

President's Report, Julie Thompson September 1, 2021

Welcome to our two new senators, who have been appointed to fill vacancies: Mark Anderman, Area 5, Music Dept; Filomena Avila, Area 1, Counseling.

The original draft of my report included comments that have already been expressed by Senators Stover and Donegan. I'll be brief here. I am engaged in collegial conversations with Dr. Chong and other members of the administration about Covid-related decisions and the need for the Senate's and faculty's voice regarding the impact of those decisions on 10 + 1 concerns. I have also expressed concerns about this pattern at the college, where decisions are made hastily or without asking for or considering the Senate's input, and the ensuing chaos and distraction, which waste our time, and the huge efforts required by numerous individuals at the College to respond to being knocked off course. I look forward to working with the Administration so that we can have .

Tomorrow College Council will hold its first meeting of the academic year. Our agenda includes discussion of equity-focused questions for our yearly communication with committees. I hope to have more to share on this soon.

At this point it looks like the Brown Act provisions allowing fully remote meetings will expire after September 30, after which time we will need an in-person quorum in order to conduct business. I am working with the District to find a suitable facility that will allow social distancing and provide the appropriate technology and healthful air. I will share more when I know more.

On September 10, from 12-1, the Senate will hold a special meeting, which will be devoted to an Open Forum. If you have public comments that you wish to make, we hope that you will join us. This additional time for public comments supports our need to enforce our timing rules for Open Forum, to ensure adequate time for Senate discussion and decision-making.

The Executive Committee is working on the agenda for our retreat on September 24. Senators, please send suggested topics.

We are also working with ASCCC on two upcoming workshops: one on Curriculum and DEIA; and the other on the 10 + 1, the Brown Act, and parliamentary procedure. These will be open to the college community, as usual.

I would also like to thank those of you who were able to attend the ASCCC workshop on Faculty Equivalency, Minimum Qualifications, and the Disciplines List, which took place last Friday. The session was facilitated by Cheryl Aschenbach, Secretary of the statewide Academic Senate. It was recorded and has been posted to the Current Meeting Materials page on our website.

Dr. Saldaña-Talley's office will be rolling out a concerted effort for departments to get caught up on their SLO Assessments. We are in an accreditation cycle and must demonstrate that we are up to date on our assessments.

The call for candidates and statements of interest for the Officer of Equity position is going out within the next couple of days. Any current or past senator may run, and the election will be held at an upcoming Senate meeting.

Please email me if you'd like to read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Also, Senators are requested to reply to the email query regarding their availability for a Senate meeting on Wednesday, September 29, at our usual time.