PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Submitted by John Freitas
February 16, 2012

• **Vice President of Academic Affairs search**: The search for a permanent Vice President of Academic Affairs is in progress. The application period closes 3/6.

• **Student Success Task Force Town Update**: Legislation has been submitted following the acceptance of the final report of the Student Success Task Force. The final report, which was accepted by the Board of Governors, is posted at:


  This document is the basis for the legislative agenda for the BOG, and is also the guiding document for future changes to Title 5 regulations. The initial draft of the legislation, which are changes to the Education Code, can be found at:

  [http://sharepoint.lacitycollege.edu/senate/Student%20Success%20Task%20Force%20SB%201143/SSTF%20Student%20Success%20Act%20of%202012%20Proposed.pdf](http://sharepoint.lacitycollege.edu/senate/Student%20Success%20Task%20Force%20SB%201143/SSTF%20Student%20Success%20Act%20of%202012%20Proposed.pdf)

  As I receive updates I will post them on the senate Sharepoint site.

• **District and college budget**: Due to continued issues with the state budget and lower than expected tax receipts, the chancellor is directing the colleges to plan for a worst-case scenario of a 7% cut to their operating budgets for 2012-2013. This is pretty grim and I don’t know how it will play out as this is new and I just found out about this yesterday at the DAS consultation with the chancellor. District CFO Jeanette Gordon announced this at the consultation meeting. Previously our projected operating budget for 2012-2013 was to be around $55 million, of which around $54 million is salaries and benefits. A 7% reduction on that would translate into around $4 million less. Again, we don’t yet know how that will be accomplished. One possibility is to reduce college FTES targets by 7%, which would then in turn mean a significant reduction in instruction. As I know more I will pass that information along. I do have to note that in the last 4 years, instruction in this district has taken a disproportionate budget hit. The district is barely compliant with the “50% law” which states that 50% of the cost of instruction has to be spent on the classroom. In 2007-2008 the percentage spent on instruction in the LACCD was 53.83%; in 2010-2011, that percentage dropped to 50.32%. This is as reported to the state and summarized in the fiscal trends analysis by the CCCCO Office Fiscal Services Division:


  I am also posting the district financial reports to the state office on our senate Sharepoint site. These documents can be found at:

  [http://sharepoint.lacitycollege.edu/senate/District%20budget%20reports%20to%20the%20state/Forms/AllItems.aspx](http://sharepoint.lacitycollege.edu/senate/District%20budget%20reports%20to%20the%20state/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

  It’s also worth noting that while college budgets in the LACCD are typically 90% (or more) salary and benefits, district-wide that percentage for the last four years has averaged around 85%. Admittedly I don’t have a complete grasp of which district funds are truly discretionary and which aren’t, but regardless I don’t think the colleges can really take much more of this. And that’s an understatement. Beyond cutting classes, reducing supply budgets
and the like, there isn’t much that can be done at the college level to deal with these repeated deficits. We have cut to the bone. Frankly I think the district is fiddling while the colleges are burning.

- **President’s response to the resolution on department configuration study report:** As you all recall, a college-wide efficiency review was performed last spring. Within Academic Affairs a thorough review of the department structure was conducted. The final report was approved by EPC and the Senate in September passed a resolution recommending that the College President accept the findings of the report. On 2/6/12 a written response was delivered to me by Dr. Moore. The response to the recommendation is:

  *I am in receipt of Academic Senate’s Resolution #01-1112: Approval of the Educational Planning Committee Report on the Department Configuration Study. I appreciate the time and work put into the Department Configuration Study and thank the Senate for sharing this information with the college.*

  The outcome of the study recommended that the college keep the existing structure in place. As the college has made no changes to the existing department structure we have addressed the request of the Academic Senate. Therefore, we have complied with Resolution #01-1112. However, please be mindful that exigent circumstances may change this current outcome.

- **District-wide priority registration update, part III:** As stated previously implemented district-wide priority reservation, a change from the practice of assigning registration priority at the college level. This was done by the district administration without consultation with the DAS. As noted previously, this appeared to be a violation of the board rule 8603 as that rule appears to require registration prioritization to be set at the college level. The senate at ELAC proposed a resolution in which it was demanded that an immediate return to college-level registration priority be enacted. Our senate passed a substitute resolution in which it was recommended that a district administration/faculty taskforce on registration be established and that the current practice continue while the taskforce does its work. Our resolution failed as a substitute motion at the 12/8/11 DAS meeting. However, our resolved statement on establishing a taskforce was approved as an amendment to the ELAC resolution, and an additional resolved statement was added calling for changes in registration practice to be by mutual agreement. The “perfected” resolution (as they say) passed in the following form (whereas statements not shown):

  Resolved, that the District Academic Senate urges the Chancellor to immediately revoke the current practice of district-wide priority enrollment and reinstate our district’s previous process that allows each college its decentralized right and responsibility to exercise establish enrollment priority decisions guidelines.

