

Academic
Senate

NEWS

Santa Ana College

I hope everyone
has had a smooth
start to the fall
semester.
Classes are good
and full, and
SAC's FTE number
is right around
where it should be.



*Raymond Hicks
President,
SAC Academic Senate*

**Here are a few short notes
to keep you current on a few things:**

- The Academic Senate started its summer retreat discussing ways to establish more collaboration between academic departments, as the college as a whole works to imbed basic skills into every class on campus, where each class can reinforce the work of another. Also, a draft of changes to the Senate Bylaws was presented, and ideas of possible changes to the Senate Constitution were discussed. The Bylaws require passage by a vote in the Senate itself. The Constitution must ultimately be changed by a vote from the faculty. You will be notified in advance when such a vote takes place.
- As most of you already know, the state budget continues to be a problem. Depending on the revenue projections by the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) and Department of Finance (DoF), there may be triggers that require funding cuts to California Community Colleges. We should know by early-to-mid December. However, SAC has already budgeted in first round triggers and reserves will take care of potential second round triggers, so SAC is not in a position to have to make any further cuts to classes even if the triggers are activated. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and let everyone know what has changed at the state, the district, and the college to help everyone separate what is fact from fiction. Conversations on topics like this take place at **SAC's Planning and Budget Committee**, which meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Foundation Boardroom from 1:30-3:00 pm and is co-chaired by Jeff McMillan and Paul Foster. You do not have to be a member to attend since all meetings are open. **2011-12 Adopted Budget**

- SAC has a new Facilities Master Plan that has been recently approved by the Board. In the coming months, we will see work unfold on College Avenue. Also, just as a reminder, please continue to report any facilities concerns to the person in your division who is responsible for submitting work orders. In the case of an emergency concern, for example, water flowing freely from someplace it shouldn't, or electrical parts sparking and hissing, please call 46310 to report them immediately. **SAC's Facilities Committee** meets the third Tuesday of the month in the Foundation Boardroom from 1:30-3:00 pm and is co-chaired by John Zarske and Paul Foster. Again, you do not have to be a member to attend, as all meetings are open. **Facilities Master Plan**
- President Martinez was recently notified by the state that SAC was not recycling enough. Certainly, we can do better than this. Fortunately for us, the **Environmental Task Force**, chaired by Susan Sherod, put together its end of the year report for 2011-12, which has some ideas of getting us on track. We will keep you posted on this and other items of resource conservation. Stay tuned for the continuing story of, *How Green is My Campus*.

Upcoming Academic Senate Meetings

The Academic Senate meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in A-130. They begin at 1:30 pm, but refreshments and pre-meeting discussions start at 1:15 pm. At 2:00, at the conclusion of the AS business reports, we are happy to present some much - demanded academically-oriented workshops to help faculty, department chairs, and other campus leaders focus on our shared goal of student success. Also, we want to alert departments to keep their adjunct faculty in mind when it comes to these workshops. We send announcements out, but personally mentioning it to them might help. (And, did I mention that there are refreshments?)

Academic Senate Website

A few of the next workshops are as follows:

9/27 Reading Apprenticeship - Dalva Dwyer and Mario Robertson will guide us through some valuable textbook-focused exercises that can be used in any class. Faculty is asked to bring 2 copies of one page of a textbook that they are using. All faculty are encouraged to attend. This is particularly important for department chairs in order for them to inform and lead their departments. If you are already experienced in this skill, please come and help those of us who are not as savvy in its practice.

10/11 Department Portfolio Building - Since the department portfolios are one of the main parts of SAC's planning process, we are working to streamline the process by using the **InsideSAC** feature to standardize the format and speed up the review process, as it travels to the VP of Academic Affairs then to the Planning and Budget Committee. Hang Le will show how to use the **InsideSAC** capability, and Bonnie Jaros will answer any content-related concerns. All department chairs should attend, along with at least one other member of the department in order to understand how to maximize the software for department planning and its link to budget.

Miscellaneous

Gov. Brown just signed a bill that moves the implementation of per unit price hikes from \$36 - \$46 to the summer of 2012.

Another noteworthy bill is alive in the assembly

AB 743 (Block) requires the Chancellor's Office to work with the Department of Education and the California State University to develop a common college readiness standard to be reflected in the assessment instruments, and to submit a report to the Legislature and Governor on the implementation progress by December 31, 2012. (From FACC website)

This bill establishes a statewide common assessment system to place community college students in English, Mathematics, and English as a Second Language courses, and creates a pre-test application where students can take practice tests so that they are better prepared for their assessments and can consequently take transfer level courses sooner. Recent amendments also state that the provisions are contingent upon receipt of state, federal or philanthropic funding. (From the State Chancellor's Office website)

We will continue to monitor AB743. However, we are interested in your thoughts on the proposed legislation. Let me or your senator know by email if you have any thoughts about it.

See you at the next senate meeting 9/27!

Raymond Hicks
President, SAC Academic Senate

For questions or comments

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Academic Senate ;&!#?*"#\$@ NEWS