

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE DE ANZA ACADEMIC SENATE

June, 2009

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Unprecedented Meetings in July

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures (a phrase heard frequently in recent times). For the first time in the history of the college, the Academic Senate Executive Committee will meet in July, specifically July 6th and July 27th.

The decision to meet in July was prompted by the fact that the Board of Trustees is planning to make decisions regarding budget, personnel, and programs at the end of July, perhaps on the 27th. Given this, the Academic Senate will meet to oversee and collaborate with the administration in its areas of responsibility for curriculum, program review, and program development and elimination.

In order to meet, the Senators representing the various divisions of the college agreed to extend the normal limit of their terms to

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President's Message

Anne Argyriou

Anne Argyriou is re-reading Moo by Jane Smiley. She finds it frighteningly appropriate (but hopefully not prescient) during these times, though fortunately, it does offer biting comic relief.

Over the past year, some of the Senate's top priorities have been **Accreditation**, particularly **SLOs**, and the work of the Instructional Planning and Budgeting Team (IPBT). Our two SLO/SAO Coordinators have spearheaded workshops and training sessions for Instructional and Student Services Divisions, have developed long-range plans, and assisted in developing a means to track SLO work. The Academic Senate officers and the Faculty Co-chair of Curriculum also attended the Accreditation Workshop this year, to become informed about the various requirements to contribute to the College efforts in this area. The areas particularly impacted by accreditation are: the College Mission Statement; Program Review; Planning and Budget Processes; Student Learning Outcomes.

Another top priority has been in the area of **instructional planning and budgeting** and the issues that arise from a year of budgetary uncertainty coupled with program reviews. One of the aims of the

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College, including the Academic Senate, is to ensure that our instructional decisions are based on our Program Reviews, so that we have good, solid data to use when examining programs and determining how the College's instructional priorities will be implemented. The other reason why we are focused on this is that Accreditation heavily emphasizes a decision making process that shows awareness of goals and carefully thought out methods to achieve those goals. For specifics about IPBT's work this year, please read Academic Senate Vice President Cynthia Lee-Klawender's article in this newsletter.

Academic Senate is working on other issues which we hope to wrap up next year. The first is the **review of the General Education pattern**, which we plan to complete by Fall 2009. The GE Steering Committee is in the first stage of exploring how our Institutional Core Competencies could be reflected in the GE pattern. Two of the areas the Committee is looking into are: (a) developing an Information Literacy component for those departments who would wish to highlight their focus on training students in using resources effectively and (b) possibly expanding the range of courses eligible for the non-PE Activity Courses category.

Professional Relations—

A proposal for a revised Professional Relations guidelines has been presented to Senate in the last few meetings of the year. It reflects a year-long effort of a dedicated

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Vice President's Message

Cynthia Lee-Klawender

We Still Need Faculty Input About the Budget!

The 2008-2009 Academic Year has been a difficult one due needing to cut De Anza's budget. Not only did Foothill-De Anza have a large structural deficit, now the State of California's budget woes are adding to our budget problems! Even though budget reductions have already been recommended by De Anza's planning & budget teams, there may be further cuts, including program reductions and/or eliminations.

We need faculty input now to help the Instructional Planning & Budget Team (IPBT) determine what our priorities are. When we find out what our actual state budget cuts will be, everyone at De Anza will be asked to make reductions or eliminations in their divisions/areas.

The IPBT, within parameters agreed to by our Academic Senate and the administration, will be reviewing all the released/reassigned time (\$200,000 of that was part of the recommendations already made), all instructional additional pay (stipends), programs with low productivity, and programs identified to be investigated during Program Review. While we're waiting for news from Sacramento of what cuts to the community colleges will be, reviews and investigations are taking place and IPBT will be making plans of how to decide on reduction/elimination recommendations. Please give your

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the summer.

The Instructional Planning and Budgeting Team will also be meeting.

Faculty are advised to be in contact with their representatives and are welcome to attend the always open meetings which will continue to be in the traditional 2:30 Monday timeslot.

