

President's Report February 2, 2022

I'd like to welcome our two newest Senators: Michael Hale, Area 3, and Nikki Slovak, filling a leave replacement in Area 10. Thank you for joining us. We'll be setting a date for orientation for new Senators—Natalia has sent our new senators a Doodle poll. the deadline for replying is this Friday.

Natalia is settling in and flying solo and doing a great job. Thanks to everyone who has welcomed her and eased her transition into her new role.

The nomination window for Senate seats for 2022-2024 is now open. The deadline for submitting a candidate's statement and photo for the balloting process is February 23. We'll be sending regular reminders. Please run, and please encourage your colleagues to consider running.

Reminders / save the dates:

The Senate's spring retreat is Friday, February 11, from 10-3. For the last ninety minutes of the retreat, ASCCC Exec members Cheryl Aschenbach and LaTonya Parker will be presenting on Ethnic Studies, Minimum Qualifications, and equivalency. All are welcome to attend.

Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings will be held on second and fourth Fridays. The first Town Hall meeting is on the same date as our Senate retreat; we recognize that there are overlaps between these meetings and are creating surveys for each step of the SP process so that those who can't attend the Town Halls have an easy means of contributing their ideas. The SP Coordinating Committee, which has representation from all constituency groups, will be facilitating and supporting the SP work. Thanks to John Stover for joining me on that Coordinating Committee and to all others from the College who are contributing.

I know that many or most or all of you have heard that Vice President Saldaña-Talley will be retiring. There will be a formal announcement from Dr. Chong's office soon. In the meantime, I've been in conversation with DCC co-chairs, Alice Hampton and Luz Navarrette (congratulations, Luz, on being elected to the DCC co-chair position yesterday!), and have reached out to AFA President Sean Martin, too, about the possibility of an inclusive group of faculty leaders partnering to sponsor a faculty forum so that all faculty members can share their thinking about what we are hoping for in our next Vice President of Academic Affairs. This position has critical relationships with the Academic Senate, department chairs, and AFA, and the experience, background, and values that this new person will bring to the position really matter for the faculty. A forum would be an opportunity for all faculty members to contribute to the vision we have for our next VPAA. This idea surfaced just yesterday afternoon, so it's early days. Please watch for more information.

On Monday, College Council held a retreat, from noon to about 4:30, to work on the Participatory Governance redesign. College Council is moving through the action steps in the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Plan developed last spring as part of a Partnership Resource Team collaboration. Dr. Chong requested that a PRT team assist the College in addressing our challenges with both participatory governance and enrollment. College Council includes all of the Vice Presidents, the presidents of all constituency groups, and additional Senate and SGA appointees. Along with Senators Aspinall and Donegan, I represent the Senate. This work has long been needed, we have many more committees and councils than

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other colleges do, and we have difficulty filling all of our seats and keeping them filled. College Council has developed a list of principles to guide the work, which will be grounded in the law. In my role, I am representing Academic Senate and faculty interests and looking to the 10 + 1 to ensure that the Senate, the democratically elected body that represents the faculty in “academic and professional matters,” appropriately undertakes its responsibilities. We have made excellent progress, and I thank everyone who has contributed to the work.

At EPCC—the Educational Planning and Coordinating Council—we finished reviewing two sets of policies and procedures—one on accreditation and the other on student athletes. Those will appear on a Consent agenda soon, and more work will be appear on our Consent agendas in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to say—and I know that everyone in this room knows this—that many of our students are struggling with current conditions, whether that means challenges with online courses, delays or glitches with the check-in process for on-campus students, or the need for services and other kinds of access that are currently restricted. Yesterday I heard a colleague make an appeal that we have “grace for students,” and that seemed like a good appeal to pass on as I conclude my report today.