Academic Senate Report to the Board of Trustees – October 15th, 2013

As President of the Academic Senate, I will be attending the Area B meeting at De Anza College on Friday. There we will be vetting resolutions already written, and proposing new ones to be taken to the Fall 2013 Plenary Session in early November. Resolutions considered at Plenary Sessions cover the gamut of topics from Accreditation to Technology, Curriculum to Articulation and Transfer, Professional Standards to the Disciplines List and more – there are 22 categories. Our Senate is proposing a resolution regarding changes to Title 5 on Course Repetition – Significant Lapse of Time.

There has been some discussion recently about students who enroll in our classes, but are not really participating and for whatever reason appear to not really care whether or not they pass. While we are not allowed to base our grades on attendance, we can factor in "participation". The Academic Senate will be sending out a single-item survey to all faculty, face to face and DE, to gather a set of “best practices” they might be willing to share. We will be asking the following:

*What do you do in your classes to assess your students' level of engagement and participation? What strategies do you employ early on to keep your students on their toes? What activities do you use to find out if your students are more than "minimally" participating? How do you objectively quantify "participation"? Please note if you have special strategies for online classes.*

We hope to be able to publish responses in the next Academic Senate News.

--Sara McKinnon
Academic Senate President