

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for December 11, 2012

Karolyn van Putten

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

Board Policy 4030, Academic Freedom, is on tonight's agenda for approval. This policy, in chapter 4 of the board policies, the chapter specifically referring to "Academic Affairs" that you as a board agreed are the purview of the Academic Senate, has been carefully and thoroughly considered, word by word, by each of the four college senates presidents, who collectively determined that the language it contains is that which meets our needs. I will note that much of the language in BP 4030 comes directly from the academic freedom policy first developed by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) more than 70 years ago, with interpretive comments inserted in 1970 and reaffirmed in November 2012. Quoting from the advisory statement released by the AAUP and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, that reaffirmation specifically "addresses the role that accreditation plays in sustaining and enhancing academic freedom in the context of review of institutions and programs for quality."ⁱ

Since 1941 the AAUP policy on Academic Freedom has been endorsed by more than 200 academic institutions, including the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, numerous community college entities across the country, and scores of professional associations in most, if not all, of the recognized academic disciplines in higher education today. We stand in good company and trust that you will honor this long history of support for academic freedom by approving the policy that we worked on so studiously.

Last month, in my report to you, I mentioned the increasing importance of computer technology in assisting our students with the 4 C's, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication.

Our colleges are currently involved in a computer refresh cycle that will install some of the latest technology in instructional labs, replacing computers that have lived beyond their years of expected use, and re-using them whenever possible in less demanding situations. It is increasingly clear, however, that our approach to upgrading computer technology will need to be revised in order to make better use of our limited technology budget dollars. For example, a white paper on "The Trifecta of Transforming Education," makes note of the benefits of virtualization, "[maximizing] efficiency by centralizing computing on higher performance servers that are easier to manage"ⁱⁱ and make better use of limited staff resources. You'll find this paper in your email inbox, just sent yesterday. I hope you will find time to read and reflect upon it.

Knowing that district technology is an area near and dear to you, I will take this opportunity to provide you with some feedback, from a faculty perspective, on working with our new AVCIT, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Technology, in my capacity as facilitator of the District Technology Committee, otherwise known as the DTC.

In the few short months since Mr. Madlock's arrival, he has provided a steady stream of suggestions for improving, streamlining, and standardizing how we collect and evaluate data in preparation for developing a 2013-14 budget that incorporates language specific to IT at the colleges and at the district service centers. Earlier this month, at the most recent District Technology Committee meeting (DTC), Mr. Madlock made a brilliant presentation that demonstrated the alignment of IT strategic priorities with Peralta's institutional goals and strategic directions, clearly integrating budgeting and planning. He has encouraged the college technology committee representatives to adopt this approach when bringing technology spending requests to the DTC for evaluation, prioritization and possible recommendation to the Planning and Budgeting Council.

Under AVCIT Madlock's leadership, the district is moving forward with those priorities in the IT Strategic Plan that you approved earlier this year, organized in five thematic areas with 31 different projects. Progress in these Priority A projects will result in improved efficiency, reduced back office costs, and most importantly, better service to our students. I'm sure he will apprise you of the specifics of these projects as they progress. It is a pleasure to work with him and I have every confidence that this will continue to be true.

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

ⁱ <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/2012PRs/aaupchea.htm>. Retrieved December 11, 2012.

ⁱⁱ *The Trifecta for Transforming Education (A NComputing Thought Leadership Paper)*, Retrieved December 10, 2012 from http://thejournal.com/whitepapers/2012/11/ncomputing_trifecta-transforming-education-big-dreams-small-budgets-virtualization-technologies/asset.aspx?tc=assetpg