  Resolved that the DAS urge the Chancellor to establish a joint DAS/Administration and Student task force charged with evaluating the effects of the current practice in place since spring 2011 on (1) college enrollment management and (2) student access and success at the district, college, and programmatic levels.

  Resolved, that any changes to district enrollment and registration policies and procedures must be made by mutual agreement between the DAS and district administrations.

The district administration has agreed to establishment of the taskforce and it is expected it will commence its work this spring. This point is quite important as the district, by agreeing to this joint administration/faculty taskforce has recognized enrollment management as a “plus 1” academic and professional matter under the purview of the DAS. Negotiations continue on the issue of revoking immediately the current district-wide registration practice and returning to the prior practice, as is required by Board Rule 8603.

- **District-wide Bond Project Moratorium:** As you know, on October 3 Chancellor LaVista announced a moratorium on bond projects district-wide that had not yet been started. The genesis of the moratorium was the identification of a potential $145 million shortfall in funds needed to complete projects that are already underway around the district. This was identified in September; the District Bond Steering Committee wasn’t officially notified until their November meeting. Upon the committee’s recommendation, the chancellor extended the moratorium through December 14. Subsequently the chancellor requested that the board allow him to extend the moratorium for one year; the board gave him through March to complete his review and report back to them. The moratorium period is being used to determine the true extent of the shortfall; currently it is estimated to now be around $115 million, give or take several million dollars, but that may go up or down depending on the results of the review. Originally, the projects put on the moratorium were those that had no contracts awarded. The LACC projects originally on the moratorium list were the Men’s PE demolition, the campus landscape project and the remodel of the Cesar Chavez Administration building. Subsequently, the moratorium was extended to projects that did not have
construction contracts awarded, even if they were ready to go to bid. This revised list was shared with leadership at a special SGC meeting in January. This expanded moratorium list includes projects such as remodels of DaVinci Hall and Holmes Hall, the demolition of the old library and construction of the new Student Services building. College presidents and CPMs were then required to submit a “white paper” form for each moratorium project to explain why those projects should be cleared by the chancellor to go forward. After an initial review, several small projects at the colleges have been released from the moratorium. The LACC projects that are released are: the landscape project, the Red Line Corridor project, the Monroe Street project, and the completion of the ADA upgrades to the restrooms in Cesar Chavez (a project left over from the Bovis days).

The chancellor has been pressed by the college presidents and the DAS Executive Committee on this matter. The Board of Trustees is not particularly supportive of the moratorium. Delays cause increased costs and uncertainty for the colleges and their CPMs. The chancellor is adamant about doing as thorough review as possible, and as expeditiously as possible, to determine which projects truly are necessary, and which are not. Criteria used in the review are college enrollment, efficiency of space utilization, and each college’s ability to sustainably maintain the new facilities going forward. Planned satellite campuses, such as the ELAC South Gate campus, are getting a close look. All that said, there is some merit for the review. The fact is that some colleges, specifically Southwest, West and Mission are overbuilt in relation to the number of students they serve. In this age of contraction we probably don’t need to build more satellite campuses. Stay tuned.

Facilities Planning Committee organization: Progress is being made on re-establishing a functional Facilities Planning Committee of the SGC. At the 1/9/11 SGC meeting, the SGC approved the following proposed membership for the committee:

- 3 Faculty appointed by the Academic Senate, including one department chair
- 3 Faculty appointed by the AFT Chapter President, including the Work Environment Committee Chair
- 4 Classified Staff, including the Director of Facilities or designee
- 1 Student appointed by ASO
- 1 Vice President of Administrative Services or designee
- 1 Administrator/Manager, appointed by the College President

Furthermore, Kevin Morrissey, Paul Carlson and myself collaborated on drafting an operating agreement for the committee. We have agreed to the concept that the committee will be co-chaired by the faculty Work Environment Committee chair and the Vice President of Administrative Services, currently Kevin Morrissey and Paul Carlson, respectively. Once they agree on a date and time for the first meeting, members will be appointed to the body. They can then review the draft operating agreement, revise as needed and submit it for approval to SGC. I will keep you posted.

Finally, I do apologize for the grim tone of this report. No doubt these are difficult times. But we mustn’t forget the good work that continues at LACC. We hosted the 75th annual Alpha Mu Gamma foreign language society conference last fall. We had another successful PAHFest at LACC. The students of the Theater Academy, The Collegian and the Forensics Team continue to excel. And we had a fun holiday party in December! I know I'm forgetting other notable achievements by our faculty and staff. The point is, despite all the trouble and uncertainty we face, all of us faculty continue to meet these challenges by doing what we love to do: providing the best education we can to our students so that they can succeed in college and in life. As always, I’m proud to have you as my colleagues.

John