

The academic and fiscal year is coming to a close and it's a good time for the Academic Senate Co-Presidents to reflect on the past year. First and foremost we wish to thank President Snow-Flamer for his leadership and the open, transparent and collegial relationships which he and his leadership team have maintained with faculty leadership. This is not an easy time for California Community Colleges and as our District navigates the challenges ahead we are privileged to have President Snow-Flamer at the helm. As those of us here in Senate leadership regularly engage with faculty colleagues across the state, we are acutely aware of the excellent, productive, respectful and highly-functional participatory governance which we enjoy here, as measured by comparison to some much-less-fortunate sister colleges elsewhere in the state. Thank you, President Snow-Flamer, for your huge role in facilitating this environment of mutual respect.

In the past year, we have made great strides toward an increasingly healthy workplace with emphasis on developing stronger communication, professional development opportunities, and planning strategies. The highlighting of diversity in many venues and initiatives is moving the District toward a more welcoming and inclusive College as a whole.

Throughout this summer, the work of updating policies and procedures continues with Academic Standards and Policies Committee and College Council continuing to meet and do this critical work. This work is particularly important as we strive, collectively, to develop and update our standard operating procedures for accomplishing all the work of the College across all locations, services and disciplines. Work on fiscal sustainability is continuing as well, as the District looks to address future budget challenges in a proactive manner.

Looking at the upcoming year, we are well prepared to begin writing our ACCJC self-study. To highlight this, here are a few main points regarding accreditation:

- A great deal of data have already been collected, and the Senate leadership offers our gratitude to incoming Interim Vice President Hill for the work she continues to do regarding accreditation;
- The Accreditation Oversight Committee (or AOC) has been reconstituted and will be a permanent standing committee from this point forward, and the important AOC subcommittees have been created and are ready to begin work in the Fall with many talented people already having volunteered to do that work.

In addition, the Budget Planning and related committees have been reformulated with the goal of an even more transparent and inclusive process. The upcoming search for a permanent president/superintendent is on our minds. And again, throughout these processes we feel so very fortunate for Interim President Snow-Flamer's leadership.

We also thank Dr. Winter for his service as CIO/CSSO this past year. It has been a true pleasure on so many levels. He has been calm, patient and has maintained his sense of humor while managing an incredibly heavy workload. He has been a valued partner in planning and problem solving; his willingness to listen, provide guidance, and offer support is truly appreciated. One lasting legacy of his tenure as CSSO is utilizing his knowledge and skill in managing student/staff issues, conflicts and dilemmas to develop process and resources that will serve the College well into the future. Though he is returning to teaching, he will be no stranger to shared governance where he will continue to work on Distance Education and on Accreditation.

Finally, this is Professor Mark Renner's last Board of Trustees meeting as Academic Senate Co-President. On behalf of faculty and the College as a whole, I am privileged to thank Mark for his willingness to take on this leadership role for the 2015-16 year. He brings a wealth of knowledge, he is thoughtful and creative, he is generous and humble and he has worked hard to leave the Academic Senate with more transparent, equitable and inclusive processes. The College and District are better for Mark's service and I couldn't have had a better mentor. He, too, will

be no stranger to shared governance and as of this fall and beyond he will work on the Academic Standards and Policies Committee and the Budget Planning Committee. I have no doubt he will also find a way to be involved furthering the College's profile in Distance Education.

It has been a good year. We appreciate the role which you, the Board of Trustees, play in these processes and thank you for your support as we make strides toward continuous improvement of the health and sustainability of the College and District.