Academic Senate Report to the COM Board of Trustees – April 15, 2014

First of all on behalf of the Academic Senate, I would like to thank Kristina Combs for her efforts to come up with new healthcare options and for meeting with the Senate and telling us about them.

Last week, all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday, I attended the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges Spring 2014 Plenary Session. I think the two most important issues at hand concerned the new accreditation standards and proposed legislation to allow the CCCs to offer Bachelor degrees. Chancellor Brice talked about it in his presentation on Friday and I believe the legislature is proposing a pilot study at the moment. Saturday’s session, which is devoted to debate and voting on numerous resolutions, spent a fair amount of time debating the pros and cons. In the end the ASCCC members voted to take time to research the implications for having this option in terms of cost and funding, available facilities, faculty minimum qualifications, curriculum, etc. I will say that a BA for Nursing is supported by our Nursing department as our students only need a couple of more classes to meet the requirements for a BA. From my perspective only, anything beyond that would require careful consideration, and frankly we should probably focus on students working towards AA degrees first.

In addition, the ASCCC has prepared a 45-page document of proposed revisions to the ACCJC’s New Standards to turn in by the feedback deadline of April 30th. In other news, under the ALO hat, with the help of various discipline groups, I completed the ACCJC Annual Report, VPFCO Greg Nelson completed the financial report, and the president submitted it by the March 31st deadline. This report keeps growing…last year it was around 4 pages and this year it is over 7 pages. This year it included several requirements for “Institutional-set Standards” for overall student success rates, graduation and transfer rates, license exam passage rates, and employment after completing a CTE program. The report also required narrative answers to a number of SLO-related questions.

I also wanted to mention that in response to the article by ACCJC that appeared in the SF Chronicle on Saturday, CCSF’s Chancellor has stated that CCSF will not request “candidacy” as such a process would require withdrawing their current accreditation before the July 31st which would put CCSF students’ courses transferability in jeopardy.

--Sara McKinnon, Academic Senate President