

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE



WINTER
2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Changes

By David Beaulieu,
DAS President

Without question, the most important task before us this year is the passage of Prop. 92 on Feb. 5th. As co-chair of the District Budget Committee, I know very well how tenuous our financial situation is. While we are currently in solid enough condition as a district, several of our colleges are running deficits, and there is no more room to cut staff or services without hampering enrollment growth and student success. One reason for our problems is the gross inequity in the

Prop. 98 split. In fact, it has cost us about \$500 million since 1992! With Prop. 92 the district would receive almost \$40 million each year in additional revenue.



We know the tremendous benefits to our students – and to the state economy – that community colleges provide, and the voters are sympathetic, but passing an initiative still requires a great deal of money for ad campaigns, as well as a strong get-out-the-vote effort. Please do as much as you possibly can to ensure the success of this vital campaign.

We have just recently completed our “Framework for Student Success,” the summation of all of our work these past two years with the Student Success Initiative. Some steps are already being implemented. Deborah Harrington from Valley College is now working downtown as a dean on a wide range of related projects, with one of her major tasks being the coordination and expansion of the professional development effort in the district. Toward that end, the nine college coordinators met together with Deborah in November, the first such

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Focusing on innovation at the Fall Summit (l. to r.) are Chancellor Mark Drummond, keynote speaker Jeannie Oakes, presenter Diego Navarro, and DAS President David Beaulieu.

helping students who are unprepared for college and careers. “I truly believe we’re the last line of defense to reverse the spiral.”

The keynote presentation was delivered by UCLA professor Jeannie Oakes, who introduced the concept of Multiple Pathways, developed by the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (IDEA). Challenging the idea that all high schools are right for all students, the approach involves restructuring high school education into academies, learning communities, and centers based on students’ interests. A key strategy is to collapse the distinction between vocational education and college prep courses. Several new programs in the LAUSD have embraced these concepts. “This idea challenges the fundamental premises of the traditional high school,” said Oakes. “We need to prepare all students for both college and careers.” The strategy, she says, fits in with the LACCD’s strategic goals, and “won’t happen without the commitment of the community colleges.”

Breakout sessions focused on a number of exciting innovations in education. In “Changing Classrooms for Changing Students,” Diego Navarro of Cabrillo College presented the Digital Bridge Academy, a bold approach to mainstreaming high risk youth through intensive basic skills instruction. His model begins with a two-week foundation course to “light the fire within” so that students want to succeed. Following is a ‘bridge’ semester to accelerate students to college level readiness. “We can’t teach the way we did when they were not learning,” Navarro said.

“Redesigning Colleges for the 21st Century” profiled experiments with new college organizational structures that break down barriers between academic programs and support services. Featured were Chaffey College’s transformation of its entire developmental education program and Southwest’s formal elimination of the division between Academic Affairs and Student Services. In “The Emerging Electronic Classroom,” presenters from Trade Tech and East L.A. reviewed some of the most promising trends in instructional technology and their potential impact on traditional classroom instruction.

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FEATURE STORY

Fall Summit Plants Seeds of Innovation

This year’s Fall Summit, *Fostering a Culture of Innovation*, brought faculty and administrators together from around the district to explore innovative ideas that hold promise for promoting student success. The program, held at the end of September at the Marina Del Rey Hotel, was jointly sponsored by the DAS and LACCD administration. The tone for the session was set in opening remarks by district leadership. “To meet our challenges, we’re going to need to be creative,” commented Vice Chancellor Gary Colombo. Promising to “provide a district framework for the colleges to do their jobs,” Chancellor Mark Drummond stressed the importance of

CAMPUS REPORTS



LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE



Ken Sherwood, Academic Senate President

Enrollment is up roughly 10% primarily due to the efforts of our Dean of Workforce Education, Richard Galope, who has worked tirelessly in recent months to open the Hollywood Worksource Center on campus.

Last month, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Council President Eric Garcetti joined Chancellor Drummond in attending the grand opening of the center and touring the facility. Currently, non-credit enrollments account for 9% of our growth.

