

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE



SUMMER
2008

Developing a Sustainability Curriculum

THE LACCD IS A NATIONAL leader in environmental responsibility. Over five years ago, long before other colleges and universities, the Board of Trustees committed to an ambitious sustainability program. In recognition of this bold leadership, the district has won numerous awards, including the Governor's Economic and Environmental Leadership Award last November. The recent dedication of the East LA College solar panels (which will supply over 45% of that campus' energy needs) is a big step toward reaching our goal of becoming energy independent/carbon neutral by the end of next year. That will be a *very* impressive accomplishment!

What we have not yet done, however, is match these ambitious efforts with comparable sustainability educational programs. Students--but also faculty, administrators, and staff--need to become more deeply informed about the colossal challenges the world faces as it grapples with climate change and decreasing fossil fuel availability.

As reported earlier, a group of us began meeting in October to consider how we might address this need. Since then we have met on a monthly basis, and

CONTINUES ON BACK PAGE

Spring Plenary Tackles Tough Issues

THE STATE ACADEMIC SENATE (ASCCC) meets twice a year in Plenary Session. Our spring gathering was held April 16-19 in San Francisco. Among the highlights:

Threat to Peer Review

There was continued discussion about the threat posed by the Spellings Commission to regional accrediting agencies and to college autonomy. The commission, established by Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, has been sharply critical of the work done by accrediting bodies nationwide. In fact, several members have urged the adoption of national testing by external sources, which would lead to a standardization of the curriculum. Although the commission has been rebuffed to some extent by the new Congress, it has continued to aggressively pursue its agenda. The ASCCC is working very closely now with the ACCJC (our regional accrediting commission) to resist this threat to peer review.



LACCD faculty wait their turn to speak on Resolution Voting Day at Plenary.

Underage Students

The ASCCC has had an ongoing concern that any increase in the number of minors on campuses not diminish the necessary college climate and that academic freedom not be compromised. A resolution was passed reiterating these concerns. Among its several recommendations: that faculty be informed prior to the enrollment of minors in their classes and that they retain the right to deny enrollment on educational grounds.

Virtual Student Support Services

The need for counseling and other support services to be available online for distance learning students was strongly endorsed, especially given that this is an accreditation requirement.

Information Competency

Local senates were urged to be sure that students demonstrate information competency, and the ASCCC offered to assist those seeking to institute requirements in this area (something our librarians have talked about recently).

Minimum Quals

A change in Title 5 was proposed to the Board of Governors, whereby the minimum qualifications could be modified for some non-Masters disciplines (generally Career Tech). Instead of a BA or AA in any field, candidates would have to have a BA in a specified major. It would also allow for some disciplines to require a different combination of work experience and education than the current standard.

CAMPUS REPORTS



LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

Ken Sherwood, Academic Senate President

LACC has spent the better part of the 2007-2008 academic year revising all of its plans in preparation for our upcoming accreditation visit next Spring. Major progress has been made on the Facilities Master Plan, Educational Master Plan, Strategic Master Plan, Campus IT Plan, and Accreditation Self Study. At the same time, all of the academic departments just finished their six-year program reviews. This flurry of work all coincided in an unprecedented manner for the institution but has created an opportunity for collaboration and consistency that is really paying off. Updating all of our plans simultaneously has produced the benefit of significantly improved coordination among all of the campus master plans and has forced us to examine and reevaluate all of our planning processes.

Our next step, aside from continuing our preparations for accreditation, is to implement these plans in the midst of continuing construction around the campus.

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Alex Immerblum, Academic Senate President

After nearly a two-year absence, we have welcomed back President Ernie Moreno from his interim assignment at Mission.

While it took several months to plan, we have finally enlisted the services of a team of experts in the field of basic skills to assess our current efforts and offer recommendations for ways we can bring about more success for more students. Over the span of a week and a half, the team of ten will have discussed our basic skills efforts with faculty, administrators, staff and, most importantly, students. We look forward to their report at the end of the month.

Extensive new construction is finally underway. The new parking structure's foundation is already in place and work will begin shortly on the Performing Arts Complex.

LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE

June Burlingame Smith, Academic Senate President

Even as we anticipate graduation, Harbor is planning for the fall in several important areas: moving into new buildings, instituting new basic skills help campus-wide, and working on the midterm accreditation report due in March of 2009.

Three new buildings are in the final stages of completion -- technology, student services and administration, and a classroom building. We are all holding our breaths in hopes that construction will be completed

before classes start in the Fall, but we have made contingency plans for scheduling just in case.

We will be celebrating the retirement of Art Wakita, our esteemed architecture professor. The Lomita Chamber of Commerce will be honoring our immediate past Senate President, Susan McMurray, with a Golden Apple Award. The Senate will honor emeriti and retirees at an end of the year luncheon just before graduation.

