

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE



FALL
2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Moving forward

By David Beaulieu,
DAS President

Colleagues,

September marks not just the start of a new school year, but also a new beginning for the District Academic Senate. We have a new president and vice-president, and four new local Senate presidents. Together with the rest of the Executive Board, we are working hard to create a more vital and effective DAS. It is our charge, after all, to represent you before the Board of Trustees and to district management in all academic and professional matters, and we intend to do this as well as we possibly can.



David Beaulieu

We have taken a number of steps so far. We have a very ambitious Summit 2007 planned for Sept. 28. Our theme is "Fostering a Culture of Innovation." As you'll see in Kathleen

Bimber's article, we are making a major effort to revitalize our crucial discipline committees. In addition, we are more involved than ever in key governance committees, including the District Budget Committee, the District Planning Committee, the Student Success Initiative Steering Committee, and the Bond Steering Committee, to name just four.

Finally, we have designed a new DAS website, which along with *Academically Speaking*, should help keep you current on our activities. We welcome all your suggestions and concerns! Our collective project as faculty is guiding our students to success. I wish you a wonderful and productive year toward that end.



Chancellor Mark Drummond, keynote speaker at Opening Day at Valley College, with (from left) LAVC Academic Senate President Don Gauthier, College President Dr. Tyree Wieder, and Trustee Mona Field. Chancellor Drummond will visit all the district's campuses this fall.

tion. If there is an overarching approach and framework for such issues, the colleges can then forge their specific place in the framework. I have always lamented how little advantage we take of our size, political clout, and inherent talent. So in addition to trying to make the district more effective and efficient and providing support for our primary mission, I intend to work on these things.

Have your experiences in Sacramento changed your educational perspective?

My experiences were mostly enjoyable and valuable. In the area of consultation, it was clear that the process for deriving policy and setting overall system priorities is quite well established. Although some abhor the process, I found it to be informative and vital. Of particular importance was the relationship of the System Office with the State Academic Senate and the Community College League. Continual dialogue and analysis of pending issues at multiple levels combined with open communications made the ultimate process of determining policy and priorities for recommendation to the Board of Governors sensible and timely.

I also came away with a better sense of who we are. Once each month I traveled to a cluster of college districts together with the president of the State Academic Senate and the CEO of the League. This accomplished several important tasks -- familiarized us with local people, concerns, and conditions; gave faculty, staff, administrators, and students a chance to ask questions first-hand of those who represent them in Sacramento; and gave us an opportunity to see multiple approaches to solving problems, such as effective outreach, basic skills education, and specialized programs/facilities.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the district?

All districts in the state confront major challenges -- some of the more difficult ones to overcome include relevance and effectiveness. In Los Angeles County out of every 100 young people entering the

FEATURE STORY

Where Are We Headed? Chancellor Shares His Vision

DAS President David Beaulieu asked Chancellor Mark Drummond a few questions at the start of his new tenure heading our district.

How will you be a different chancellor from the last time you were here?

I am not sure I will be a 'different' chancellor. I still view myself as a member of the academic community (remembering that I still have more years teaching than I do serving as an administrator) and my values remain the same. I do intend to spend more time trying to 'optimize' certain aspects of the district. It seems to me that the chancellor can help set some general context for such major undertakings as enrollment management and career/technical education.

CONTINUES ON BACK PAGE

CAMPUS REPORTS

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE



Ken Sherwood, Academic Senate President

Ken Sherwood has been teaching full-time in the Speech Department for 12 years. Until becoming Senate president, he directed the forensics program, which has finished each of the last eight years ranked in the national top five in debate for community colleges.

LACC has selected as interim president Dr. Jamillah Moore, former Chief Deputy at the System Office. Her appointment was approved by the Board in September.

Four major construction projects are underway, with significant progress having been made on the library and the parking structure/athletic field. The anticipated parking crunch caused by all of the construction is not as bad as expected because of a commitment by many faculty to use public transportation and participate in the ride-share program. Our classified staff have been putting in overtime to completely re-landscape the center of the campus (which has suffered from years of neglect) in an effort to significantly improve the appearance of the campus and to increase morale – and it's working.

At last check, enrollment was unexpectedly up 4-5%, and energy is high.

