PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Submitted by John Freitas
November 17, 2011

- **IDWG 2 Dean:** Sholeh Khoroooshi was selected by the president as the interim dean for IDWG 2 and reported for duty on October 24. She comes to City from West Los Angeles College, where she had served as an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and as an instructor of Political Science. Previously she was the Dean of Admissions and Records at Harbor College. Please join me in welcoming her to LACC. (There is no word yet on when the search for the permanent dean will commence.)

- **Vice President of Academic Affairs search:** I’m told by Dr. Moore that the search for the permanent VP of Academic Affairs should begin some time in December, with the application period closing some time in January. I will keep you posted.

- **Student Success Task Force Town Hall meeting on 10/27:** I attended the town hall meeting convened by the Student Success Task Force on 10/27 at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce downtown. This was one of several such meetings across the state held to receive comments and concerns about the draft recommendations that were released on September 30. The meeting room was packed, with some coming from as far away as Bakersfield and San Diego to make their concerns known. Some time was wasted on a Powerpoint rehash of the recommendations (I think everyone in attendance already knew what they were!), and much of the initial Q&A was really a series of prepared statements from members of the audience stating opposition to the proposal to consolidate categorical programs (such as CalWORKS) into block grants. When the moderator finally (after nearly an hour) got to the actual questions from the audience, it became increasingly clear from answers given by the panel that the whole process is a rushed job, with some of the recommendations not well-conceived.

- **State Academic Senate Fall 2011 Plenary:** I attended the ASCCC fall plenary session in San Diego 11/3-11/5. As expected, much of the discussion was dominated by the Student Success Task Force (SSTF) recommendations and the impending changes to regulations on repeatable courses. The faculty that were on the task force were clearly perturbed that (1) the actual work in developing the recommendations was rushed, (2) none of the faculty on the task force (including the past ASCCC president and the current ASCCC curriculum chair) were brought in to help draft the 9/30 report, and (3) that some recommendations that were rejected or not discussed by the task force made it into the draft report. Many resolutions on the SSTF recommendations were offered. Many resolutions on the proposed changes to Title 5 regulations on repeatable courses (the so-called activity courses) were offered and debated. The resolutions on repeatable courses that passed alter the original repeatability recommendations as follows:
  1. Create a TOP code for intercollegiate sports conditioning and skills development courses,
  2. Continue repeatability for ensemble and applied courses in music, and ensemble performance courses in theater and dance,
  3. Limit leveling of courses to no more than four levels. (In other words, create a series of level courses from repeatable courses, but no more than four levels.)
  4. The proposed 16-unit limit on performance courses is deleted from the original recommendations.
  5. The proposed limit of 8 PE courses per student per college is deleted from the original recommendations.
  6. Classify technical theater courses as ensemble courses, giving them the same repeatability as ensemble courses.

Again, these are the recommendations the ASCCC will carry forward to the Board of Governors. It remains to be seen what will actually be adopted in the final Title 5 changes. The final list of adopted resolutions is posted on Sharepoint at:
The Student Success Task Force met November 9. The Student Success Task Force met on November 9 to review the comments received at the town hall meetings and on their comments blog. I have forwarded you the updates from this meeting from ASCCC President Michelle Pilati and from the State Chancellor’s office. As noted in those updates, several of the draft recommendations were eliminated or modified. Also included in Michelle’s email was a document that correlated the task force recommendations with positions taken by the ASCCC, including positions taken in resolutions passed at the fall 2011 plenary session. As always, I recommend that all faculty, and especially all senators and committee members, read this information and stay informed. The initial 9/30 draft report and subsequent follow-up letters and memos are posted on Sharepoint at: http://sharepoint.lacitycollege.edu/senate/Student%20Success%20Task%20Force%20SB%201143/Forms/AllItems.aspx

District and college budget: the anticipated midyear funding cut of about $11 million to the LACCD from the state is likely to come to fruition (if fruition is the right word) given the recent news on the state budget. Combined with the existing $4.5 million district-wide funding gap, the total district funding gap is predicted to be $15.8 million. As stated previously, the District Budget Committee recommended that the reductions come from district reserves and district-wide budgets, not from the college budgets, and as of now, this will be what is enacted for this year.

District-wide priority registration update, part II: as stated previously, starting last spring (spring 2011) the district decided that priority registration would be district-wide, rather than local. 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 district legal office reviewed this and rather than recommend to the district administration to cease with this new practice, they instead recommended changing the board rule to conform to the new practice. (Why follow board rules when you can change them?). The result? A proposed board rule change that would incorporate this new registration practice. The proposed change to 8603 will also include the 19-unit registration maximum and other technical fixes that bring the board rule in line with current Title 5 regulations. The DAS executive committee discussed this on 11/15. The DAS executive committee will likely come forward with an alternative change to 8603 that keeps the required technical fixes, and keeps the 19-unit limit (which the DAS exec provisionally accepted last summer) but rejects the change to enrollment priority being based on district-wide units completed rather than college-based units completed.

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. At City, the projects on the moratorium list are the demolition of the Men’s P.E. building, remodeling of the Administration building (to make room for OSS), and the campus landscape project (which includes ADA accessibility improvements throughout the campus). 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. 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. Once the extent of the shortfall is understood, the money will have to be found from planned projects to cover the remaining costs of the projects in progress. The LACC senate executive committee is bringing forward a resolution on the moratorium. Stay tuned.

Facilities Planning Committee organization: Kevin Morrissey, Paul Carlson and myself met again on 11/16 to continue work on defining the purpose of our Facilities Planning Committee, identifying membership and developing a draft operating agreement. FPC is to be a committee of SGC. Once I finish typing the rough draft I will circulate it for comments.