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Angela Echeverri, Academic Senate President

Mission is in the process of hiring five full-time faculty members in math, biology, history, psychology, and physical education. Construction of our Child Development Center and Health and Fitness Center is progressing rapidly, with the construction of private faculty offices in the Instructional Building to begin in June.

Our college had a successful accreditation progress visit at the end of April. We have made significant improvements in the key areas of governance, planning, campus climate, enrollment, construction, and student learning outcomes. A special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen.

President Judith Valles started her tenure as our permanent college president on April 1st. President Ernest Moreno returned to East LA College after almost two years at Mission, and Alma Johnson-Hawkins was recently selected as our permanent VP of Academic Affairs.

PIERCE COLLEGE

Tom Rosdahl, Academic Senate President

At the Board of Trustees meeting April 23, held in Pierce's newly renovated Student Community Center, the board voted to pursue a new bond for \$3.5 billion. With these funds the college will be able to provide new buildings and fully develop the curriculum. A building originally constructed as a cafeteria in 1949 and later used as the college bookstore served as a shining example of what bond monies can do.

In spite of the torn-up roads and detour signs, our enrollment continues to be strong as we near the end of the semester. The college has made great progress on the building projects as construction continues to go well.

The college plans to hire six new faculty members for the fall semester.

LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE

Alfred Reed, Jr., Academic Senate President

The Board has announced the selection of a new permanent president, Dr. Jack Daniels, who has been serving as interim president.

Southwest's second sustainable building, the \$12.9 million Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Building, was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 30, and the last original bungalow from 40 years ago was demolished to make way for other new construction.

Congratulations to Theatre Arts Professor Al Cowart and the LASC Players, who returned from the National Association of Dramatic Speech Arts Conference with seven national awards in playwriting, dramatic duo, play production, and readers' theater.

LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE

Chini Johnson-Taylor, Academic Senate President

Our program review, accreditation self-study groups, and strategic master plans are all moving ahead with increased faculty participation.

Our *Community Day of Dialogue* on May 17 will give participants a chance to discuss student retention, persistence, and success strategies. Our First-Year Experience Project will be launched then, too, with over 100 high school seniors and their parents attending an orientation. During the summer, they will enroll in personal development classes paired with their academic or career technical programs and have regular meetings with counselors and faculty.

Our annual Retirement Luncheon will recognize emeritus faculty, staff, and administrators, and those retiring this year, and will bring over 100 guests to the campus.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as Senate president since 1994. The Senate is a serious body with a solid legal mission. It is my sincere hope that more faculty will become engaged in this process of participatory governance.

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Don Gauthier, Academic Senate President

Valley College is gearing up for four major renovations to classroom buildings this summer, and contractors are finishing work on the new Allied Health and Sciences Center due to open this Fall. Faculty will be moving into temporary spaces for the summer, hoping that the refurbishing will be completed in time for Fall semester.

In April, the Academic Senate elected seven new and returning members to its ranks. At the same time, we expect between eight and ten faculty members to retire this year, including John Maddox, who has capably and diligently served the District and Valley senates over his long career. He will be missed!

Finally, a changing of the guard will occur this June as Dr. Tyree Wieder steps down as president after 14 productive and challenging years. Dr. Sue Carleo, former Academic Affairs VP and current LACCD Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, will step up as her temporary replacement as the college begins an intensive search process starting this August.

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Eloise Crippens, Academic Senate President

As WLAC Academic Senate President, it has been an honor and a privilege to represent West's faculty at the local and state level. At this point in my service to the Senate, I have decided to move on. I want to thank the faculty, administration, and staff for their trust, support, friendship, and collegiality during my tenure. The partnership that we formed has strengthened our shared governance process and enabled the college to grow far beyond our expectations, improve our community relations with the city of Culver City, and made it possible for us to begin our Prop A/AA projects. I look forward to working with the incoming Senate leadership, whom I know will lift West to even greater heights.

West has sent its completed Basic Skills Plan to the state chancellor's office for approval. We also reinstated our Jumpstart program with local high schools and have come up with many great ideas to attract more students.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Budget Struggles

By David Beaulieu, *DAS President*

I'm writing this just two days before the Governor's May Revise budget announcement, and we're bracing for more bad news. We can't expect to get away completely unscathed, but we do need to argue vehemently against the extent of the governor's proposed cuts. They're indefensible for all the reasons that we know so well, and are especially wrongheaded given the incredible job we do in training skilled workers, which is just what the state economy needs in much greater numbers.

