**Academic Senate December Board Report**

This past month the Senate committees finished and received approvals on updates made to scope of duties and membership that better align with current administrative structure. Senate leadership wishes to thank all committee members and especially committee chairs for completing this important task.

Senate leadership along with CRFO leadership met with Dr. Bill Scroggins during our accreditation visit on November 12th. The meeting was positive and plenty of praise was given to the tremendous amount of work done and sacrifices made of all district employees during the past year and a half in response to the sanctions of show cause, probation and the subsequent recommendations that were imposed. We were clearly given the impression that the district has all pieces in place to meet the current recommendations and standards. However, we were also reminded that the ACCJC does not define the mastery of crisis management as a sustainable style or one that promotes continuous quality improvement. We were strongly encouraged to take an active role in revisions made to the long term educational master plan of the district that directs current and new educational programs, addresses community & student needs and maintains a healthy sustainable size into the future. As an initial response to this guidance, Senate leadership worked with Vice President Snow-Flamer on the formation of two task forces that will commence work in early spring to strategically plan and implement policy and procedure related to educational pathways and the continual development of ADT degrees. This is in part a response to the continual implementation of the legislative changes affecting the districts funding model, but more importantly to strategically plan on how best to continue to serve the community and our students, while improving on the student success indicators. Key faculty leaders from CRFO, curriculum, assessment, CTE, counseling and the Senate have been identified and will be meeting this week with administrative leaders to discuss goals and a timeline for completion. An initial Student Success Summit has also been scheduled for the end of January to kick off the initiative and help inform the desired goals and outcomes of the task forces work. All of our faculty will be encouraged by the Senate to have an active voice as these policies and procedures take shape.

Senate leadership wishes to thank the faculty, administration and especially the associate deans for the hard work put into bumping up the completion of the instructional program reviews. This work enabled the faculty prioritization process committee to meet in late November and send a prioritized list of potential new faculty hires to the President for consideration two months earlier than last year. This provides an opportunity to advertise and recruit a much deeper and diverse pool of potential candidates. Despite some kinks needing to still be worked out in the process, and how requests can be submitted for consideration, it was clear example of how open communication and assessment of a current process, collaboration and planning led to a more streamlined and effective outcome that benefits disciplines, faculty and the district in the immediate and distant future.

The Academic Senate has released a survey to all full time and associate faculty soliciting feedback on the current administrative structure and how it is working in relationship to academic instruction and professional matters. We will be reviewing the responses over the break and look forward to sharing with the administration highlights as well as potential issues or areas of concern that need to be addressed.
Finally, as the semester comes to a close Senate co-president Mark Renner and I want to recognize all faculty and employees of the district for their continued commitment, dedication and passion to serve our students and community amidst all the changes that have transpired in recent times. As we embark into a new year celebrating the districts 50 years of service to community and students, we are confident that the next 50 years will be even stronger because the people we are currently privileged to work with each day.