Dear Colleagues:

**September Sizzles**
I am back from a short leave and a little bit of rest. The weeks ahead are filled with critical activities. The central task for us now is the 2013 Accreditation Follow-Report on which Dr. Annette Dambrosio has been working diligently. She has not only attended to coordinating and reformulating SCC’s responses to the ACCJC Recommendations, but has refined the Equity Plans (Student Equity Plan (SEP) and Staff Equity Plan (EEO Plan). The work that has been done with these plans reflects her attention to detail and determination to ensure that the Report is accurate and intelligible. She will be sending the revised ACCJC 2013 Follow-Up Report and Equity Plans out to $ALL again this week and urges you to send her your comments.

**Update on SCC Bond Measures**
From the Kitchell CEM Team:  *Measure G Update: Week of 9/16/13*

**FAIRFIELD CAMPUS:**
- Parking lots 4, 5 & 6 remain closed until December due to the District Photovoltaic project installation.
- The Construction fence around Building 600 remains in place as the project moves forward with construction.

**VACAVILLE CENTER:**
- The Parking Lot Expansion project soil import will continue this week and next, resulting in increased visibility of several construction trucks. There is no impact on existing parking lots. Construction notices have been issued and are posted at the Center.

**VALLEJO CENTER:**
- The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) water treatment was completed on September 13. Additional consultants and contractors will be onsite for needed coordination efforts in getting the system working properly. We apologize for the continued problems with the heating and cooling systems.

**Regarding Measure Q:** We continue to work to establish District standards that will govern the building site plan, landscaping, technical specifications, facility and site assessments, and the color palette.

Contact Leigh Sata, SCC Executive Bonds Manager, for additional information ([leigh.sata@solano.edu](mailto:leigh.sata@solano.edu)).
**Professor Pandone Publishes Book**
Professor Marc Pandone has announced the publication of a book project he is a part of, and an exhibition celebrating its release.

The title of the book is *Art of the National Parks*. He was asked to submit work as an artist to represent Yosemite National Park. There are about 8-10 different artists representing each of the seven National Parks included in the publication.

The book was printed in Italy and the reproductions of all the artwork are excellent. The text of the book covers both an historical aspect of each park and their environmental uniqueness. In addition, interviews with each of the artists were carefully prepared to give context to their artwork and the relationship to the parks.

The exhibition/reception is at the Robin Knowlton Gallery in Lodi on Friday, October 4, and copies are available for sale.

**Professor Paschal’s Marine Biology Field Trip**
Professor Brad Paschal shared with me his recent Marine Biology student excursion to Tomales Bay. Nine members of Biology 019 (Marine Biology) went on a night kayak trip in Tomales Bay to see the intense bioluminescence produced by a species of phytoplankton. They were joined by two professional guides from Blue Water Kayaks for a private tour of this bioluminescence in the protected waters of Tomales Bay. The students were thrilled as they dragged a hand or a paddle through the water, which produced a bright blue cloud of bioluminescence.

The class will be learning about phytoplankton, e.g., the exponential growth necessary to produce blooms like this; and, to a lesser extent, the complicated chemistry of bioluminescence. I am sure that the Tomales Bay excursion was a memorable education for all.

**AB 955 and SCC**
Many were surprised that AB 955 listed Solano Community College as one of six potential participants in a pilot to charge higher tuition for Intersessions and summer classes on a very limited basis. This bill was initiated when we were having problems meeting all the enrollment demands and the College was losing money on enrollment. We had to cancel summer school sending many of our students to other institutions and to places where they were paying much more. As you may know, the California Community Colleges’ tuition (including SCC’s tuition) is the lowest that we know of in the Nation; however, access may be limited in times of high demand and reduced funding. My colleague, Eloi Duarte, at Long Beach City College, led the effort to give institutions the leeway to charge more for certain courses after certain enrollment conditions are met.

Our enrollment situation has since changed because we are now working hard to meet “cap.” At this time, I do not see us taking advantage of this bill. If, however, our enrollment situation changes again, we may explore this option in lieu of not offering needed educational opportunities for our students. As it stands, the bill does not require us to take any action. If we choose to do something, the Academic Senate, Shared Governance Council, ASSC, and the entire College will have an opportunity to weigh in.

**Your Suggestions Regarding SCC's Enrollment**
I have been the recipient of many emails that have suggested various strategies to increase enrollment and I thank all of you for your suggestions. One suggestion is to enroll local prison inmates. As I told you
last week, there are 4,000 prison inmates potentially interested in an SCC education and these students alone could significantly increase our enrollment overnight. It is in our best interest to educate them so that they may become more productive members of our society; and, as research shows, less prone to commit crimes again.

There may be hundreds of students who are not enrolled in Solano Community College because they don’t think we are accredited and the community needs to be educated about us (by the way, we ARE accredited). There are students who might have wished to enroll in our College this semester, but missed the early start. Again, this is a simple public relations matter. There are students in our communities that do not have access to computers at home and we must seek out these students and assist them to enroll at our College. The Enrollment Management Committee, headed up by Dean Peter Cammish, is working on various plans at this time and there is no need for us to panic and resort to strategies to increase enrollment that have not been carefully considered. In the meantime, please continue to send me your ideas for addressing enrollment.

