Dear Colleagues:

**Academic Senate Meeting**
The week before last, the Curriculum Committee gave its approval for the form to be used to approve courses for correspondence that will serve to provide access to college courses for the inmates at the California State Prison-Solano and other interested individuals. The Senate has created the right setting for discussing the process and format of the new teaching medium. I want to thank the Senate (Michael Wyly, President); the Distance Education Committee (Dale Crandall-Bear, Chair); the Curriculum Committee (Curtiss Brown, Chair; and Erin Moore, Specialist), as well as Dr. Leslie Minor (Program Leader/Administration), Diane White (IVP Academic Affairs), Kamber Sta.Maria (Counselor) and many others who helped and are still helping to make this happen….a superb effort to meet a tight timeline.

**Applied Music Discussions**
SCC has not kept up over the past few years with the needs of graduating high school students who want to study music in college. Professor Teri Yumae and her colleagues from the Music Department have put together a series of music courses to not only develop the Associate’s degree transfer, but to also meet the needs of musicians graduating from our schools. Some of the courses require that students have individual instruction and we are looking at the best way to accomplish that objective. Erin Moore, Lisa Abbott, Professor Teri Yumae, and Dean Neil Glines were part of the discussions.

**Dr. John Yu At It Again**
We received word last week that a proposal for a STEM Grant from the National Science Foundation has been recommended for funding. The $600K grant will provide scholarships for students in the Science fields. Congratulations to Dean John Yu and the team he assembled to put the plan together for the grant. More details will be shared with all as the funding is finalized.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
The Community College League of California (CCLC) Department of Government Affairs released an early list of potential legislation the League is interested in pursuing, and based on the last legislative session, some are items the legislature may be interested in as well. If you have questions about these legislative issues or would like to suggest other proposals of your own, please let me know. I serve on the Committee that advises the League on legislation.
The following is a report from League staffer Lizette Navarette:

“With the conclusion of the 2013-14 legislative sessions, the League is now focusing efforts on upcoming legislative issues affecting community colleges in 2015. Over the last month, League staff met with various stakeholders and legislators to determine that the following list of issues are likely proposals for the 2015 legislative session:

**Adult Education**

In the 2013-14 budget, Governor Brown proposed that community colleges should be responsible for all adult/noncredit education programs in California. Currently, adult education is delivered to areas by either the school districts or the local community college. In an effort to minimize disruption of existing programs, Governor Brown provided grant funding for community colleges and school districts to jointly plan how to link their two systems together and serve all regions within the state. The Governor will respond with an implementation proposal in his January budget proposal.

**Audit Fee Equalization**

Currently, California community colleges charge $46 per unit for credit classes, while they are only allowed to charge $15 per unit for students who audit. Equalizing these fees (as well as the credit and auditing fees for nonresident students) will provide colleges with some new (although still limited) funding. In addition, the Academic Senate has supported this change in light of recent Education Code provisions regarding repeatable courses, the need to maintain access, and the importance of providing alternative curricular solutions.

**Cal Grant Reform**

It is widely recognized that the Cal Grant system fails to serve community college students. Only six percent of the money awarded by the Cal Grant program goes towards students at a community college, despite the fact that two thirds of all postsecondary students are community college students. Reform is a possibility, and the specifics of a proposal are still under consideration.

**Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) Rate Equalization Implementation**

The 2014-15 budget changes the CDCP to be equal to the credit rate. This change will likely eliminate one of the many existing disincentives for community colleges to create and maintain noncredit programs and will enable them to help students reach their educational goals more efficiently. Governor Brown’s January budget proposal is expected to reveal the details regarding which classes can be offered under this new rate.

** Concurrent Enrollment**

This year the California Community College Chancellor’s Office sponsored AB 1451 (Holden), a bill that would have reformed the way colleges offer concurrent enrollment courses to high school students. While it failed to pass this year, some research shows that concurrent enrollment is one of the most crucial means of helping community colleges students complete their education more efficiently. A proposal, with details still undecided, is likely to surface in 2015.
Funding of State Facilities
California community colleges, along with other segments of California education, are in need of new facilities. While Governor Brown has expressed concerns regarding a state bond measure raising funds for community college buildings, we anticipate a proposal is likely to surface in 2015.

Increased CTE Funding
Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are vital for preparing an educated workforce; they can be more costly than academic programs. Due to severe cuts in the CTE program in recent years, stakeholders will attempt to restore funding and also find new sources of revenues.

Parcel Tax Reform
A proposal reducing the threshold to pass a parcel tax from two-thirds to 55% (similar to local general obligation bonds) is likely in 2015. But no guarantee can be made for the proposal because a super-majority vote in the Legislature is required.

Restoring Three-Year Stability
Last year, California community colleges joined together to support three-year stability for City College of San Francisco due to its accreditation issues. After a review, it became clear other community college districts also were experiencing unforeseen events affecting their ability to reach enrollment caps. Legislation will be proposed in 2015 to provide similar three-year stability to other districts, giving them greater predictability in planning the ability to “smooth out” any year-to-year sharp enrollment changes created by external sources. If approved, this would supersede the current one-year stability in the Education Code.”

Shared Governance Council Meets Today, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (360 Campus Lane)

Voting Members

Faculty
Michael Wyly, Academic Senate President
James DeKloe, SCFA

Local 39
Jeff Lehfeldt
Richard Crapuchettes,

Minority Coalition
Kevin Anderson
Karen McCord

Students
Ariyana Smith
Erika Gonzalez

CSEA
Debbie-Luttrell Williams, President
George Olgin

ALG
Shirley Lewis
Christie Speck

Advisory Members
Diane White, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs (Chair)
Yulian Ligioso, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Peter Cammish, Dean, Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
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<td>1. Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Approval of Agenda</td>
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<td>(b) Approval of Minutes</td>
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<td>October 8, 2014</td>
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<td>(c) PUBLIC COMMENTS</td>
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<td>2. Superintendent-President’s Report</td>
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<td>J. Laguerre</td>
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<td>3. Human Resources Update</td>
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<td>W. Larson</td>
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<td>4. Budget Update</td>
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<td>Y. Ligioso</td>
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<td>5. Board Policy and Procedures 4215, Smoking On Campus</td>
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<td>6. Senate Proposed Revisions to Current Code of Ethics</td>
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<td>M. Wyly</td>
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<td>7. New Prerequisite and Corequisites Policy for Curriculum Committee</td>
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<td>8. Governing Board Meeting Agenda – November 19, 2014</td>
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<td>D. White</td>
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<td>9. Adjournment</td>
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http://www.solano.edu/shared_govern/

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

“It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.”
— Theodore Roosevelt