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE



Alex Immerblum, Academic Senate President

Alex Immerblum teaches in the English Department at East. This is his second stint as Academic Senate president there, and he served as DAS vice president for four years.

At East, the fall semester began with a mixture of excitement amid setbacks, with delays in hiring some key administrators, including several academic deans and a vice president of student services. Old bungalows have been removed while new portables have been added, creating some confusion for both faculty and students. However, we have finally gotten DSA approval to begin several facilities projects, including our Performing Arts building and new parking structure, and we now have many more Smart classrooms.

Over the summer, 10 faculty, through a training sponsored by our Title V grant, completed innovative, web-enhanced projects for their classes, and more training is underway. Perhaps most importantly, representatives from Chaffey College visited East and shared their innovative and hugely successful campus wide approach to basic skills that can serve as a model for us at East.

LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE



June Burlingame Smith, Academic Senate President

The hurly-burly of school's opening has settled down, and the administration is confident that with late start classes and the willingness of faculty to take as many students as there are desks, we will close the small drop in enrollment. New beginnings always seem to energize the faculty, who are eager for fresh encounters with students who come with great hopes and aspirations. We have three new probationary faculty, the first in several years. We hope to add to our ranks in the near future to increase our percentage of full-time faculty (currently at 54%) so that we can accomplish the work that needs to be done in curriculum, program development, and governance.

Our building program continues apace but is not as disruptive as in the past. Many of the buildings are now going up, and infrastructure has been essentially completed. Parking is always a problem, but we all agree that walking farther than usual is healthier for us. In September, we dedicated the new track and football field and had our first Hall of Fame dinner to honor past athletic heroes.

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE



Angela Echeverri, Academic Senate President

I am very happy to report that Mission College's accreditation was reaffirmed by the ACCJC this summer. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen! We are busily preparing for a follow-up visit in April of 2008. The senate will hold a retreat next month to address the issues brought up by the commission.

Mission is enjoying a robust increase in its fall enrollment -- close to 15%. A very effective outreach effort has been a key factor. We are also excited about the rapid progress of our construction projects. Our long awaited parking structure was completed in time for the start of the fall semester, our new Child Development Center is scheduled to be finished in April, and construction has started on our Health and Fitness Center.

Our campus lost two its VP and a dean in Academic Affairs, who both accepted permanent positions at City. Alma Johnson-Hawkins is acting VP of Academic Affairs. Mission has renewed its search for a new permanent president.

PIERCE COLLEGE



Tom Rosdahl, Academic Senate President

Tom Rosdahl began his term as senate president in the spring of 2007. He has been teaching at Pierce in Automotive Service Technology since 1985.

As Pierce College celebrates 60 years of educating students, the college is growing, with over 19,600 attending classes. With the increase in students and a reduction in the number of parking spaces, many students are now parking in a field where cows recently grazed. Fences are up all over campus with construction to start within weeks on the new Center for the Sciences and Student Services buildings, and the infrastructure project is in full swing.

Faculty attended several exciting break-out sessions at our Professional Development Day. The college was pleased to welcome 12 new full time faculty to our ranks. Even though it was 106 degrees in Woodland Hills (the hottest place in the San Fernando Valley), we all enjoyed a great outdoor BBQ dinner with tunes provided by our music department.

LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE



Alfred Reed, Jr., Academic Senate President

Alfred Reed, Jr. teaches Administration of Justice at Southwest, beginning in 1978 as an adjunct before being hired full-time in 2001. He chairs the college's Hiring Committee and serves on the Curriculum and General Education committees.

Southwest plans to hire six full-time faculty in the Spring of 2008 -- two in Nursing, one in Math, one in English, one in Sociology, and one in the Learning Resource Center. We are looking forward to the completion of our Child Development Center, scheduled to open in September. One of our major challenges is to increase enrollment. In addition, we are hard at work on our task of preparing assessments for student learning outcomes in 2007-08.

LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE



Chini Johnson-Taylor, Academic Senate President

Our college is in the middle of a revitalized downtown, thanks to the over \$6 billion invested in the area during the last decade. So at our opening day convocation, faculty had a choice of five different bus trips to see LA Live, the museums of Exposition Park, art galleries and lofts,

Disney Concert Hall, or the Fashion and Toy Districts. In the morning, faculty greeted new and old colleagues and heard from Councilwoman Jan Perry and David Rattray of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, who spoke about economic development in the region and our unique role. We are off to a great start!