In addition several messages to all faculty from Senate President Anne Argyriou are likely in July.

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Academic Senate representatives or me (LeeKlawenderCynthia@deanza.edu) your suggestions about this. Also, divisions will probably be asked to determine where to cut their class offerings. CHECK WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVE SENATOR AND YOUR DEAN (through the summer if possible) to make sure you are consulted about any changes to class offerings.

After the budget has been balanced (hopefully some time in 2009-2010), IPBT plans to give feedback to ALL programs, not for reductions or eliminations, but for improvement. This may become an annual task, along with conducting Program Reviews annually.

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faculty committee who were charged with developing more nuanced ways to address professional relations issues among faculty. The proposal was well received by the Academic Senate Executive Committee, and we hope to have specific practices developed next year.

Board Policy Updates

The Academic Senates of both De Anza and Foothill colleges are delighted to report that we have finally reached a satisfactory board policy regarding the publication and adoption of course materials (**Board Policy 4185**). The policy represents the collaborative efforts, spanning several years, between the Academic Senates, the Faculty Association, the Chancellor, and Board of Trustees, and was formally approved at the June 15, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting.

Another important board policy, on academic freedom (Board Policy 4190), is currently under review, and we are hoping to finalize it this upcoming year.

Mission Statements

This year, the Academic Senate reviewed the De Anza Mission Statement, in part to see if it could be minimally changed to more closely reflect the Institutional Core Competencies.

Institutional Core Competencies

The Academic Senate is pleased to announce that after much revision of the Institutional Core Competencies, a final

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version was formally approved by the Academic Senate in March 2009. Digital copies are available on the Senate website. We would like to thank ALL of the faculty who provided feedback.

The Officers would like to thank the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, the faculty, and the Administration for all of the work we accomplished. This year enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in Fall 2009.

TODAY'S WORD:
SHARED SACRIFICE

Mary Ellen Goodwin
Part Time Faculty Representative
On the Academic Senate

Quite honestly, I am tired of hearing “everyone has to make sacrifices.” That’s not to say I’m unwilling to sacrifice my fair share; however, no matter how one looks at the current budget crisis and the proposed “sacrifices”—on a statewide level or at the local level—it’s the students who are the biggest and most obvious losers.

But, student sacrifice is inextricably linked to faculty sacrifice; and when it comes to faculty, the not so obvious “sacrifice” will be the loss of part-time faculty jobs. Since part-time faculty have the least to sacrifice in the first place, if the proposed solution means everyone sacrifices equally—well—it doesn’t take a genius to do the math.

Sacrifice is never equitable.

Over the years, activists have worked tirelessly to bring equity into the classroom. With the sure cuts to the part-time categorical funding at the state level, most assuredly, the goal toward equity at the local level will be stalled; in fact, if benefits and salaries are cut, we will be taking several steps backward.

Simply put, the over-dependence on part-time faculty, by its very nature, foreshadows tragedy. To offer one or two classes to a multitude of part-timers rather than hiring full-time faculty to teach those same classes is not only pedagogically unsound, it’s pathetically unconscionable. However, it is precisely because of such crises as we are now experiencing that makes part-time hiring so attractive.

There will always be cuts in hard times, and it’s much easier on the eyes to “sacrifice” the invisible. However, when the smoke clears and the mirrors are wiped clean, the addiction will once again rear its ugly head, and a fresh group of wide-eyed, unsuspecting, newly graduated sacrificial lambs will be hired.

It’s that simple.

Is it any wonder the community college system itself has stalled in achieving the goal of 75/25? It doesn’t support the “flexibility” of shared sacrifice. And just what is “flexibility” anyway? From where I sit, it looks a lot like a map of Italy!

So kick ‘em while they’re down, couch it in terms of “shared sacrifice” and it shouldn’t hurt as much—for either faculty or students. After all, education is a “shared sacrifice.”

And, that’s the word.

Is there a particular topic you would like to see in The Newsletter?

Would you like to write an informative article or opinion piece for The Newsletter?