

President's Report, submitted by Julie Thompson
Special Meeting: July 22, 2020

Welcome to Amanda Hopkins, the new Administrative Assistant to the Academic Senate. Amanda's hire was formally approved by the Board at its July 14 meeting. Amanda has had a steep learning curve and has learned quickly, jumping in with both feet.

Senators for the 2020-21 academic year should please see the newsletter email that I recently sent regarding the Fall 2020 semester.

At the July 14 meeting of the Board of Trustees, I shared with the Board and college community several of the ideas for concrete responses to the Black Student Union demands that emerged during the Senate's June 11 discussion. It is important for the Board, Administration, and the rest of the college community to know that the Senate is responding to and taking responsibility for the calls for change, specifically on items within our purview. I have informed the Board and the Administration of my intention to agendaize those items expeditiously. I've received encouragement and support from the Administration and several trustees who have reached out regarding the Senate's response to the BSU demands. Thanks to President Chong and the Vice Presidents for their support of the Senate in doing this work.

Today's discussion on a Black/Ethnic Studies program is the Senate's first opportunity to formally respond to BSU demands. Based on my review of the BSU demands and also ideas that senators expressed during the June 11 meeting, these are the 10 + 1 items that are implicated by BSU demands: no. 1, curriculum; no. 2, degree requirements; no. 4, academic program development; no. 5, standards or policies regarding student [...] success; no. 8, faculty professional development; and no. 10, advising on processes for budget development. You will see these on upcoming agendas. There will be Senate discussions and decisions, and we will ask people to step forward to do the work that will benefit our Black and African American students and respond to the BSU demands.

PDA Day: Senate Exec is partnering with AFA on a workshop on 10 + 1 and scope of representation, and the overlap between these two. Please consider attending.

The Guided Pathways Memorandum of Understanding is on tomorrow's (July 23) negotiations agenda. The negotiations teams have needed to prioritize negotiating the side letters in response to the Coronavirus and transitioning instruction and services to remote modalities. They are finishing that work and are now able to take up the GP MOU.

We are working on the agenda for the Senate's upcoming retreat on Friday, August 28: Robert's Rules, parliamentary procedure; the Senate's meeting calendar and structure so that we can be more efficient with our time and get more work through the Senate. Senators are emailing suggestions for the retreat; keep the ideas coming.

The first regularly scheduled Senate Meeting of Fall semester will be on Wednesday, August 19.

We are poised to do good and important work. There will be a lot of stretching, a lot of change, a lot of challenge. I believe that if we are to do our best work for our students and our college, we will need to take good care of each other while rolling up our sleeves. I look forward to doing this work with the Senate.