

# ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Coming Together

By DAVID BEAULIEU  
DAS President

Surely one of the primary benefits of being part of a large district is that we can share ideas and work together. The isolation and insularity that faculty in single college districts often complain about shouldn't be problems for us. And yet over the years we haven't done nearly enough to make these connections. Working with district leadership, especially Gary Colombo and Deborah Harrington, the Senate has taken several steps to change this state of affairs.

Our efforts started with the launching of the Student Success Initiative in the fall of 2005. The SSI Steering Committee, with representatives from every college, has been meeting monthly ever since. We've sponsored several workshops, culminating in the first-ever Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy this semester. Over 30 faculty from across the district are participating. Meanwhile, an SSI subcommittee is working on creating new College Success courses.

In the fall of 2007 the DAS moved to reinvigorate the crucial district discipline committees. Many had not met in several years. As of this spring, with only a couple of exceptions, all the major disciplines are meeting on a regular basis.

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## Chancellor Drummond on Budget and Hiring

*This is the first of a two-part interview that David Beaulieu had with the Chancellor on March 10 and 17.*

**We've just heard that the state is facing another \$8 billion gap in its budget. The budget deal has yet to be approved by the voters. Clearly, the community colleges could still face very serious cuts next year. Can you give us your take on where we're at right now?**

The \$8 billion figure is just further evidence of how unclear things are right now. They could go either way. In terms of the budget deal, there are three pieces to the big puzzle. One piece is that the governor and the legislature claim that they have an 18-month solution. Frankly, community colleges were treated kindly in that solution. We got serious budget cash-flow deferrals, but we didn't take major losses, major hits in that proposal.

But there are five different ballot propositions that have to pass or it doesn't hold together, particularly on lottery securitization, that's the big one, five billion. Then there's the Prop 63 in mental health, which would rob Peter to pay Paul, take money out of mental health and put it into whatever else. May 19 is an important date because if this stuff doesn't pass--or enough of this stuff to hold this budget together--then they're back to square one, which could be very bad.

The second piece is the May Revise. I don't see how it's going to be an uptick, especially with this recent news. Then the third piece--there's so little positive here--the property tax revenues. Property taxes are only 15% of our budget here in Los Angeles, but that's still a lot of money. 15% of our budget amounts to something like \$90 million. If that goes to pot, even by just 10% percent, that's \$9 million. It's a serious thing.

**Faculty ask whether we are adequately prepared as a district.**

All I can say that these are really trying times. We've been in a quasi shutdown mode for 18 months. We're retarding hiring and traveling. We're on track for the district-wide savings that we said we would be on target for. But if everything went bad in May then we could be in real trouble. So there's no real way to say everything will be fine in the fall. If we even get half a break, if they are all not too bad, the budget deal could hold up. But if it all goes the wrong way, it could be very bad. I don't think we are out of the woods.

We are March 15 noticing the academic administration, though we have not made any decisions on furloughs or rollbacks or anything. If we ever come to this bad eventuality, everyone will have to come to the table to contribute something. The staff will. The faculty will. We always have the

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Richard Rogers asking the Chancellor a question during his March visit to Trade Tech College.

# CAMPUS REPORTS

## LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

Ken Sherwood, Academic Senate President

City has been busy preparing for our accreditation site visit. The self study has been distributed and a town hall held to discuss the visit. Meanwhile, the beautiful new Family and Child Studies building is open and operational and the new stadium is scheduled to be completed in time to host graduation. State Academic Senate President Mark Wade Lieu attended our March 5th Senate meeting and gave us his perspective on accreditation and other pressing issues.

## EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Alex Immerblum, Academic Senate President

Like Trade and City, we have been actively preparing for our site visit. At every key campus committee, we've reviewed the accrediting team visit process. In the meantime, we are beginning our screening process for our new Associate Dean of Student Success position, and at our next Student Success Committee Deborah Harrington will discuss with us the Faculty Inquiry Group process. We are currently slated to hire 24 to 30 probationary faculty for next fall.

Of special interest is our new Technology & Logistics program in our CAOT Department. Along with offering the Logistics courses as part of our regular schedule, they are also being provided after school at Garfield High School and twice a week at the Wilshire-Metro Worksource Center. Finally, it looks like our parking woes will soon be over with the opening of East's first parking structure later this semester.

## LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE

June Burlingame Smith,  
Academic Senate President

Harbor had a successful question and answer session in March between students, faculty and staff and Chancellor Drummond, Vice Chancellor Clerx, and DAS President

Beaulieu. The Chancellor emphasized the importance of financing education. The district representatives enjoyed good food from our nascent culinary arts program and the wonderful light in our new buildings.

Faculty, staff and administration are planning an all-day conference to create a new college master plan. Community leaders from industry, business, and the arts have been invited to give feedback to the college and to participate in the planning. Plans should be completed no later than the end of June.

## LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Angela Echeverri, Academic Senate President

Mission College recently completed its accreditation follow-up report, which focused on shared governance and institutional planning. We completed a very thorough evaluation of our standing shared governance committees, which led to several recommendations to improve their effectiveness. We are also completing our program review of all non-instructional areas and our College Strategic Master Plan. We expect an accreditation team visit later in the spring.

At the end of the fall semester, a permanent dean of Academic Affairs joined our college. Over the winter break, we hired a new probationary faculty member in chemistry, and we plan to hire a Basic Skills Coordinator this spring.

## PIERCE COLLEGE

Tom Rosdahl, Academic Senate President

The College Spring Convocation Day on February 6 was held in the newly renovated Student and Community Center (Great Hall). The Student Success Committee put on a very interesting event, focusing on improving reading through technology.

We started off the semester with eight new tenure-track faculty in Biology, Mathematics, Business, Counseling, Physics, Speech and Equine Science. Pierce is in the process of hiring 18 more for the fall. Our enrollment for the spring semester is up 14% compared to last year and we now have about 24,000 students. New State Senator Fran Pavley, author of the landmark global warming bill, has been invited to be our Commencement speaker.

On a sad note, long-time Geology/GIS professor Gail Hobbs passed away in February after a short illness. She was a member of the Academic Senate and of numerous campus committees. Gail will be missed, as she could always be counted on to share her thoughts and to volunteer.

## LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE

Alfred Reed, Jr., Academic Senate President

We continue to make progress on SLOs, with a timeline for completion of cycles now established. Faculty will continue to explore effective methods for documentation and reporting of SLO's. A Strategic Planning Committee has been formed, with a handbook to coordinate planning efforts across departments approved by the senate.

Counselor Erika Miller and English instructor Sabrena Turner-Odom have been moderating *Sister 2 Hermana*, a monthly workshop series that focuses on issues involving women. "Its purpose is to empower all women, particularly women of color, with the understanding that we are more similar than different, and that we can rise above the many obstacles we face while pursuing higher education," explains Turner-Odom. Self esteem, health issues, and the depiction of women of color in entertainment are some topics discussed. Attendance has more than doubled since the first workshop was held in spring 2008.

## LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE

Kindra Kinyon, Academic Senate President

The big news at Trade-Tech is, of course, accreditation, as we prepare for our visit. The college now has an active Budget & Planning Committee and a newly formed Basic Skills Committee. The latter, under the auspices of the Senate, recently came up with a procedure by which individuals and departments can apply for Basic Skills funds. The Senate's Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee is in the midst of ranking department applications for faculty hires. On the financial front, we are very grateful to the district for the new \$500,000 budget augmentation which will help offset the expense of our many high-cost CTE programs. As always, the Academic Senate continues to advocate for shared governance in all the areas covered by the "10 + 1" in Title 5.

## LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Don Gauthier, Academic Senate President

Valley College opened its doors to a throng of students for Spring semester (13% higher than last year, but 10% fewer sections.) “Spring into Spring,” an orientation for adjunct faculty, was held on the first weekend in February. Over fifty attended the informative session, which was co-sponsored by the Faculty Guild and Professional Development. The orientations are held every semester.

The Valley Sustainability Group has been working to complete its webpage and the second edition of the *Eduko* newsletter. The group has completed a final draft of a Green Pledge that provides ten steps everyone can take towards more sustainable living. They have also set up a series of Sustainability Workshops for faculty, student leadership, and staff in April.

## WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Rod Patterson, Academic Senate President

Popular demand for training in the field of emergency services has prompted West to reinstate its Associate of Arts degree and Certificate program in Fire Technology. After hiring four new tenure-track faculty for Spring semester, we’re planning to conduct ten additional searches over the next several weeks for placement this fall.

West began serving the Westside community in the spring of 1969, and so on March 25 we celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a review of its history and contributions. As our Master Plan continues to develop, we invite all of our supporters to learn about the college’s plans for the next 40 years.

West has achieved an average class size of 34, college-wide, after substantial changes to its enrollment strategy. This included cancellation of low enrolled classes and better course scheduling. The college’s headcount enrollment is up 16% for Spring while the number of course sections offered was reduced by 14%.

The college completed the faculty-led Technology Master Plan in February 2009 and submitted it to the College Council for review. The plan is directly tied to the Educational Master Plan and emphasizes the effective use of technology in the classroom.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

## Q+A with the Chancellor

unpleasant alternative of further reducing hourly and also there are the D-basis and C-basis assignments where there can be some give. I don’t think we should dwell on



that because why borrow trouble? It will be soon enough come August. If we know we’re having trouble, then we can sit down and decide what to do. If we do too much contingency planning today we can unwittingly depress people. We are so happy to have our newer faculty and don’t want them threatened in any way. The highest priority I have over almost anything is protecting the new faculty because they are the promise of the future. They get here and get invested. It’s like the new plant with new roots. You have to be careful about it. Hopefully we will get through this. I’m more optimistic than pessimistic actually. But I don’t have a high degree of confidence that all will be well.

