

President's Report, September 15, 2021

Julie Thompson

Thanks to everyone who attended the Senate's Special Meeting on Friday, September 10. This was an extended Open Forum, to provide opportunity for the college community to make public comments.

We've scheduled a training on SLO Assessments with Christopher Howerton, North Representative for ASCCC. We'll be sending notifications, but please mark your calendars for Monday, October 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. This training has been arranged so t

Area B meeting coming up on Friday, October 15, from 10 to 3. Senators who want to receive Area B emails can visit the ASCCC website and ask to be added to the Area B list-serve.

The **ASCCC Academic Academy** is coming up on **October 7-8, 2021**. This virtual conference will focus on Enhancing Transfer in Higher Education. Registration is open through the 30th, and the registration form is available on the ASCCC website.

We are also working with ASCCC to schedule a professional development workshop on Curriculum and DEIA. In addition, we are working to schedule an ASCCC training on 10 + 1, parliamentary procedure, and the Brown Act, which we hope to schedule during the Fall retreat on September 24.

Speaking of the Brown Act, we are following Assembly Bill 361, Rivas, which will allow the "remote" Brown Act provisions of the Governor's [Executive Order N-29-20](#) to remain in force as long as there is a state-proclaimed state of emergency. This bill has passed both the Assembly and State Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. While the bill was crafted to respond to the pandemic, if signed into law it "will allow for virtual meetings during other state-proclaimed emergencies, such as earthquakes or wildfires, where physical attendance may present a risk."

At last night's Board meeting, the Trustees passed a vaccine mandate for on-site employees and students, effective Spring 2022. Many of our faculty colleagues spoke in strong and eloquent terms to express their support for a hard mandate. Some of these statements urged the Board to institute the mandate immediately, but the decision is for a mandate effective with the spring semester.

In my report to the Board at last night's meeting, I expressed concern about the impact of the administration's health- and safety-related decisions on the 10 + 1: faculty professional matters, academic programs, development of the course schedule, student registration, and student learning, and I also expressed concern regarding the adverse impact of recent decisions and recent unclear communication on the college's ability to function and on its institutional stability.

College Council will be formalizing the new Planning and Budget Council at its meeting on October 7. Constituency groups will be making appointments to fill seats on this new Council. The Senate will be soliciting interest, so please watch for that email.

College Council is also taking steps to integrate equity values into our governance system. We'll be starting with professional development for the members of CC, to learn how we might proceed. Our initial step is to identify someone to provide that training to the Council. I will share more when I know more.

Finally, the College is initiating its Strategic Planning process, and I am working with Dr. Jeremy Smotherman, Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning, on this exciting project. We look forward to a robust and inclusive Strategic Planning process. This is just now being set in motion, and I hope to share more soon.

A few final reminders: I ask Senators who are willing to read the Land Acknowledgement Statement at an upcoming meeting to please email me, and I will add you to an agenda. And remember that our retreat is coming up a week from Friday—September 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. And the Community of Practice sign-up process is happening now. Please apply! Encourage your colleagues to apply!

Therein ends my report.