

District Academic President's Report to the Peralta CCD Board of Trustees for May 14, 2013
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Thank you Mr. President, and good evening trustees, chancellor, district administration center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

Next week we engage in the annual ritual, paradoxically referred to as “commencement”, of acknowledging the accomplishments of our students who are completing degrees and certificates, and in some cases going on to transfer to 4-year colleges and universities. At a future meeting I’ll be able to report to you on exactly how many degrees will have been awarded and which of those are Associate of Arts or Sciences Transfer degrees.

Congruent with Trustee Withrow’s comments a few moments ago, tonight I’ll focus on the relationship of those degrees and certificates to the recently implemented Student Success Scorecard. For the first time in CCC history, each of the Peralta colleges will be evaluated according to standards set by the college itself, rather than by being compared to other colleges in the state. That is, we get to say how well we’re doing by setting expected standards of accomplishment and evaluating whether or not we have met them.

According to the State Chancellor’s Office, “This scorecard represents an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability on student progress and success metrics in higher education in the United States. The data available in this scorecard tell how well colleges are doing in remedial instruction, job training programs, retention of students and graduation and completion rates.”ⁱ Perhaps even more importantly, with the data that will become available, reported by age, ethnicity and gender, we’ll all be better able to determine if our colleges are narrowing achievement gaps, an accomplishment that has important ramifications for California’s economy.

Until this change, sometimes referred to as ARCC 1.0, Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges, each college was compared to a peer group of colleges that shared similar characteristics and peer groups were often different for different areas of the report. In the new version, ARCC 2.0, each college will set its own standards for student success, as I mentioned previously, and will evaluate itself on how well it meets its own standards. Not coincidentally, making this change will support the colleges in addressing accreditation requirements, primarily the expectation that institutions will set standards for student achievement, using data-driven assessment and results for improvement, a process of ongoing internal quality review and quality improvement.

In alignment with that expectation, the Community College League of California suggested, “districts may wish to develop Board Policy that sets standards, expectations and/or goals for:

- Student Success and Student Achievement
- Student Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Data, and their use in program and academic personnel evaluation
- Program Quality (e.g., Program Review and Continuous Improvement)
- Board Role in Monitoring Institutional Effectiveness”ⁱⁱ

As you know, the Peralta Board of Trustees has already approved a policy and related administrative procedure on Student Learning Outcomes (BP and AP 4210). To comply with both the accreditation standards and the ARCC Student Success Scorecards, next academic year you will be asked to approve not yet developed policies and procedures on the use of the results of assessment.

Related to these upcoming requests, at its last meeting, the District Academic Senate formed a Task Force of its members, along with Associate Vice Chancellor Esquivel-Swinson, to identify and work toward implementing ways in which faculty can support and help actualize this Student Success initiative. In the fall, the District Academic Senate will begin working with the chancellor to draft policies and procedures we do not yet have that will also support and help actualize the Student Success Scorecard. You will, of course, hear more about this process as it evolves.

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

ⁱ <http://scorecard.cccco.edu/scorecard.aspx>

ⁱⁱ ACCJC Presentation to California Community Colleges Annual Trustees Conference, May 3, 2013. Available at <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.accjc.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2013%2F05%2FAccrediting-Related-Board-Policies.pdf>