Significant construction is finally underway at City with the library and parking structures expected to be operational by Summer 2008 and the Child Development Center and Sci/Tech building expected to be completed by Fall of 2009. We have had some challenges with the closure of the main entrance to campus on Vermont Avenue for sewer system improvements. Thankfully, Councilman Garcetti is assisting with safety upgrades to address difficulties for students from the Braille Center.

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE



Alex Immerblum, Academic Senate President

At the beginning of the semester we learned that the state's matching funds of \$16 million for the Performing and Visual Arts Complex were lost because project mismanagement caused us to miss a final DSA deadline. After much heated discussion at our Facilities

Subcommittee, we voted to continue with the plans to build the complex despite the loss of state funding.

At our last Student Success Committee meeting, we forwarded a recommendation to the Educational Planning Subcommittee to investigate and consider hiring an outside consulting team to help us develop an ambitious campuswide plan to integrate several of the effective practices described in Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student Success in California Community Colleges and in the district's "Framework for Student Success."

This fall, the Vincent Price Art Museum at East is proudly hosting two exhibitions made up entirely of student work. The Small Gallery is displaying Ofrendas (altars celebrating Dia de Los Muertos) created collaboratively by students in a Religion in Mesoamerica class. In the Large Gallery, a group show entitled "Where We Live: Student Perspectives" features photographic work by 40 students from four community colleges in the L.A. area, the result of a mentorship program sponsored by the Getty Museum in which photography students participated in workshops and produced images inspired by their urban environments. East is the final venue of the traveling exhibition. Both shows close December 7.

LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE



June Burlingame Smith, Academic Senate President

Discussion at Harbor College centers on program review, basic skills and student success, and the completion schedules of new buildings. The math and communications faculty are gearing up to make two moves in the next few months as the new technology and classroom buildings are completed and certified. Unfortunately, the building the faculty have been using for offices must be torn down before the new tech building can be certified and occupied, and the new classroom building won't be ready for us. So, we'll spend January packing again.

After hearing Laura Hope at a fall Summit workshop explaining student success centers at Chaffey College, our college president set up a visit for a group of us so that we could better understand Chaffey's program. The transformation of their programs and courses from "basic skills" to foundations and continuous stream curriculum will be instructive to us as we plan to meet the needs and challenges of our students. Critical to their success were strong classroom faculty involvement, a strong Senate involvement, a determined VP of Academic Affairs, and almost two years of dedicated planning by its task force.

The Harbor College faculty also regretfully announces the retirement of Wendy Hollis, former chair of the Nursing Division. She will be missed.

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE



Angela Echeverri, Academic Senate President

Mission College is busy preparing for an accreditation follow-up visit and report due next year. The campus held a retreat in October to address the ACCJC recommendations and focus on institutional planning and campus relationships. We are making significant progress in several key areas. Our shared governance committee structure has been revised to better link institutional planning to budget. All standing committees have developed charters and are meeting regularly. The Educational Planning Committee developed and distributed an online program review assessment form which is to be completed by January. Our SLO coordinator Pat Flood has been working tirelessly with faculty. In October, 45 faculty attended an SLO assessment workshop presented by Arend Flick of Riverside City College.

Construction of our Child Development Center, Health and Fitness Center, and Biology Laboratory is moving forward. The Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee just finished ranking requests for 15 full-time faculty positions and we hope to be able to fill some of these by next fall. Student enrollment is up 16% over 2006-2007, which should alleviate some of our fiscal concerns. The search for a permanent president is underway and should be completed sometime next year.

PIERCE COLLEGE



Tom Rosdahl, Academic Senate President

Pierce now has 21,000 students, credit and non-credit, with a very positive article in the Daily News about enrollment. Major construction is going on almost everywhere. The groundbreaking for the Center for the Sciences was held October 18, and a Notice to Proceed

has been issued for the Student Services building. Both of these buildings have a scheduled completion date of fall 2009. Infrastructure projects are moving along, and our college facilities people are doing a great job of informing students and staff of major changes in traffic flow. Entrances, parking areas, and roads are closed at times, which has been inconvenient.

The Sasaki Architects Group made a three-day visit in October to gather information for revision of the College Master Plan. The group will return at the end of November with their recommendations. Chancellor Mark Drummond will appear at a Town Hall meeting on November 27 to talk about educational planning issues and introduce himself to the campus.

