may need to be discontinued. This preparation requires that each college and the district have an approved procedure for program discontinuance. Last academic year the district procedure was established and approved. Since programs are associated with colleges, this academic year it is incumbent on the colleges to do the same. At our first DAS meeting this was addressed and the current draft procedure developed at Laney College, at their request, has been shared with the other senators for their use or adaptation. We anticipate that all of our procedures will be in place, hopefully by the beginning of the spring term.

The fourth item on this short list is providing support for using and developing Open Education Resources (OER). This is something for which members of the Peralta board have advocated over the past three or more years. Evidence suggests that use of OER will reduce the high cost of textbooks AND have a positive impact on increasing opportunities for enhancing student engagement while developing or expanding their computer literacy. Further, Peralta faculty who create Open Education Resources will contribute to the growing body of Creative Commons licensed teaching and learning materials, enhance Peralta faculty visibility and stature in the academy while addressing the particular learning styles of our student population.

During his brief remarks at our first DAS meeting, Chancellor Ortiz affirmed the importance of these four areas of attention and his support for our work on them. We welcome that support at least as much as we have welcomed him.

In future reports I will update you on our progress in these areas as well as on our progress toward developing proficiency in the assessment of student learning outcomes. That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.