



ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE • SUMMER 2007

CONSULT, CONFRONT, COLLABORATE???

Consult, Confront, Collaborate??? was the theme of the 2007 Spring Plenary Session of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) at the Westin-San Francisco Airport. A view of the bay was soon forgotten as attendees rose early and raced from one information-intensive break-out session to another, interrupted by general session keynote addresses and electioneering, finally ending late in the night at dinners laced with lively discussions about life and experiences on our campuses.

Informative and inspiring keynote addresses at the plenary touched on a variety of issues. Michael Brown, Vice Chair of the UC Academic Senate, spoke of his work and experiences with UC eligibility requirements, the post-Proposition 209 landscape, and the many opportunities for cooperative ventures between the UCs and the CCCs. Another general session focused on the work of the Research and Planning Group's Center for Student Success and the Basic Skills Initiative. It featured an overview of the committee's work and a panel presentation of the findings contained in their report (the "Poppy Copy") as well as a discussion of professional development needs, funding, and implementation strategies. It was followed by an in-depth breakout covering some of the invaluable insights gleaned from the literature on basic skills best practices. Friday's general session luncheon included an inspiring presentation by Pamela J. Fisher, Chancellor Emeritus of the Yosemite CC District, entitled "The Long Journey to Cultural Proficiency" that ended with an emotional video documenting the quest for equality and justice.



A moment to relax at the plenary, from left (front row): Rod Patterson (West), Chini Johnson-Taylor (Trade), La Vergne Rosow (DAS), June Burlingame Smith (Harbor); (rear) Eloise Crippens (West), Don Gauthier (Valley), Sheri Berger (Valley), Leon Marzillier (DAS)

Numerous breakouts were full of lively debate and discussion on current issues across the state, with some local concerns as well. Topics included academic, legislative, and accreditation matters. There were breakouts on basic skills and non-credit, changes in Title 5 curriculum regulations, Student Learning Outcomes, academic integrity, VTEA funding, distance learning, diversity/equity issues, the disciplines list, hiring new administrators, transfer and articulation, and many more. Delegates got together in the early evening and over dinner to swap stories and impressions from the sessions they were able to attend. Even as the die-hards (mostly voting delegates) sat through the final hours of deliberations and resolutions, it was clear that many issues would need to be revisited next fall.

Numerous resolutions were passed at the session, including the following:

- ❑ Two resolutions were passed adopting position papers on academic integrity and sabbatical leaves.
- ❑ A resolution passed to study student equity in basic skills programming.
- ❑ A resolution on the use of e-texts and other materials that are less expensive than the traditional textbooks and workbooks passed, and the issue will continue to be addressed as we articulate with those universities that seek to place restrictions on the titles shown in the community college course outlines.
- ❑ The need for faculty who represent the Senate as a body on Accreditation Visiting Teams came up several times. A resolution passed to request training of the ACCJC teams and to include appropriate faculty on visiting teams.

The full set of resolutions passed at the session will be available to view online at: <http://www.asccc.org/Events/sessions/spring2007/materials.html>

"Those who attended came away with a clearer understanding of when to consult, when to confront, and when to collaborate," says LaVergne Rosow, DAS VP. Don Gauthier, incoming AS president at LAVC, agrees. "I hope attendees will share these lessons and insights with their district and campus colleagues," he says. "The challenges, including demands for accountability and performance measures, are all around us and will demand strong, clear and effective leadership."



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

By LEON MARZILLIER, Outgoing DAS President

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, A NEW SET OF OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE WILL have been elected to serve the LACCD faculty for the next two years. After 36 wonderful years working full-time for the district, I will be retiring in June. This is my last column for Academically Speaking.

When I started as a part-time instructor in 1970, we had neither an officially recognized union, nor an academic senate with the authority over academic and professional matters. Faculty members hired during the last 10 to 20 years might therefore, take these organizations for granted.

Community college instruction is very important work – it provides hope for better lives for a large number of our community members. Many of my colleagues are content to provide this service, and confine all their efforts to the classroom, counseling office, or library. There is nothing wrong with that. But, if faculty members wish to keep the rights and responsibilities that we have earned and acquired over the last 30 years, more of us need to continue to be involved in those organizations, to protect and advance those rights.

CONTINUES ON BACK PAGE

REPORTS FROM OUR CAMPUSES

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

Dana Cohen

Academic Senate President

At least 13 of our faculty will be retiring at the end of this semester, as well as our Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jackie Ireland. City has an automatic rehire policy, which it has had since 1999,



Dana Cohen

and we are committed to making sure that these positions are replaced.

The college is close to making base – too close to call at this moment – and we've put a lot of our resources into this effort, as we realize its importance.