Addressing the Call to Bring Back College Football

It is necessary that I tell you where I stand on the issue of football and athletics at the College. We made the decision to suspend football because we could not support it adequately. We also decided to suspend football because we have other sports teams that we are still not able to support adequately. We have cut travel budgets, we have cut assistant coaches, and have cut academic support for the various College sports. While many citizens and College employees believe that all is well because Prop 30 passed, we know that Prop 30 is (a.) a temporary fix, and (b.) it has not added additional revenue, but instead, merely did not take away from us what the Governor had already proposed for the 2012-2013 year. So, there is not much more money to spend on desirable projects (like football).

Were we to bring football back, there are four major considerations we must address:

1) We have to be in compliance with Title IX. This law requires that women and men participate in sports in proportion to their enrollment at the College. If not, financial aid for ALL students may be suspended. Furthermore, women athletes may sue the College for greater support. Title IX needs to be understood by all and I urge you to read more about it online. We were not in compliance when we had football and the lack of compliance issues presented a disaster waiting to happen. To be in compliance, we would need to add women’s sports that would more or less equal the number of football players we had (80-100). As our finances improve, it would be right for us to add women’s sports, so that someday the issue of Title IX will be resolved. Only then will we be ready to bring football back and only IF we have the resources to properly support it.

2) We have to have adequate funding to support sports. Currently our basketball, softball, soccer, swimming, and volleyball teams are not adequately funded. I will recommend that we start improving the budgets of our teams as soon as our financial situation improves.

3) We must support the success of young men in our community by sponsoring athletic camps and academically oriented activities for young football players. We must assist them to become better students so that when we bring back football, we will be able to select good athletes who are also good students.

I ask all of you to consider what has happened since the hearing on suspending football and the promises made by those in attendance. The current hubbub is starting to sound like what I heard at that
Board meeting in the spring of 2012. If you recall, an estimated 300 people attended that Board meeting and pleaded for football and aquatics to not be dropped. There were pleas made for both aquatics and football to remain. In evaluating the situation afterwards, those involved with Water Polo explained that it had to go, as it had not been a successful program for the College. Swimming pledged to raise a lot of money to remain afloat (no pun intended). The Board then compromised its position and did not lay off the faculty members affected. Pledges were made that funds would be raised to bring football back. We passed around a sign-up sheet to get volunteers and five or so signed up, but were never really committed. There was one person who promised that he would help in any way he could--Coach Floyd Burnsed. He promised to make sure the equipment was well taken care of and made himself available to help us to end the program and to help us to restore the program when we could. He and his wife have been great assets for the football program and they remain so to this day.

There are people who are loyal fans of particular programs and particular activities who will always be advocates, no matter what. There are people who make recommendations for certain items and issues, but take no action to bring about change. The claim that we can afford $77,500 to bring football back is naïve given all the other issues surrounding our budget, to include the need to bring over 50 new women athletes into our sports programs and to support them adequately. Let me challenge these colleagues to think differently, though. We are a College, an educational institution, where we are primarily about academics, teaching, learning, scholarship, research, literacy, reading, writing, and science, and all of our educational disciplines. Our priorities are misplaced when we believe that we should subordinate academics to athletics. Our thinking needs to follow the examples of Coaches Nagle and Borchert who take their athletes to low-income schools to read and to elevate the educational future of these students. Working within our community to first enhance literacy is the most ethical thing to do, and our efforts to recruit athletes will follow.

In the meantime, those who are for the return of football are encouraged to start planning their outreach to young men in the county and Winters and Napa and to instill in our youth the value of an education first, with the athletic opportunities that will await them at SCC. I, too, will continue to explore how to support our current student athletes adequately and to pursue means to expand our sports programs. There is a planning process in place that ties planning to budget. We must adhere to that process to move forward and planning should begin with the faculty and staff. I look forward to seeing your proposals in the future.

**Responding to Faculty Concerns Regarding Scheduling of Classes**

In response to the item dealing with scheduling in the 9-11-13 edition of SP Direct, a senior faculty wrote the following. “Although there have always been the inevitable differences of opinion between faculty and administration, I always felt that this faculty was respected and that our voices could and would be heard. I honestly can say that this is no longer the case. I have never seen faculty morale this low and have never felt so disrespected by the administration.”

Another respected faculty member also shared the concern of assuming more classes than desired (due to scheduling mis-management); and, as a consequence, cannot keep up with other important work such as SLOs and PLOs assessments.

I am sorry that faculty scheduling has become a morale issue. Given that some faculty have had major scheduling concerns, it is my interest in hearing each faculty voice and to allow more faculty input into the scheduling process. It is important that you let IVP White and me know what is working and what is not. We have a duty to listen to you because you are the ones dealing with the students daily and know
what makes sense. I pledge to work with the Deans, the Vice Presidents, and faculty leaders to implement your suggestions that can help us to advance.

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

“Rugby is a beastly game played by gentlemen, soccer is a gentlemen's game played by beasts and US football is a beastly game played by beasts.” Henry Blaha