Dear Colleagues:

**New Tools to Serve Students**
This past Friday, 13 of us visited the campus of Cisco Systems in San Jose to look at a system to provide live access to classes at multiple sites. Back in 1996 or so, when I taught using the available technology, it was called Interactive Television (ITV), but those days were before the wide and popular use of the Internet. What we saw at Cisco Systems had some resemblance to ITV, but with the advent of the Internet, the features of the system are more robust and expansive and give greater flexibility in providing access to multiple sites.

We were accompanied by two school districts where SCC does not currently have a physical presence, Benicia and Winters. After learning more about what Cisco has to offer us, we will present our recommendations to the Governing Board in a Special Report that will outline suggestions to implement a system that would provide access to SCC’s multiple sites via technology. Depending on the direction from the Governing Board, we will devise an appropriate plan of action. I recognize, along with other administrators and faculty, that something must be done to make it easier for students from Vallejo and Vacaville to access more courses being offered college wide and to reduce the amount of driving necessary for access. I want to thank the 17 or so faculty who have expressed an interest in using the technology and invite others to contact Professor Dale Crandall-Bear to express their interest.

**Touro University Nursing Open House**
Last Monday, Touro University held an open house spotlighting its Master’s degree program in Nursing. Trustees Young and Thurston were in attendance, as were Professor Terry Moore-Harper and Interim Dean of Health Sciences, Dr. Maurice McKinnon. Prior to the event, one of the students in the program (SCC nursing alumni) told me that she is enrolled in the Master’s degree program. Both SCC and the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) are in support of Touro’s efforts. For SCC, the Touro degree program is a good link for our students to have access to a post Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) education. Students who earn an ADN may obtain their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) after 18 months of study. Students with a Bachelor’s degree may obtain their MSN after 15 months. Our community college curriculum transfers well.

**American Council on Education (ACE) Listening Session**
Terry Hartle, Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs, for the American Council on Education (ACE), recently informed some of our California educators of efforts being made
in the Senate to re-examine regulations that some argue appear to burden colleges and universities. The two areas that are being considered for reform are financial aid and safety. This Legislative effort has bi-partisan support and is a part of the legislation to re-authorize the Higher Education Act (HEA). SCC’s Associate Dean of Financial Aid, Robin Darcangelo, provided substantive suggestions to modify regulations that hinder our work with students. SCC’s Chief of Police, Eric Thelen, also made suggestions to change regulations that govern the overall security of institutions. Chancellor Brice Harris hosted this interesting meeting that was attended by Chancellors, Presidents, Financial Aid Officers, Security Officers, and others.

S/VP Hartle spoke to certain characteristics of federal regulations that hinder, more than help, our work as educators and have little or nothing to do with students, for example:
- The sheer volume of regulations that is difficult for Liberal Arts colleges and community colleges to implement.
- Lack of clarity in regulatory language to remain in compliance.
- Addressing subjects that have nothing to do with safety or learning.
- Overzealous enthusiasm for regulations per se.

Top Ten Bad Regulations
1. Return to Title IV.
2. Unnecessary verification for financial aid.
3. New standards for financial responsibility, (e.g., decline in enrollment is now considered as a financial loss).
4. New definitions of crime written by the Department of Education that were formerly written by the Department of Justice.
5. Timely warnings of crime occurrences not sent by the appropriate agent.
6. Non-campus facilities definition (here we have to define exactly any “non-campus facility”).
7. Constitution Day, Selective Service, voters’ registration, number of fire drills to be reported (examples that may not advance learning, but require expenditures).
8. Accreditation- using accreditors as regulation agencies.
10. Definition of credit hour (which, it seems, the federal government does not know how to define to accomplish a useful purpose).

Updates from the Community College League of California (CCLC)

Legislative Session Wraps Up
The legislature has adjourned for the rest of the year. In the last two weeks of session they passed hundreds of bills, some of which affected community colleges. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto these pieces of legislation. The League is working with the Governor’s Office and stakeholders to ensure your voice will be heard regarding these final pieces of legislation. Below is a partial list of the most important bills that are now on the Governor’s desk. We encourage you to write to the Governor to support/oppose these bills and explain how their passage would affect your college(s).
• **AB 1550 (Rendon)** – Would reduce the flexibility of school employers when negotiating contracts with unions. (Oppose)