**Several people—faculty and staff—have told me they’re confused about our hiring plans. On the one hand, we have this major budget crisis. On the other, we’re going ahead with lots of hiring.**

From a legal standpoint we need to comply with 75-25. From an academic and professional standpoint, if we can, we need to comply. We know this district has been going in the wrong direction in terms of our full-time faculty percentage. It’s been going in the wrong direction for almost this entire decade. Down, down, down. So my thinking is we need to call a halt to that. And to me that means that even if we have a fiscal crisis we have to replace all retirees. Even in the worst of cases. Somehow we have to do that. But my goal is to hire a net increase of about 100 faculty by this coming fall. We are proceeding as though we are going to hire. We are going to replace retirements and add enough people so that we actually go up.

Each college has its hiring plan and is out recruiting. They’ll be interviewing. They’ll be interviewing through April, making their decisions. We’re going to have to reason our way through this. My hope is that most of the final decisions won’t come until after May 19. If the lights go out after that election then we should probably just replace retirements and hold the line, but, on the other hand, if it means we’re losing good people my sense would be well, if we have to, we need to go ahead and make the commitment, then see what we have to do later. It isn’t a clear-cut, easy thing. It’s a month-by-month, day-by-day process. But faculty hiring is one of my top priorities, so I don’t want to discourage it.

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## President's Message

At the same time, as part of our student success efforts, the nine SLO Coordinators began to meet, as did the Professional Development Coordinators and the Transfer Center Directors. Our next step is to get faculty to join the directors in a renewed push to boost our transfer totals.

The Sustainability Group began then also, bringing faculty, staff, administrators, and students together from six colleges. The group meets monthly and now has over 70 on its mailing list. Among many other things, its work has led to intensive faculty dialogue. Next up is the establishment of a Sustainability Institute if federal funding comes through as expected this summer.

IT managers had been meeting for several years, but never with faculty and administrators. So last spring we brought representatives from all three groups together to discuss how technology interfaces best with academics and student services (hence, the committee name: the Instructional and Student Services Technology Committee). It meets monthly.

Since last year the DAS, Financial Aid managers, and ASO leaders have been working together to boost our financial aid application numbers. The Town Hall meetings held February 18 were our first major project together.

In March CTE administrators and faculty came together from across the district. The meeting went so well that we're planning an additional one this semester. The group is planning to meet at least once every semester.

Finally, in May all the Distance Education stakeholders, including the DE Coordinators, administrators and union representatives, will be meeting together. As with the CTE gathering, this will be a first -ever get-together.

All of these meetings are filling gaps in communication that are limiting the education we provide to our students. We need to strengthen and deepen these new ties. And it's a very satisfying process: participating faculty often remark on how pleasing it is to make contact with colleagues across the district.

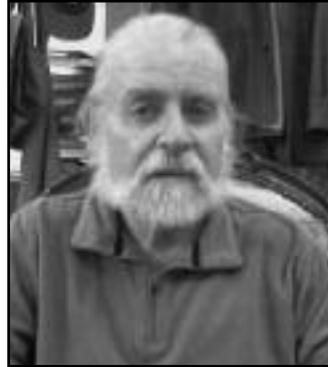
If you'd like to be part of any of these efforts, just let me know ([www.laccd.edu/das](http://www.laccd.edu/das)).

## NOTEWORTHY

### Zev Garber, Valley College

#### Emeritus Professor To Be Honored

*This article begins a new series in Academically Speaking featuring noteworthy faculty achievement. If you would like to nominate someone for recognition, please contact us.*



Zev Garber, Emeritus Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies and Philosophy at Valley College, is being honored at Valley on April 30 at a book signing and lecture to celebrate the publication of *Maven in Blue Jeans: A Festschrift in Honor of Zev Garber* (Purdue University Press, 2009). This collection of academic essays written by friends and colleagues of Professor Garber is a tribute to his

work as an outstanding scholar and teacher. Each contribution was written especially for the volume, on topics of special interest to him: the Holocaust, Jewish-Christian relations, biblical interpretation, among others.

Garber has taught at Valley since 1970. He established the Jewish Studies department at the college and has served as Visiting Professor at UC Riverside and Case Western Reserve University and as President of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of two academic series, *Studies in Shoah* and *Shofar Supplements in Jewish Studies*, and is the author of essays, reviews, and books on a number of topics, including the impact of the Shoah on American Jewish life. He organized the recent meeting of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in Boston, as well as a conference on the Jewish Jesus to be held this May at Case Western.

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