September Academic Senate Board Report

I thank and reciprocate the comments made by Vice President Snow-Flamer in his weekly newsletter address regarding the productive and collaborative meetings held between faculty leadership and the administration. It is a healthy and vital component to working through the issues that are happening with the new organizational structure and changes taking place for faculty teaching throughout the district and especially the new academic buildings.

In this past month, the Academic Senate held its annual retreat welcoming back new and second term senators. The informal meeting was well attended and allowed members present to give preliminary feedback on the several topics prioritized for faculty and senate work for this fall.

The Senate’s initial work began this Friday at the first full Senate meeting. Discussion included the proposed amendments to both the Senate Constitution and Bylaws necessary to reflect the current organizational structure. In addition, we discussed the faculty role in the upcoming task force reviews of the five programs identified for Interim AP 4021 Program Revitalization, Suspension & Discontinuance. The feedback included the importance of not only working diligently to look to revitalize the current programs under review, but evaluate and document the process so as to provide accurate input and feedback as the comprehensive AP takes shape. It is in the faculty interest to have a procedure that is effective, data-driven, and equitable no matter what the fiscal environment of the district is at any given time.

The final discussion item involved the proposed dual enrollment program for the fall of 2014 with the Northern Humboldt and Del Norte High school districts. The senate supports of the endeavor and what it can bring to enrollment for the college: earlier exposure to CR for high school students and building of educational and community relationships. We appreciate the standards which the administration have established for the operation of the program and will continue to provide necessary feedback as implementation begins to take place.

Newly appointed curriculum chair George Potamianos gave an extensive and detailed report on state curricular revisions necessary for course outlines, expectations for our college in Transfer Model Curriculum degrees as well as what to look for in the future. Professor Potamianos also touched on the progress of the necessary refinements to our Distance Education program. The Senate looks forward to assisting in these efforts as well as the rewrite of our substantive change proposal for DE.