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE



Don Gauthier, Academic Senate President

Don Gauthier teaches geography, is the Earth Science & Anthropology Department Chair, and serves on college committees too numerous to mention. Last year he "graduated" from the district Administrative Leadership Program (ALP).

LAVC's Opening Day was a success despite the sweltering temperature. The theme of the day was "Building a Community of Scholarship and Success." Faculty and administrators attended breakout sessions that included a discussion of foundational skills and student assessment strategies. Our keynote speaker, Chancellor Mark Drummond, shared his vision for the District's future, stressing the need for our colleges to advertise our successes as well as show that we are working to address our deficiencies. He presented his ideas about vocational training and preparing our students for the world of work. He discussed the importance of passing the Community College Initiative, and he asked the campus to re-examine our bond projects in light of our educational master plan for a possible third bond. Mona Field was on hand to represent the Board and share her enthusiasm for the day's activities.

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE



Eloise Crippens, Academic Senate President

Over 120 faculty participated in Flex Day and met our seven new tenure track faculty members and two new associate deans. Our enrollment has increased and continues to grow. We are making great progress designing program SLOs and aligning them with institutional SLOs. Four 1½ day SLO workshops, organized by Lloyd Thomas, PhD, coordinator of our SLO Committee, were held during the last academic year under the direction of Professor Don Prickel.

Our new weekend college transfer degree program, developed by faculty member Bob Sprague, has really taken off. Students attend classes all day on their choice of either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, and receive online instruction as well. Courses run every six weeks, and are planned in advance for two years. The program fits working adults' schedules, allowing them to get their AA degrees in two years.

Last spring, the senate finished the college's Educational Master Plan, which was approved in July by President Rocha. West is moving forward!

An Invitation to Join the Dialogue

By Kathleen Bimber, DAS Vice President

When was the last time you engaged in spirited conversation about educational issues? When have you shared effective teaching strategies and come away with exciting ideas to put to use in your classroom? You'll have a chance to do this and much more at the DAS Discipline Day on December 7 – watch for the location in our next newsletter or check the website.

The purpose of the event is to encourage faculty dialogue to promote a common understanding of the major preparation for each field of study offered in our district. District discipline committees are central to enhance articulation, develop and align curriculum, and share innovative teaching practices. These committees should try to meet on a regular basis.

This sort of conversation is exciting, inspiring, and absolutely essential to educational effectiveness. With a nine-campus system, we can utilize each other's knowledge and create a collegial, supportive atmosphere that regenerates our spirits and validates our expertise.

My own discipline of Child Development has a long history of meeting monthly during the academic year. As busy as everyone is, we find that these meetings help us process common problems and share ideas on how to meet our students' needs. On the state level, many of us are working on the same concerns our discipline committee has identified. In collaboration with other community colleges and the CSUs, we have developed a common core of eight courses designed to fulfill lower division requirements for transfer. SLO's have been developed for each course, and we are beginning to align curriculum district wide this fall. This collaboration will greatly facilitate transfer for our students, a good example of how a discipline committee can positively affect student achievement.

Plan to attend on December 7 and engage in the dialogue. We will touch on such issues as student success, curricular alignment, pre/co-requisite issues, equivalency, SLOs, and distance learning. I look forward to meeting with you as we share best practices in teaching with our colleagues.

CONTINUES FROM FRONT PAGE

9th grade only 33 make it through high school and on to post-secondary education (as least within six years). I worry greatly about the 67 who do not prepare themselves adequately for meaningful careers. While we eventually serve many of them, I do believe that we have a responsibility to work with our feeder schools to help decrease drop-out rates and increase college going rates. This is complex business, very different from the “build it and they will come” approach many of us grew up with.

Accreditation is another big challenge. I am hopeful that a change in the federal administration will bring about a pause and review of the accreditation process. While I am quite convinced that the overall approach will continue to stress outcomes, I also think that the American notion of peer review is continually being challenged. Having worked internationally on issues of higher education standards and quality review processes, I am very confident that our peer review legacy is a superior approach to any other. I am hopeful that the peer review process will be strengthened in the future.