• **AB 1976 (Quirk-Silva)** – Would give the California Student Aid Commission added flexibility by establishing a new formula to more accurately reach the state’s annual goal for awarding 22,500 competitive Cal Grant awards. (Support)

• **SB 174 and SB 798 (de Leon)** – Would permit Californians to donate to a fund increasing the Cal Grant B access award, from $1,473 up to a maximum of $5,000, and receive tax credits for their contribution. (Support)

• **SB 850 (Block)** – Would authorize a community college Baccalaureate degree pilot program for up to 15 colleges to offer one BA degree, each in a vocational and workforce area not offered by the U.C. or CSU; and would require the Board of Governors to adopt a funding model by March 2015. (Support)

• **SB 1028 (Jackson)** – Would permit any unused tuition portion of the Cal Grant C award to be redirected towards living expenses for the long-term unemployed and target those awards to the long-term unemployed. (Support)

• **SB 1391 (Hancock)** – Would fund credit courses at the credit rate and Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) courses at the CDCP rate in state correctional facilities; and would require the Chancellor’s Office and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to enter into an interagency agreement to provide community college courses to inmates in state correctional facilities. (Support)

Congress reconvened earlier this week, focusing attention on several critical issues including Fiscal Year 2015 funding. Next week, the House is expected to vote on a continuing resolution (C.R.) to fund the federal agencies and programs through December 11. The C.R. (H.J. Res. 124) generally maintains funding at the Fiscal Year 2014 levels, less an across-the-board cut of 0.0554%, in order to comply with the budget caps.

**American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Testimony on College Ratings System**

AACC Senior Vice President for Government Relations David Baime delivered a statement September 12 on the Administration’s Postsecondary Institution Rating System to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

http://www.aacc.nche.edu/newsevents/News/articles/Pages/09122014_1.aspx

**AACC Comments on Draft Senate Higher Education Affordability Act**

AACC, along with ACCT, submitted formal comments on the discussion draft of the Higher Education Affordability Act (HEAA) of 2014, released by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA). Harkin is the retiring chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The legislation is extremely ambitious and includes many AACC priorities, including restoration of the year-round Pell Grant (limited, however, to full-time students; a policy that AACC hopes to change). Harkin’s staff have indicated that the Senator intends to review the comments that have been submitted and introduce a comprehensive bill later this year. No markup has been scheduled. There appears to be no possibility of HEAA reauthorization legislation being enacted this year.
AACC and Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), along with 19 other organizations, also signed onto a letter sent by the American Council on Education (ACE). The comments of several other higher education organizations are available here.

**AACC Joins Community Letter on Title IX Sexual Assault Legislation**

AACC joined 16 other higher education associations in a letter to Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) commenting on the Campus Accountability and Safety Act (S. 2692). S. 2692, introduced by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), adds provisions onto various parts of the Higher Education Act, including Title IX, spelling out new requirements for how institutions report and deal with sexual harassment and violence. While expressing support for many of the legislation’s goals, the letter points out several of the bill’s details that are problematic or unclear. Of particular concern are provisions requiring institutions to establish memorandums of understanding with local law enforcement agencies and requiring confidential advisors to also perform investigative functions. The bill would authorize stiff fines for violations of these provisions and would send the proceeds directly to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), rather than to the Treasury thereby creating a potential incentive for DOE to impose more fines. The Senate was expected to act on S. 2692 this fall, but more recent indications are that action on the bill will not take place until a later date. The bill’s authors have expressed a willingness to work with the higher education community on the issues raised in the letter.

**Education Debt Continues to Increase**

The Brookings Institution’s analysis of the data from the most recent Survey of Consumer Finance administered by the Federal Reserve Board found that the debt levels have continued to increase over time (the surveys have been conducted since 1989), but the pace of the increase has slowed. In summary, the report states that “the 2013 data confirm that Americans who borrowed to finance their educations are no worse off today than they were a generation ago. Given the rising returns to postsecondary education, they are probably better off, on average.” The report added a cautionary note, “but just because higher education is still a good investment for most students does not mean that high and rising college costs should be left unquestioned.”

The report found that the share of education debt held by young households ages 20 to 40 was at an all-time high of 38% with a mean debt of over $19,000, representing a 14% increase since 2010 when the last survey was conducted. The report does not provide specifics about community college student debt.