Our pool is being renamed for the late Steve Scofield, who was important in maintaining our swimming program. This idea was supported by the community, with a fund raiser and memorial held in October.

LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE



Chini Johnson-Taylor, Academic Senate President

Emmy award winner Huell Howser of public television fame has included LATTC faculty and students in a new program highlighting downtown Los Angeles. Carole Anderson, AFT Chapter President (and an alumna of LATTC), escorted Howser on a tour of the campus, where he was impressed by the students, faculty, and program offerings in our urban oasis.

Congratulations to Eric Chavez, Electronics Department Chair, upon being named Electronic Instructor of the Year by his statewide colleagues.

The Men's Basketball Team, coached by PE faculty Richard Wells, is rated number 4 in the State and number 2 in its division.

Congratulations and thanks to our faculty for keeping our news positive!

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE



Don Gauthier, Academic Senate President

Valley hosted a day-long Regional Basic Skills Initiative Conference in October, attended by nearly 150 faculty, administrators, and students. The purpose of the event was to provide an overview of the progress made so far at our local campuses and to discuss implementation and assessment tools developed by the various working groups. Valley faculty new to the basic skills efforts found the presentations interesting and the break-out group discussions stimulating. The colleges were asked to post their campus-developed plans and assessment matrices to a website for the sharing of ideas and best practices statewide.

The LAVC Academic Senate is busy writing a new constitution and discussing improvements to our upgraded Educational Master Plan, as well as looking forward to the hiring of some new faculty.

We are excitedly awaiting Summer 2008, when five renovation projects are scheduled to begin and the 100,000+ square foot Allied Health & Science Building is scheduled for completion and certification.

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE



Eloise Crippens, Academic Senate President

West has recently made outstanding progress thanks to the work of several of our Academic Senate committees. One is the Faculty Position Hiring Prioritization Committee, which has developed an outstanding process that is used for faculty hiring decisions. The other is the Educational Standards Policy Committee, which updated our recent Educational Master Plan. The plan will be used to guide our academic and professional decisions for the college through 2011. We are grateful to Dr. Phyllis Morrison, Biology Professor and Chair of the Science Division, for her outstanding leadership as chair of the Hiring Prioritization committee and as co-chair with Rod Patterson, Senate Vice-President, of the Educational Standards Committee.

BRIEFLY

Fall Plenary Session

The Fall Plenary Session of the State Academic Senate (the ASCCC) was held Nov. 1-3 in Anaheim. Among the highlights this year:

–A number of resolutions addressed the growing issue of non-credit education, especially the need for full-time faculty and for local senates to pay closer attention to non-credit instruction.

–There was a reiteration of the importance of faculty being centrally involved in the creation of SLO's and an acknowledgment of the improvement in relations with the Accrediting Commission.

–At the same time, a resolution was passed expressing great concern over efforts by Bush administration officials to gut regional accreditation and to impose a standardized curriculum on community colleges.

–In the closest vote of the day, a resolution in opposition to the high school exit exam (the CASHEE) was narrowly defeated, and a more modest resolution (asking for a study on how it is affecting student performance) passed in its place.

–Considerable concern was again expressed about the Board of Governors' interest in establishing a common assessment tool statewide for English, ESL, and Math. However, a pilot program to do an exploratory study of common assessment was endorsed.

–Finally, Marty Hittelman, long-time Valley College math instructor and the newly elected president of CFT, was honored for his extensive contributions over many years to the ASCCC.

Learn to Teach Online

Los Angeles Southwest College is offering a Winter Intersession 5-week, 2-unit Credit/No-Credit all online class – CAOT-99W (section number 0850) – that teaches the pedagogy and management of online instruction and helps you build the first two weeks of your online class. The first time the class was offered, it received rave reviews! For more information go to <http://caot.lasc.edu/Perret> and click on the Want to Learn to Teach Online link.

Save The Date

February 22 is Discipline Day at Los Angeles Valley College's Monarch Hall. Please plan to attend.

