Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that it is my intention to ask the Board at our April 4 meeting to rescind the March 15th layoff notices issued to two of our faculty members. The reasons I will be requesting the rescission are:

- At the March 7 Governing Board meeting, some Board members stated that since the likelihood of promises made by students, faculty, and the public at that meeting appear realistic, then those Board members would reconsider their decision to lay off faculty members. These promises included: fund raising for the at risk sports programs, reallocation of faculty positions, and more collaborative work with the Administration to better handle the existing financial crisis.

- The Academic Senate has agreed to withdraw the hiring of three new faculty in order to rescind the layoffs of the faculty in Physical Education and Welding. The new positions that will not move forward are: Anthropology, Political Science, and Automotive Technology.

- ASSC has pledged to help raise significant funds for SCC’s athletic programs.

- The SCFA has helped VP Ligioso clarify the Step and Column issue for the faculty. That clarification will result in an increase of $150,000 to our budget next year. The reality is that we are not going to spend as much on Step and Column as we originally thought.

- The SCFA leaders and I have agreed to work closely with all vulnerable programs and disciplines to carefully plan how we can continue to maintain academic stability in light of reduced revenue and to fulfill our State mandates of Basic Skills, Transfer, and Career Technical Education. Furthermore, we must collaboratively examine the current Educational Master Plan with the same budgetary considerations and the academic integrity of our College in mind.

- There is currently some discussion on how to reduce our healthcare costs. If the District can reduce healthcare costs, there exists guarded optimism for the District’s 2012-2013 budget.

Finally, based on discussions with the football head coach and feedback from Dean Espinoza and EVP Reyes, the football team will continue to be suspended until we can raise the necessary funds to reinstate it. Furthermore, the Aquatics coach and Dean Espinoza have agreed to eliminate the Water Polo program immediately. However, the coach continues to work on a
proposal to examine the feasibility of sustaining the swimming and diving teams. These activities will be evaluated regularly for their viability. Much of our financial health still depends on what happens at the November election. We cannot afford to relax until that time.

Finally, I am indebted to team work between the SCFA, the Academic Senate, and the Administration as we participated in professional dialogue as colleagues. In addition, I want to recognize specifically the diligent work of Professors Gene Thomas and Diane White with support from Professor Snow in bringing the issue of layoffs to closure.

Thank you!

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President

“Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.” Goethe