Our Science and Technology building was approved by the Board of Trustees, and building will begin this summer. The groundbreaking for our library will be taking place in May. Parking on campus, which has always been a problem (with about 250 spaces for over 600 employees) will become even more of an issue when construction starts.

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

David Beaulieu

Academic Senate President

It's been quiet at East on the building front, as we endure the long wait for DSA approval for three major projects. We are, however, preparing the swing space so that



David Beaulieu

work can begin on the conversion of our Administration Building into a one-stop Student Services Center.

The new portable classrooms and offices should be ready by mid-summer, with work on the building itself starting in September. Meanwhile, renovation is proceeding on the

Rosemead Educational Center, a converted elementary school that will become our second major off-site center. Classes are slated to start there this June.

Faculty have been busy with SLOs. A workshop was held in April, a special Senate meeting was devoted to them in May, and the Opening Day Committee intends to make them an integral part of our flex day this fall.

We are about to start the search for a new Vice President of Student Services, given the death of R.C. Williams III in February. Meanwhile, however, the division is moving ahead with its ambitious plans. The Outreach and Recruitment Office sponsored a wonderful Senior Day in March, attended by 850 students along with some 30 counselors. This followed our "Night Owl" Open House in late January, which drew over 400 students.

Finally, we received some good news regarding our transfer totals. The UC and CSU figures came out in March, showing 996 East students enrolling in the 2006-07 academic year. That's up from 667 seven years ago when we began our transfer campaign. Enrollment plays a part in the jump, of course, but it is not the whole story. Our concerted effort seems to be bearing fruit.

LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE

June Burlingame Smith

Academic Senate President

The Harbor faculty has chosen new leaders for its senate: June Burlingame Smith, President; Pamela Watkins, Vice President; Jim Stanbery, Secretary; Len Glover, Treasurer; and Brenda Guertin,



June Smith

Corresponding Secretary. Susan McMurray will remain on the senate as Past resident.

The college recently received a visit from the Allocation Task Force. We are trying to address what seems to be an endemic budget problem (seven years in a row) and the Task Force essentially told us to do two things: Grow our FTES and restructure the administration. Because of budgetary decisions, the percentage of full-time faculty has fallen from over 75% to under 54% in six years, and Harbor has had to depend on its excellent part-time faculty to help maintain programs and class sizes. We will be working hard to find an answer to our budget woes while we also struggle to meet all the new mandates from accreditation, the state, and the District.

In the meantime, our own Bev Shue was honored at the state Academic Senate's plenary session by unanimously being voted an Emeritus Senator to the ASCCC. Bev will

be honored further by the Lomita Chamber of Commerce this month for her outstanding teaching. These are honors richly deserved. Congratulations, Bev!

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Angela C. Echeverri

Academic Senate President

Mission had its accreditation team visit in March. The team met with a large number of students, staff, faculty, and administrators during their visit. They found the LAMC self study report to be comprehensive, well written, and a candid and accurate representation of the strengths and challenges facing the college.



Angela Echeverri

The visiting team made six recommendations to the college with special emphasis on the areas of governance, planning, completion of the implementation of student

learning outcomes and assessment, and definition of administrative responsibilities. Four additional recommendations were coordinated with other visiting teams and directed to the district's attention.

The visiting team commended the college for several of its exemplary programs, for creating a positive and welcoming environment for students, for its online curriculum database, and for strengthening relations with the community.

LAMC plans to hire a permanent vice president of Academic Affairs this summer. Two veteran faculty members are retiring this year -- Sandi Lampert, our FLEX coordinator and Professional Studies Department Chair, and Lee Risemberg, Engineering Professor. We wish them luck in their future endeavors and will miss them both.

PIERCE COLLEGE

Tom Rosdahl

Academic Senate President

The Accreditation Team visited Pierce March 19th through 22nd and issued a favorable preliminary report on their final day on campus. This report is proof positive of the dedicated faculty we have here at the college.

As summer approaches, construction dust will fill the air as we start to hear the pounding of jackhammers and the roar of bulldozers. The construction fences are going up and the Center for the Sciences Building is out of DSA and will go out to bid soon. The old bookstore is in the process

of re
Build
any
the

LOS
Chir
Acad

The
met
cuss
requ



Chir
John
Tayl

the
area
tech
facu
rank
of 1
disc
Elec
Auto
the
but
a str
for s
inclu
dem

LOS
Sha
Acad

We b
will
teac



Sha
Stac

Gau
(Rel
cers

of renovation and the new Student Services Building is expected to come out of DSA any day. This is truly an exciting time at the college.

LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE

Chini Johnson-Taylor
Academic Senate President

The Senate Hiring Prioritization Committee met with President Chip Chapdelaine to discuss its list of recommended full-time faculty requests for Fall 2007. The list reflects



Chini Johnson-Taylor

requests from department chairs for new and expanded positions. Our senate has been a strong advocate for maintaining full-time faculty positions that will help the college achieve growth goals through increased FTES and augmented services to students.

