

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

I'm writing today with a series of updates, entreaties, and announcements. I'm also cc'ing a number of our colleagues in the administrative and classified ranks, because collaboration with colleagues will help us meet the daunting challenges that lie before us.

New degrees

By now, you should be aware of SB1440, passed last fall by the state legislature. This law calls for every community college in the state to have new degrees that guarantee transferability to the CSUs. Senators have been talking to departmental leaders in their division to encourage discussion around development of these new degrees. NEXT WEEK, Wed 9 Feb at 11:30 in Admn 109 we will be having the first of two faculty forums on this issue and on General Education changes proposed for our college. Please read the flyer and attend if you can. More information on the senate homepage or by clicking here:

<http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/open%20forum%20final%20new2.pdf>

Enrollment

Student enrollment is significantly down for this year, and we need to bring it up. I've asked your Senators to help recruit faculty leaders who will brainstorm immediate and longer term solutions to this crisis. I'm also welcoming ANY AND ALL suggestions for what faculty leaders can do NOW to encourage more students to enroll in more courses for Spring quarter. Each one of us must reach out to all the students we can to max out our enrollment. Millions of dollars are riding on our ability to fill seats with learners and then do what you do best: give them the best education that they deserve. Send your ideas, however outlandish, to andersongregory@fhda.edu

Budget

No way around it: the news from Sacramento is bad. Every week, we learn more about the unprecedented shortfalls that our district will face in the coming year and beyond. The only bright spot is that the district has adequate fund balances to sustain our work through the next year, i.e., 11-12. Your representatives on the Planning and Budget Teams, your senators, and other faculty leaders will seek ways to engage you in critical dialogues about how to meet this unprecedented shortfall while preserving our special mission. Please keep informed through your Senators, your chancellor's update, FA News, and statewide news sources.

SLOs

The SLO leaders have produced an attractive and engaging newsletter. Please read it here: <http://www.deanza.edu/slo/Vol%20I%20Issue%201.pdf> . There's so much good work going on here, in the best spirit of faculty collaborating with each other, with other employees, and with students to create outcomes, strive to reach these outcomes, and assess our ability to reach them. Look forward to more information on a major event on April 15 2011.

Veterans' event

Also next week, there will be two opportunities for an intensive training opportunity in how to better serve the growing population of our veteran students.

More information on the senate homepage or by clicking here:

<http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/stafftrainingflyer.pdf>

Partner in Learning – Friday March 4th

Yesterday was the last day for submissions to the RFP for this event. We are thrilled with the diversity of proposals for inspiring talks by our colleagues from all employee groups across the campus. More details about registration and the complete program will be posted soon on the academic senate website.

There's so much else going on, but I'll only add one more suggestion, and this is *especially for those who need to eat*: Pick up tickets to the APASA Lunar New Year Scholarship Luncheon to be held next Tuesday. You get a gourmet meal while contributing to an important cause. See Duc in the mailroom or Susanne Chan in International Students for more information.

As always, the door of the Academic Senate office is open all the time, figuratively at least, and I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about any issue of concern to you, your department, or your division.

Thanks for all the work that each of you does for the students and the institution.

Gregory Anderson

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