

## President's Report

September 6, 2017

- Welcome new senators, new faculty, new administrators, new student leaders
- The first meeting of the newly formed *President's Consultation Council* occurred 8/21

It will meet every third Monday of the month, 8:00-9:00 am

Membership is the president and vice presidents of the college, and the president and vice president of each of the following bodies: AFA, SEIU, Classified Senate, Student Government Association, and the Academic Senate

We set the ground rules, focus and goals of the meetings and discussed the substance of the resolution that is on the agenda today, re: AB 1887

- *Faculty Fora* (Fora is plural of forum, a Latin neuter noun)

The Academic Senate, AFA, and the Department Chairs Council have been sponsoring and holding meetings and conducting conversations and listening sessions in various media and locations since last March. We held two on PDA Day, one with Mary Kay, attended also by many administrators and managers, as well as classified employees, and one with faculty only.

A follow up to these conversations was *a survey* sent separately, to contract and adjunct faculty, which is currently still active, I believe, asking for input on issues of workload, salary and benefits, and shared governance. I encourage everyone to fill it out honestly. I have received some feedback about it, some in the form of complaints, about the structure of some of the questions and multiple choice answers, especially the ones where only two choices, yes and no, were available. I myself simply didn't answer some of those questions since neither yes, nor no applied, in which case I explained my view in the comment box. Since there are comment boxes after every question, the flaws in the way some questions are framed shouldn't be an obstacle against giving information about your own experience. Much of the survey deals with AFA's purview of workload, salary and benefits, but some is relevant to senate concerns and also those of department chairs.

These efforts—all those mentioned above—are intended to bring faculty together more cohesively, and to bring the faculty, our perspective and voice, more deeply into the process of shared governance. We will continue these efforts as a senate, in collaboration with AFA and DCC, apace.

- *Guided Pathways*: The Massive Initiative *du jour*

We have a national movement with a kind of "Bible"—*Redesigning America's Community Colleges*; we have a mandate from the Chancellor of our system—"Vision for Success;" We have grants dangled; we have a local Task Force populated with several faculty members, from whom we'll hear at the next senate meeting. We are sending 8-10 people,

5 of them faculty—including myself and Nancy Persons, to a conference on Guided Pathways in Oakland on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is, my colleagues, a matter of utmost urgency. We must have conversations across all departments and disciplines about how we will relate to this initiative, which is being advertised as a sweeping redesign of the community college. We are told to make it our own. The whole idea has enthusiastic supporters and just as enthusiastic opponents. Please take a little time to look it over, and be prepared to listen well to the efforts of our faculty on the Task Force to make the idea make sense for us, and form your own opinion. We will be talking about this a lot this year.

Eric Thompson