Educational Strategies for a Sustainable Future

This past month, a group began meeting to discuss a district-wide effort to build a sustainable curriculum in the LACCD. Called the Sustainability Group, it now has over twenty members: faculty from a range of disciplines, administrators, a board member, facilities managers, and BuildLACCD energy consultants.

“The crisis due to the escalating consumption of energy and the depletion of fossil fuels and global warming are problems we cannot expect to solve simply,” says Marcela Oliva, professor of Architecture at Trade Tech. “Sustainability offers a solution by creating a way of working and living in balance with the natural environment. It rewards energy saving and material efficiency, discourages waste, and moves us from a product-oriented economic system to a creative/service green economy. With its vast array of industries, Los Angeles has the potential to become a provider of “green” living, introducing prototypes for changes in urban

lifestyle, services, products, and smart spaces.”

The group began by looking at what sustainability programs currently exist in our district, including a new major initiative at Trade Tech, isolated courses elsewhere in architecture and environmental science, and some modules within other applied technology courses. It then looked at some possibilities for the future, such as innovations in the curriculum, interdisciplinary efforts, and intercollegiate offerings.

“We had a very exciting first meeting,” says Trustee Mona Field. “We looked at ways to move our curriculum development to catch up with our building program. We’re lagging a little behind in this area.” The district has had a highly visible role in the sustainability movement, having been lauded for initiating the largest public sector sustainable building effort in the nation, with 50% of new buildings set to be “green certified.” In fact, the district was recently awarded the prestigious Governor’s Environmental

and Economic Leadership Award. Many are also expecting the LACCD to serve as a model for sustainability curriculum.

Oliva points out that as we begin to use “green” solutions, such as solar design, environmental construction, fuel cells/batteries, and wind power, industries will be transformed. There will be an increased demand for skilled employees, from solar panel installers to engineers. “Lots of disciplines will be impacted,” says John Grimmer, professor of Environmental Science at East. “Each of them should show a concern for global climate change and ways to make sure our planet is livable.”

“Besides the industrial applications, there is a great potential here for consciousness-raising,” says David Beaulieu. “It leads to a whole different way of relating to the natural world.” “This is a beginning,” adds Field. “The work we do in this area is incredibly important.”

The Sustainability Group will meet again on Dec. 7th. To learn more about it, contact David Beaulieu (dbeaulieu@email.laccd.edu).

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Fall Summit

Other sessions focused on changes in planning and curriculum and on how to bring innovation to workforce education programs throughout the district.

Participants came away from the all-day session inspired and invigorated. “It was the best conference I have attended in our district in years,” said Richard Block (West LA College). Scott Weigand (Valley College) concurred, saying “It was a terrific summit.” Sylvia Scott-Hayes, President of the Board of Trustees, participated as she does every year. “I think it was an excellent get-together where faculty and administrators got to listen to what others are doing. It’s so nice to discuss academic issues together.”

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President’s Column

meeting in over eight years. We have also formed three more task forces to guide the implementation of other areas of the framework.

As you know from our lead article, innovation was the theme at our Summit this year. If ever there was a need for innovative, ambitious new programming, it is in the development of a sustainability curriculum – courses and programs that respond to the enormous climate change crisis before us. A group of fifteen of us met in late October to brainstorm about just how this might be done. We had a terrific get together, and are set to meet again in December. For the complete story, see the article above.

Finally, a word about Project Match, a highly successful DAS/Diversity Office program that places aspiring teachers with mentors. It’s been a wonderful way to boost the diversity of our faculty. Normally we have just 18 interns, two per campus, although we get over 150 qualified applicants every year. It’s a real shame to turn so many away. Fortunately, we now have the support to more than double its size next year. To do this, however, we need more mentors! Please consider participating in this great program.

Prop. 92 and the district changes outlined above will result in great benefits for our students. But they won’t happen without your spirited participation. Contact your local senate president or me, and we’ll get you started.

CALENDAR

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

Student Success Initiative Steering Committee	Dec. 12 (City)
District Academic Senate	Dec. 13 (Trade)
Discipline Day for Performing and Visual Arts Depts	Dec. 14 (Trade)
District Budget Committee	Jan. 9 (District Office)
Discipline Day for All Departments	Feb. 22 (Valley)

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