

El Reporte de Presidente de Senado Académico

Dos de octubre, 2019

Faculty Sharing Governance

Advocacy for and building faculty's role in college governance has been very active this year so far.

- On September 23, The Faculty Leadership Council (FLC--Academic Senate Pres, Vice Pres, Pres-Elect; AFA Pres and Vice Pres; 2 Co-chairs of Department Chairs Council) met first with Dr. Chong for a half hour then the conversation was joined by all the Vice Presidents for a really good discussion that ranged from reorganization, to faculty roles, to administrative salaries, and other things. It was the first time in my experience that such a conversation happened. It seemed generally agreed that it was positive and that we need more of the same.
- On September 25, Administrators in charge of the SEA Budget held a Q & A Session. Pedro Avila and Li Collier were there as were several other student services managerial and classified professionals, some of whom are funded from the SEA money. Several of the above mentioned faculty leaders were there. The conversation and information presented certainly didn't amount to a satisfactory answer to all faculty questions and concerns, but it was very informative, and a takeaway for me was that it was very good to have so many of the people involved in the room to talk about it (many "in the room" were there via zoom).
- On September 30, A Faculty Summit was jointly sponsored by the Academic Senate and AFA in Emeritus 1678. I did not make a final count, but at least 50 and probably closer to 70 attended (some came late or left early). Senate officers presented on the 10 + 1 and AFA officers presented on the mandatory scope of bargaining. One theme was that the District has specific legal obligations to AFA on working conditions and to the Senate on academic and professional matters that are more than, prior to, and supersede obligations to hear from everybody in listening sessions and town halls. We applauded the inclusion of voices, which the district also has an obligation to do, but given the special legal obligation to negotiate with our union and receive recommendations from the senate, the question was raised as to how much can legitimately be presented or gathered toward reorg plans from town halls and such. Another point: sometimes it is reported to faculty leadership, sometimes as a second hand report—either AFA or the Senate don't represent some faculty, who have opinions that differ. We were reminded that our system is a democracy, and that, as a legal fact, all faculty are represented by the Senate and AFA within their respective purviews. If one disagrees, one properly expresses that by voting and running for office.

All of these conversations with administration and within faculty groups are positive advances toward our goal of instructing and advocating for our purview.

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