**Research Involving Student Subjects**

If you are doing any research or studies involving student subjects, please work with our Office of Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness to gain an understanding of standards pertaining to human subjects. Dean Cammish can work with you to ensure ethical standards of research are observed. The approval process is simple, but when not observed, can create liability for all those involved. By the way, I encourage each of you to share results of your studies pertaining to student success.
Saturday, September 20, 2014 - Family Picnic in Partnership with Kaiser Permanente
Join the 2014 Solano Community College 2014 Family Picnic in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, Saturday, September 20, at our Fairfield Campus. We need an employee softball team to beat Kaiser’s team for the 2nd year in a row, so if you’re interested in playing, please email Terri Pearson-Bloom at terri.pearson@solano.edu.

In addition to the employee softball game, the day will include a 5K Fun Run/Walk on campus, followed by fun activities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for everyone. Kaiser employees and their families will be joining us. BRING THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUT FOR FUN…. and don’t miss out on entertainment, healthy eating demos, prevention, wellness and safety activities. You do not have to be a member of Kaiser Health to participate.

Coastal Clean Up
We will be hosting the annual Coastal Creek Clean Up on Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Dr. Pam Muick is the Co-chair of the event this year and will be the on-site Captain on the day of the event. The 2014 Coast and Creek Cleanup marks the 30th anniversary of the California Coastal Cleanup Day program, making this one of the longest running and the largest volunteer events in the state. Our SCC volunteers will clean up the Upper Dan Wilson Creek in Fairfield and will assemble in front of the SCC football stadium entrance. We encourage faculty to make this an extra credit event, if possible, and welcome the participation of all members of the College community. Please contact Ken Williams or Pam Muick for more information.

SCC Outreach Day at Solano Mall – DON’T FORGET – It’s All About Solano!
Location: Solano Town Center at 1350 Travis Boulevard | Fairfield, CA 94533
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014
Time: Noon-4:00 p.m.

Brad Paschal’s Marine Biology Class and Whale Watching
Just a quick note from Brad Paschal, SCC Biology professor: “Students from the Marine Biology class (Bio. 019) went whale watching in Monterey Bay last Saturday. We were on the boat for four hours, and we saw dozens of humpback whales exhibit a range of behaviors. The students were in awe. The students also got to apply what they’ve been learning in class. They’ve been studying the details of how oceanographic processes, such as upwelling, allow for plankton at the base of the food chain to flourish. When the marine biologist on the boat connected these same processes to the whales, many of the students looked at me with surprise. One of them said, ‘We know this.’ I then said, yes you do, and I bet you won’t forget it…. Again, the students were in awe (me too).”

Sports Update
Erik Visser, SCC’s Athletic Director, reports that Volleyball split on the road against DVC and Merced. Women's soccer lost 5-0 on the road against Mt. San Antonio College (MT. SAC) in Los Angeles, one of the top teams in the state.
**Banner Outage Alert**

Due to an emergency update for Financial Aid Loan Disbursement, MySolano and Banner are scheduled to be down starting **5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 18, through 7:00 a.m., Friday, September 19**, for the installation of new major releases (patches). There will be no access to MySolano or Banner during this time.

**Shared Governance Council (SGC) Special Meeting Today**

Voting Members

**Faculty:**
Michael Wyly, Academic Senate; James DeKloe, SCFA

**Local 39:**
Jeff Lehfeldt and Richard Crapuchettes

**Minority Coalition:**
Karen McCord and Kevin Anderson

**CSEA:**
Debbie-Luttrell Williams, President; George Olgin

**ALG:**
Máire Morinec and Robin Darcangelo

**Student:**
Naser Baig

**Advisory Members:**
Diane White, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs (Chair)
Yulian Ligioso, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Peter Cammish, Dean Research, Planning, & Institutional Effectiveness

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<td>1. Call to Order</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>(a) Approval of Agenda</td>
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<td>(b) PUBLIC COMMENTS</td>
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<td>2. Board Policy and Procedures 2070 Accreditation</td>
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<td>3. Accreditation Midterm Report</td>
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<td>A. Dambrosio</td>
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<td>4. Adjournment</td>
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[http://www.solano.edu/shared_govern/](http://www.solano.edu/shared_govern/)
“When those waiters ask me if I want some fresh ground pepper, I ask if they have any aged pepper.” Andy Rooney

“Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.” Andy Rooney

RIP, Mr. Rooney! I had no idea he had died until I was told so last week. (January 14, 1919 – November 4, 2011)