

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Welcome to winter quarter! I hope that each of you is coming back refreshed and reinvigorated. As the new decade dawns, I would like to update you on some activities of the senators and officers of your Academic Senate. If you would like more information about or deeper engagement in any of these topics, please get in touch with your senators (listed here deanza.edu/gov/academicssenate/excom_roster.html) or your officers (listed here deanza.edu/gov/academicssenate/senateofficers.html).

Pepsi Refresh -- vote daily

Starting tomorrow, the 3rd of January, a funding proposal from De Anza College will be eligible for voting on facebook or by email. Our student leaders are working to win a grant for our college. Working with faculty and staff in the Learning Resources Division, these students have put together a proposal for tutoring and other activities to help students complete their academic goals. I'll send more details out about this tomorrow, but if you feel like getting started early, here is the link: refresheverything.com/index

Accreditation -- on track

Rough drafts of the four Standards are being submitted to the editors soon. Many of your faculty colleagues have been working very hard on writing the Self Study, cooperating with classified professionals and administrators to collect data and demonstrate our college's value. Later this quarter, the four Standards Teams will again be revising the drafts, and I'm sure that some of you will be asked for your input. Then, in spring quarter, the formal draft will make its way through shared governance bodies, providing a final chance for input. For more details on the timeline, please click here deanza.edu/accreditation/SpecificTimelineSelfStudy2011.pdf. For general information about accreditation, please click here: deanza.edu/accreditation

Budget -- state bad, district stable

As you are probably aware, the state's budget is in a shambles and community colleges' funding remains wholly inadequate. Still, colleges across the state have been striving to meet unprecedented demand for education. The good news at FHDA is this: thanks to prudent fiscal management and bulging class rosters, our reserves should be adequate to weather the second half of this fiscal year and the entire 2011-2012 fiscal year in much the same form and shape that we are currently in. In recognition of this, the Board of Trustees recently pulled back many positions that had been slated for elimination. This is very good news not only for those affected employees, but for the entire college, because we depend so much upon their vital contributions. What comes next, however, with a new governor and a changed landscape in Sacramento and Washington, is still unclear. As we learn more, faculty leaders involved in participatory governance will engage in the discussions and ensure that our planning and budgeting is done with compassion for all our students who seek the opportunity that De Anza offers. I pledge to you that faculty voice will be strong in resource planning, programmatic decisions, and budget allocations.

Teaching and Learning Conference -- save date

Once again this year, the Teaching and Learning Conference promises to be an engaging and inspiring day. Many more details will follow, but for now, please save the date of March 3rd -- only two months away! Please let me know if you'd like to get involved in planning this event.

SB1440 -- change coming

Your senators have probably already initiated awareness in your divisions about this law, passed in fall of 2010. It calls for every community college to develop new curricula, to be instituted next fall, which will guarantee admission to CSU. Curriculum committee and senators have begun to explore the development of these new curricula. Soon, you will hear much more about this issue from your senators, from the Curriculum Committee, or directly in your departments. In the meantime, please take a moment to read this basic description of the law: <http://cocco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/Divisions/StudentServices/TransferArticulationHome/SB1440StudentTransfer/tabid/1809/Default.aspx> . For those who have more time, you may wish to read these FAQ on SB1440 and Transfer Model Curricula (TCM): <http://asccc.org/content/c-id-sb-1440-and-tmc-%E2%80%93-frequently-asked-questions>

SLO -- culture of inquiry

The new SLO team members, supported by continuing faculty leadership, have been working with other leaders from every division on course, program, and certificate outcomes. They have also been working with leaders on the planning and budget teams and Academic Senate to come up with an integrated planning calendar. Last month, this new planning calendar, integrating all aspects of planning and resource allocation along with the assessment cycle and the accreditation visits, was approved by College Council. To learn more about the SLO team's work, click here: <http://www.deanza.edu/slo/> For information about the planning cycle click here: <http://www.deanza.edu/slo/plans/plans.html> or contact me.

ASCCC -- statewide faculty work

The statewide academic senate, with many representatives from both Foothill and De Anza College, engaged in a vibrant discussion that resulted in a number of resolutions. Many of these motions were discussed at length in our Academic Senate meetings, so I suspect that your senators have already discussed some of them with you. If you would like to learn more, here is the link that will download resolutions: <http://tinyurl.com/final-fall-resolutions>.

Finally -- a hearty THANKS!

Now halfway through my term as your president, I have been deeply impressed with faculty leadership in shared governance. The more I learn about how things work, the more amazed I become about the selflessness of our colleagues as they strive to forge a better college, one that will serve provide more and better opportunities for students to achieve their aspirations. Thank you to each of the senators, committee representatives, department chairs, officers, task force members, co-chairs, standards chairs, curriculum

reps, SLO liaisons, EO reps, and others who participate in the vibrant governance of De Anza College. The entire college is indebted to your leadership.

Warmly,

Gregory

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