We are concerned about the erosion of full-time faculty positions in all areas, but especially in our unique career technical disciplines. In a review of full-time faculty positions from 1980-2007, faculty ranks went from 291 to 185 positions, a loss of 106 positions -- 48% in career technical disciplines such as Printing, Nursing, Electronics, Metallurgy, Cabinetmaking, and Automotive. Yes, we understand our role in the program and viability review processes, but we also must stress the need to maintain a strong and vibrant faculty in the formulas for student success and strategic growth that include support staff, engaged students, academic rigor, and yes, administration.

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Shannon Stack
Academic Senate President

We bid a fond farewell to Shannon Stack, who will be retiring this June after a full career of teaching and service to the college. She estimates that in the past 37 years, she has served on about 1000 committees. She is looking forward to a retirement that will include travel to Italy, part-time teaching, and writing.



Shannon Stack

Valley's academic senate recently elected new officers to the positions of President (Don Gauthier) and Executive Vice President (Rebecca Stein). Three currently serving officers (Curriculum, Treasurer, and Secretary)

were re-elected to their positions. We hope to re-energize and expand the membership on campus as the first order of business in the Fall.

The campus is conducting a search for a new VP of Academic Affairs and the senate is looking forward to participating in the selection process.

Our accreditation site visit in March went extremely well. The visiting team was impressed by our wonderful college and noted our support for strengthening dialogue on teaching and learning, our continuity of administrative leadership, our shared governance process and new handbook, and our honest appraisal of the college as reflected in our self study.

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Eloise Crippens
Academic Senate President

West is preparing for the inauguration of our 7th college president, Mark W. Rocha, PhD, on May 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fine



Eloise Crippens

Arts Building. All are invited! Mark has been an inspiration to West Los Angeles College. He has worked tirelessly and collegially with the academic senate and other constituency groups to turn West around. His presence, vision, and goodwill have helped improve the college's relationship with the Culver City community. In the short time he has been our president, enrollment has grown, he has charged the Academic Senate to take the lead in updating the college educational master plan, and he has encouraged our creative faculty and classified staff to write mini-grants and come up with new ideas and strategies to help attract new students to West.

While waiting for the city to give its final approval on the haul road for construction, Dr. Rocha approved a portion of the Prop A/AA monies to refurbish our library. It is a state-of-the-art facility with an inviting environment for our students. It will be dedicated on the day of his inauguration. We are looking forward to beginning the construction of our science building, parking lot, and the general classroom buildings in the fall.

Have a nice summer!

Words of Wisdom from Outgoing ASCCC President Ian Walton

As his long and eventful term of office drew to a close, ASCCC President Ian Walton mused, *"Some local senate presidents never make it past 'consult,' but for the rest of us, there's always this nagging little doubt about whether the consultation is working. And if you determine that it needs to work better on a particular issue, that's where it gets tricky. Should you cooperate and try to get what you want by following the rules of the game? If you fail, or even if you succeed, will you be perceived as having sold out the cause and be attacked by your own colleagues? Is there ever a time to dig in your heels and fight, even if it means going down in flames? The really tricky part of this strategy is deciding when to confront. It's important not to overbalance from resolute into dogmatic and thereby toss out the baby with the bathwater."*

Mark Wade Lieu of Ohlone College was elected the new ASCCC president.

Get Involved in These Valuable Activities!



Dr. Cecilia Macheski, Director of Curriculum and Assessment at La Guardia College, speaking on Capturing Student Success at the Student Success Initiative Workshop on April 13 at Trade Tech.

Here in the LACCD this spring, our District Academic Senate participated in two important events. In addition to the Student Success Initiative Workshop at Trade in April, faculty gathered in February at Valley College for an event sponsored by the Academic Integrity Task Force, co-chaired by Leon Marzillier and Yasmin Delahoussaye, entitled The Proliferation of Cheating and Plagiarism, a symposium that featured multiple perspectives on academic integrity.

Parting Comments from Outgoing DAS President

CONTINUES FROM FRONT PAGE

At the college level, these organizations are the college academic senates, the AFT campus chapters, and the multitude of committees directly or indirectly associated with these faculty organizations. At the district level, they are the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, AFT Local 1521, and the Los Angeles Community College District Academic Senate, and the corresponding district-wide committees associated with them. During the early 1990s, I led the former, while for the past four years, I have been leading the latter. I feel fortunate to have done both, but I couldn't have done it without the faculty leaders who pioneered these organizations and without the countless faculty members who have helped and continue to help make them as successful as they have been over the years.

