

First I would like to welcome Monica back! It is great to have you back. Also, I forgot that the April 6 meeting was Nikki Slovak's last as Monica's leave replacement for the Area 10 seat and neglected to thank her. Thank you, Nikki Slovak, for serving!

Since our last meeting, on April 6, President-Elect Persons, Senator Reaves, and I attended the statewide Academic Senate Plenary. It was another wonderful, instructive, and inspiring conference. On Saturday, the final day of Plenary, delegates voted on approximately forty resolutions. The new disciplines of Asian American Studies and Native American / American Indian Studies were approved by acclamation. When the body does this, a delegate makes a parliamentary motion to approve a resolution by acclamation, and if there are no objections to that motion, there is an eruption of joyous applause from the audience. It's a wonderful, celebratory moment, and I think that we all felt honored to witness this historic moment for the approval of two long-overdue disciplines.

To all who are serving as senators next year, please consider making time to attend Plenary. It's an important learning opportunity. The learning that attendees bring back enriches conversations in the Senate and across the College, and it also helps to support the growth of future Senate leadership. One of the things that I have really appreciated being exposed to is the statewide Senate's beautiful blending of respect and tolerance for divergent perspectives, sensitivity to and empathy for others' experiences, and a willingness for the body to challenge itself, take risks, and exercise leadership in society. I highly recommend attending.

Regarding equivalency matters. Many of you are on hiring committees and may have questions about the equivalency process. Please remind your hiring committee colleagues that the Senate has sponsored two recent training sessions on Equivalency; the PowerPoint presentations are on our website. Also, the Equivalency Committee has created several resources for both applicants and committees, to foster understanding of what equivalency is (and what it's not) and what the committee is charged with. Those materials have been made available to department chairs and educational deans and are posted on the HR website. I invite you to reach out to the Committee; we are available to provide clarification and support.

I would like to thank all faculty members who ran in the recent at-large election. The following have been elected to two-year terms for at-large seats: Shawn Brumbaugh, Guillermo Garcia, Lauralyn Larsen, Monica Ohkubo, Purnur Ozbirinci, and Nikki Slovak. The Executive Committee will assign these new senators to the six Areas with at-large seats. These are Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11.

One item on the "to do" list is to create a process for Senate consideration of new programs after they are reviewed by EPCC. The new Planning and Budget Council will also have a role in making recommendations about new programs, as programmatic decisions are relevant to both institutional planning and budget allocation. This is just a heads up that these conversations are taking place, and I will have more to report as we go forward.

The Guided Pathways workgroups—all five of them—small miracle to get the five groups together on a single agenda—made presentations at DCCIM yesterday. They are doing beautiful

work, and you will hear from most or all of the workgroups again before the end of this semester. I thank them for their creativity and hours and collaborative approach as they invite input and feedback from the college community.

College Council update: The governance redesign work continues. Since finalizing our guiding principles, we've turned our attention to identifying clear work product(s) for each committee and council.

I would also like to thank the students who have made public comments on the faculty hiring policy for their advocacy. As I stated in my report to the Board of Trustees on April 12, "I would like to affirm that the students' advocacy mattered and continues to matter, that the Senate listened to and heard the students, and that the final language described above is influenced and informed by the students' advocacy."

Some of you have heard that disparaging statements about the Senate have been made in public recently, regarding work on the hiring procedure. In response to this, I included the following in my report to the Board of Trustees last week: "The Academic Senate is a democratic, representative body. Members of the Academic Senate are responsible *to* those they represent and are also responsible *for* exercising their professional judgment. In my role as the Academic Senate President, I stress my unconditional support for all members of the Senate to participate, discuss, debate, and vote in accordance with their consciences. We may not always agree with each other—and members of our community may not always be pleased with Senate decisions—but my Senate colleagues are working hard and in good faith to contribute to solutions, and none of them deserves to be publicly maligned. Maligning statements and threats against elected representatives who are doing their best on behalf of their constituents have a chilling effect on democratic processes, and it is my belief that keeping the flame of democratic debate and decision-making alive in small bodies like our Academic Senate helps to keep democracy alive in the broader society. I am proud of the work that this Senate does and appreciate the words of support that have come our way from the College community."

Thank you.