

May 14, 2013

Good evening.

As you can see from the Accreditation Steering Committee presentation, accreditation recommendation 2 is fully completed, with a ongoing plan for continuous quality improvement; recommendation 3 is close to completion, with a six-year plan for ongoing SLO assessment; and recommendation 6 will formulate and enact a financial plan with the assistance of Shared Governance Budget, Finance and Planning Committee. This financial plan will no doubt be affected by the announcement of the Governor's May Revise Budget proposal, released today. This revise includes growth money (\$89.4m) and a cost-of-living adjustment (1.57%) In addition, to help inform the campus and public of our accreditation status, the VVC website has been updated.

The Accreditation Steering Committee is a great example of the VVC community working together for the betterment of our institution and to improve student success. In their unpaid service on Senate and Shared Governance committees, faculty – both full- and part-time -- show their dedication to VVC.

Since I was not able to attend last month's Board of Trustees' meeting due to attending the Organization of American Historians conference in San Francisco – one of three professional conferences in I attended three weekends in April – I'd like to provide a brief update on how our faculty have inspired, contributed to and improved our campus; since last week was Teacher Appreciation Month, it's important we focus on our teachers:

- March is designated as Women's History Month, and the Academic Senate would like to commend Eartha Johnson for organizing a WHM celebration on March 26th. This year's theme involved recognizing women in science and math, and many of our VVC female professors were honored: Reiji Cass, Diane Cline, Jeanne Dawson, Carol Delong, Mary Lynn Doan, Nichole DuBal, Jessica Gibbs, Lisa Harvey, Sandra Hendrickson, Linda Kelly, Debby Kurti, Pamela Mackay, Arda Melkonian and Anh Weis.

- Debbie Peterson, Restaurant Management, reported that three of our VVC students participated in the Annual Culinary Competition, where Tarrna Forney, Tammy Whiteside and Perry Shaw placed in tablescape, baking and culinary contests. Our students were competing against much larger schools, such as LA Trade Tech, Cypress College and Glendale Restaurant Management.
- From April 18-20, Senate Vice President Claude Oliver, Treasurer Stephen Toner, and myself will attended the Spring Plenary Session in San Francisco. The title for this session was 'Rising to the Challenge: Responding to Disruptive Forces'. We are in the process of sending reports from this Plenary to our colleagues on the information gleaned in two intensive days of workshops. For the Fall 2013 Plenary, one of our Senate part-time rep's, Glenn Akers, will be attending with the Academic Senate Executive Team. We applaud Glenn for taking time in November to attend.
- Finally, we are pleased to see the Foundation's 'Campaign for Classes' join us in endeavoring to serve our students. The Academic Senate applauds the Foundation for publicly recognizing the important role faculty play in the success of this institution. Faculty such as Claude Oliver have participated in 'Auto Occupado' – Claude spent a total of 28 hours last week in one of the donated vehicles! This event is one of many examples of our faculty supporting the VVC Foundation.

Thank you.