In addition to our political activism, there are steps we need to take within the district. We have to be sure that our current operations are as efficient as possible. Realizing how much this is a faculty concern, I've made this a regular feature of our District Budget Committee agenda. If there is redundancy in our district operations--or excessive delays for other reasons--then our students eventually pay the price. There have been some positive developments in this regard. Deputy Chancellor Barrera and others have spent the past several months creating functional flow charts then, when finished, will show exactly who is supposed to do what in each district unit, along with timelines. The goal is to have these on the web by fall. They will go a long way toward making our processes more transparent, which, in turn, should lead to additional streamlining.

We are also having franker discussions in the DBC about the consequences of colleges running deficits. Schools in strong fiscal condition have long suspected that those in debt were not being held responsible. It was true in the past, but in recent years colleges in the red have been required to make significant cutbacks in their faculty and staff ranks. This needs to be recognized.

Neither of these steps is going to increase the amount of money the state sends us, but it'll be easier to shoulder the pain of impending cuts when we're all convinced that we're suffering equitably.

Looking down the line, I've been very pleased to hear Chancellor Drummond speak out very forcefully on the need to make the hiring of new faculty the district's top priority, once we get past this tough period. Our FT/PT ratio has slipped in the last five years from 76% to 60%, and some colleges don't have a single full-time faculty member for core disciplines! That is a prescription for student failure.

If you want to know more about these and a wide range of other issues, please go to our website (lacc.edu/das), where you'll find newsletters and reports, curriculum information, and past issues of *Academically Speaking*.

Have a great summer!

Sustainability Agenda

our list serve has swelled to 45. With the recent arrival of Marvin Martinez, Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development, we have stepped up our activities. We envision our work as divided into three areas:

Career tech education

We need to develop far more courses in green technologies, a field offering a wealth of job possibilities. Though Trade Tech has taken several significant steps in this area, others are just getting started. The dedication of new federal VTEA money to innovation at each college should help spur creativity. Martinez and the CTE deans and faculty will have to be centrally involved in coordinating this development so that it has maximum effectiveness.

Development of transfer courses

We are drafting the outline for an Intro to Sustainability course, a team-taught, interdisciplinary class that will give students a sense of the diverse perspectives on sustainability: not only scientific, but also economic, social, political, and philosophical. This course will hopefully lead to the development of a full-fledged Environmental Studies program. At the same time, we are urging faculty to infuse sustainability awareness into their classes wherever possible. It could serve as the theme for an English 101 class, for example. John Grimmer (East), Don Gauthier (Valley), Marcela Oliva (Trade) and Beth Abels (Pierce) are heading up this effort.

Community education programs

We also want to put together forums, lecture series, and student-taught seminars in order to raise general awareness and encourage students to pursue credit courses. Lynn Winter Gross and Dee Patel from the district office will be in charge of putting these together.

It's a very ambitious agenda, but the need is great, and the time is short. If you would like to join our effort or just learn more, please contact us at www.laccd.edu/das.

Winston Butler, Former DAS President, Dies



A KEY FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR district, Winston Butler passed away on April 18. The majority of his teaching career was spent at City College, where he began teaching in 1971 in the Theater Department. He was City's Academic Senate president from 1991-93 and DAS president from 1993-99. After moving to the San Diego area, he served as Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Communications at Miramar College from January 2002 through May 2007, when he retired.

It was Winston's wish that donations be sent to a scholarship fund for young black actors to be set up at City College. To contribute, contact Fred Fate, Theatre Department Chair, at 323 953 4000 ext. 2971.

Remembering Winston Butler *Leader, Colleague, and Friend*

Winning Smile
Instinctive being
Never petty
Stalwart in his beliefs
Theater in his blood
Outstanding in his field
Negotiator with artistic flair

Beautiful Spirit
Ultimate Professional
Trooper until the end
Loved the Academic Senate
Exciting and dynamic
Remembered Always...

As friends of Winston, it is hard for us to write about him. It is difficult to capture all that he was in plain words. After he left the District, we maintained communication with him. He was a wonderful and humanistic individual. We hope that these simple phrases reflect the essence of our friend Winston.

Remembering Winston,
Patricia Siever (former DAS President)
Luther Henderson (former DAS Treasurer)

Maddox Saying Goodbye After 42 Years at Valley



JOHN MADDOX is retiring after teaching American history at Valley College for 42 years. His dedicated work on curriculum, both on the college level and as chair of the District Curriculum Committee, led to major changes that have benefited faculty and students. His retirement plans include traveling in the U.S. to see more of the country for which he holds a great passion.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sylvia Scott-Hayes, *President*
 Kelly G. Candaele, *Vice President*
 Mona Field
 Georgia Mercer
 Nancy Pearlman
 Angela J. Reddock
 Miguel Santiago
 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. Contact us at www.laccd.edu/das.