With another school year coming to a close the Academic Senate wishes to take this opportunity to thank the board & Special Trustee Henry, President Smith, Vice-presidents Snow-Flamer and Lindsey, the Deans and all constituent groups for their collegiality, collaboration and hard work in what has been both a rewarding and challenging school year. The reaffirmed accreditation status without sanction, program & curricular development of the required ADT degrees, the Student Success Summit and subsequent initiatives towards increasing persistence & retention, faculty work in English, Math and other areas providing students more pathways through their educational goals, implementation of initiatives from the Student Equity Plan and the current progress in re-establishing a strong distance education program are just a few of the highlights that the Senate was pleased to be a part of this year. This along with the continual work on policy & procedure development for program initiation, revitalization, suspension and discontinuance, revision of faculty prioritization and the piloting of the new Learning Module System “Canvas” are just a few of the many plans that will keep the Senate busy over the summer and moving into next fall.

Despite this great work, it has come in the midst of what has been another school year of great sacrifice. The continual budget constraints and reality of declining enrollments has led to more reorganization and reallocations of resources, a further reduction or transfer of faculty and staff, and for some the inevitable emotional concern of uncertainty about the future. The senate stands behind the administration and our current organizational structure. It recognizes the difficult decisions that have been made have not come easily, but it also challenges our administration to continue to build even more on the renewed commitment to collaboration and transparency with faculty leadership. It encourages and anticipates a concerted effort to stay well above the 50% required commitment of fiscal investment towards instruction that includes a stabilized, sound prioritization process and growth to the number of overall full time faculty. It encourages growth in the support of established and new educational program options for transfer students, the proven career and technical degree & certificate programs, distance education, support services and the extended opportunities for students that go beyond the classroom, but are all integral to their community college experience. The senate believes important work has been done in building a framework for a sustainable fiscal future, but just like in education itself that work can never become static and needs to continually be assessed and at times challenged to ensure that we are providing a secure work environment for our dedicated employees and the highest quality educational and life experience for our greatest commodity, our students.