Efficiency and funding is another challenge. In a place as large as the LACCD there is a constant struggle to invoke technology and processes to bring about better service and efficiencies. This is somewhat blunted by the time it takes to get new technologies and practices operational. There are constant issues of staff development, “burnout” of people and technologies, and the challenges of renewal. These stresses are largely not present in smaller, more concentrated districts. The only solution to this involves constant pressure to change, combined with patience and dedication to continual staff development. Funding is always a challenge in California, and I expect the next two-three years to be rather nasty from the perspective of the state budget.

Innovation is our theme for this year's Summit. How would you assess the district in this regard?

Innovation has always been alive and well in the LACCD. The problem lies in the process of disseminating “best practices.” We have many brilliant people doing many brilliant things around this district, and while many of these strategies are shared, few are replicated. We are even worse at bringing in promising practices from other places. Somehow our institutional pride about every college being different and “on its own” needs to diminish a bit. I know of no shared programs within the district. Students are very mobile yet we have no common curriculum for key programs. I think we are very behind the times in our thinking about partnering and mobility. I am not sure how much progress we can make on these issues, but I will certainly keep talking about them.

We're two years into a Student Success Initiative in the district, and the System Office and ASCCC has now begun a Basic Skills Initiative. Your thoughts on both?

Nearly everyone who comes to us needs either a basic skills “tune up” or a major infusion of basic skills. It is also important to remember that the CSU takes the top third of the 33, and the UC takes the top 12½%. Frankly this does not leave us with much of a pool of well qualified college-ready students, not counting the other groups I mentioned. We need to solve this messy issue for reasons of social justice and societal betterment. It is going to require a total rethinking of what we do and how we do it from the standpoint of curriculum and instruction. This is already taking place in our district to some extent and has been engaged with some success by many districts around the state.

What are the prospects for a third bond, given the large number of unfinished facilities projects in the district?

A recent report revealed that one-third of Los Angeles County residents live below the federal poverty level, and we import nearly 40% of all construction workers from outside the county and continue to bleed high-wage jobs and replace them with low-wage service jobs. Leadership at all levels is aggressively seeking solutions, all of which center on developing a capable and job-ready workforce. I believe that the voters would readily support a bond issue that gives a workforce context to what we intend to do with our facilities.

It is important to note that this does not mean a singular approach (Career Tech only) but it means placing our basic skills education and our academic tracks into context with career ladders. No matter how much we would like to think otherwise, we serve a student population that is mostly low-income and has to work extensive hours while attending college to keep food on the table. We need to carefully think this through as we plan future facilities with an eye on how we can help build the success and retention of these students using facilities as a resource.

What leadership changes are you making downtown?

I am trying to align service function and responsibility/talent within the district organization, which I believe to be somewhat out of line currently. Also I am attempting to attract some talent that will help us with the two overarching agendas of enrollment management and career-technical education. I believe that if we do this well, our overall gain in enrollment and income will greatly outpace any increased costs.

CALENDAR

Visit our DAS website at <http://www.laccd.edu/> and click on District Resources. Contact us through the site.

- DAS/District SummitSept. 28 Marina Del Rey Hotel
- District Academic SenateOct. 11 (Mission) and Dec. 13 (Trade)
- Basic Skills RetreatOct. 12 (Valley)
- ASCCC Plenary SessionNov. 1-3 Anaheim Marriot
- DAS Executive CommitteeNov. 8 District Office

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Sylvia Scott-Hayes, *President*
- Kelly G. Candaele, *Vice President*
- Mona Field
- Warren T. Furutani
- Georgia Mercer
- Nancy Pearlman
- Angela J. Reddock
- Eva Jackson, *Student Trustee*

DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

- David Beaulieu, *President*
- Kathleen Bimber, *Vice President*
- Angela Echeverri, *Secretary*
- Lina Chen, *Treasurer*

DEBORAH KAYE, *Newsletter Editor*

Academically Speaking is published four times a year.

A
PI
N
B
D
C
S
of
be
S
vi
S
re
w
ef
tc
T
al
at
P
D
B
m
di
ar
g
D
D
St
C
C
Fi
D
A
ke
W
cc
fa
su
p