However, influential faculty leaders are only as effective as the collective wisdom of those that they represent. (Note: the phrase, collective wisdom of the faculty, is one that is routinely used by the statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, or ASCCC, to describe how they arrive at their positions). That is why the involvement of many faculty members with a diverse set of perspectives is especially important.

A question that is sometimes raised is, "Why do we need a District Academic Senate?" After all, the college academic senates are capable of addressing academic and professional matters affecting their workplaces, the college campuses. It is interesting that one almost never hears the question, "Why do we need a centralized local union when we have campus chapters of that union capable of addressing wages, hours, and working conditions on our campuses?" I believe the answer to both those questions is essentially the same. As long as our nine college campuses are part of a larger district, there will always be district issues that must be addressed, and as long as we have one Board of Trustees overseeing the district, and an administration at the district level, we need faculty, organized at that level, to represent and articulate faculty positions to the Board and the Chancellor.

The recently concluded ASCCC spring plenary session's 2007 theme was *Consult, Confront, Collaborate???* How do we decide which of these possible courses of action to use when dealing with those who hold the reins of power at the district level – the administration and the Board? In some districts up and down the state, confrontation is unfortunately the norm, but, during my four years at the helm of the DAS, I have found confrontation to be rarely necessary at the district level. We have an enlightened Board, willing to listen to faculty concerns, and in terms of participatory governance, Chancellor Rocky Young has been a delight to work with, as were his predecessors, Peter Landsberger and Mark Drummond. At the district level, at least, consultation and collaboration have been more the order of the day.

Previous DAS leaders -- Pat Blakeslee, Fleur Steinhart, Pat Siever, Winston Butler, and Bev Shue -- were not always blessed with such enlightened Board members and Chancellors, and it is through their leadership that, among other initiatives, the annual DAS Summit meeting in Marina Del Rey was born and subsequently nurtured. It was at those summits that plans for advancing faculty perspectives on academic and professional matters were crafted. During my tenure, these summits have been a model of collaborative efforts between DAS and LACCD administration. We have wrestled with such important issues as accreditation, budget allocation, academic integrity, student access and success, centralization/decentralization, and the district's strategic plan.

What of the future? What should DAS and faculty be focusing on in coming years? None of us has a reliable crystal ball, but it is a good bet that there will be a continuation of the calls for accountability that we have seen sprouting in the past year or two. It is up to us and our collective wisdom and vision to see that our responses to these calls are thoughtful, measured, and sensible. Much of this modern accountability movement began when the Accrediting Commission revised its standards, infusing them throughout with Student Learning Outcomes, or SLOs. It is still my firm belief that formulating SLOs is unnecessary and potentially dangerous to the preservation of academic freedom. And that is all the more reason why faculty should stay in control of the process and be involved college-wide and district-wide, not just in our departments or disciplines. All of us need to be engaged in the conversation that DAS is deeply immersed in -- how to serve our students in a rapidly changing society, and how to help them to succeed.

As I leave the leadership of DAS, the organization is in good shape, thanks to my fellow officers: La Vergne Rosow, Angela Echeverri, Lina Chen, and Bev Shue, and of course the nine college academic senate presidents and their executive committees. I am particularly proud of this newsletter, which has exceeded my wildest dreams thanks to the hard work and dedication of our editor, Deborah Kaye.

I don't plan to leave the city or the state, so I, and the institutional memory that I possess, will be available for advice and encouragement. However, the success of an organization like DAS really depends on those that it represents, the practitioners in the field. You are the ones affected by its policies. So, if you have read through this entire article, and you are not involved, you know what to do! The California Community College System is a gem in all of higher education. Keeping that gem shining brightly is largely a faculty responsibility.

Best of luck to you all!

You are cordially invited to celebrate

THE RETIREMENTS OF

Shannon Stack

VALLEY ACADEMIC SENATE
PRESIDENT
&

Leon Marzillier

DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE
PRESIDENT

*Shannon Stack's celebration is
Friday, May 25*

*11:30 am to 4:00 pm
Waterfall Room, Sportsmen's Lodge,
Studio City*

*To RSVP, call (818) 947-2644
or (818) 947-2750*

*Leon Marzillier's celebration is
Thursday, May 31*

*12:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Waterfall Room, Sportsmen's Lodge,
Studio City*

*To RSVP, contact bergersl@lavc.edu
or (818) 947-2856*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

Leon Marzillier, *President*
La Vergne Rosow, *Vice President*
Angela C. Echeverri, *Secretary*
Lina Chen, *Treasurer*

DEBORAH KAYE, *Newsletter Editor*
Academically Speaking is published
four times a year.

Contact us at AS-EDITOR@laccd.edu

For Board of Trustees meeting dates and locations, see:
http://www.laccd.edu/board_of_trustees/board_meeting_dates.htm