WHAT HAPPENS AT EPAC MEETINGS?

BY KATHY HOLLAND, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Pierce College

FOR MANY years, adjutants had felt that something was missing. We had worked hard, and our students valued and respected us. But our colleagues had not granted us the status we felt we had earned — the status that comes with academic rank. We knew there would be resistance. But we are now beginning to make some progress, and it’s a wonderful feeling.

In spring 2004, the Academic Senate at Pierce College became the first to agree to grant academic rank to “Adjunct Assistant Professor.” Mission College and Valley College followed suit in the fall semester. The critics were concerned that giving academic rank somehow demeaned or devalued the rank given to full-timers. Glendale College offers rank to its adjuncts, so why not the Los Angeles District?

What is the status of your college’s adoption of this rank?

If your campus doesn’t offer academic rank and you are interested in making it happen on your campus, contact Kathy Holland at hollankd@piercecollege.edu.

Statewide Academic Senate Makes Controversial Decisions

BY LEON MARELLI

THE ACADEMIC SENATE for California Community Colleges (ASCC) passed two controversial resolutions at its Spring 2005 Plenary Session April 7-9 in San Francisco. All nine colleges of the LACCD were represented. The resolutions recommended increasing the level of math and English requirements for the AA degree statewide (see box).

A resolution had been pending on the issue for several years. In the meantime, the issue has been discussed at numerous sessions, regional colloquia, and debates at local senate meetings. Because there had been so much discussion of this over the past few years and since many of the dele-
gates had been instructed how to vote by their college senates, debate on these resolutions was quickly closed, and the votes taken. Both resolutions passed by a margin of 40-46. 

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolution: The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends to the Board of Trustees that the associate degree minimum requirement for English in Title 5 §59605.5 is changed to read “English 1A and 1B”.

Resolution: The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends to the Board of Trustees that the associate degree minimum requirement for mathemat-
ics in Title 5 §59605.5 is changed to read “mathematics courses at the level of Algebra II and trigonometry, another intermediate algebra to the AA degree, and one additional mathem-
tical course at the level of Calculus AB or BC, or its equivalent.”

The theme of the plenary was “Taking Academic Senate in Charge.” The session observed the 36th anniversary of ASCC’s significant contributions to faculty, students, and the social and economic health of California.

Los Angeles delegation at ASCC Spring Session, L to R, front: Beverly’s (DAS VP), Kevin Mattioli (DAS President), Warren Furutani (DAS VP), Lina Chen (DAS Treasurer), back: Athena Fuster, Leon Mattioli (DAS VP), Lisa Chirco (DAS Treasurer), Angelo Echeverria, Chris Johnson, back: Paul Silvertree, Marty Hirtzmann (Pres. LGOCC), not in picture David Beaulieu, Regine Monteiro.

The plenary concluded with a celebratory session, “Who We Are and Where We’re Been,” highlighting 36 years of ASCC’s significant contributions to faculty, students, and the social and economic health of California.

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Reports from our Campuses

Los Angeles City College

By Gary Colombo
Academic Senate President

We’ve enjoyed some incredible “highs” recently at LACC—almost all due to the dedication and professionalism of our faculty, students, and staff. This past March, our debate team was rated the number one community college squad in the nation, and the LACC Men’s Basketball team won its 12th consecutive Conference Championship. Earlier in the semester, two faculty members—Norman Schub and Rebeca De la Sota—were honored with the college’s second annual “Learning Community Award” for their explorations, respectively, of Latino art and the life of Lorenzo Díaz Varela. Our annual “Gala” celebrated the careers of five illustrious alumni, including a Nobel Laureate in Economics, the inventor of Kwanzaa, a distinguished federal judge, and the singing team responsible for hits like “You Ain’t Nothing But a Hound Dog” and “Love Potion Number Nine.” Meanwhile the LACC Book Program, sponsored by our office of Staff & Organizational Development, has showcased the campus with intellectually stimulating, socially engaging, and economically stimulating group discussions of Ray Bradbury’s works, a guest lecture by USC Professor Leo Braudy on Bradbury’s influence, and a special community forum on censorship, featuring Norma Barzman, author of The Red and the Blue Hat. But we’ve also sustained some dramatic “lows”—mostly associated with Prop AA.

Los Angeles Harbor College

By Susan McMurray
Academic Senate President

Spring has seen the Accreditation Steering Committee at Harbor shift into high gear, and the first draft of the self-study is in progress. The teamwork of many dedicated individuals has made this daunting task manageable, under the leadership of co-chairs Lu Ann Rosas, VP of Academic Affairs, and Mark Wood, Division Chair of Fine Arts and former Senate president. We are supporting all efforts to involve students in the accreditation process. An essay contest with cash prizes features the theme, “In what ways is your life better since you have become a Harbor College student?” The LACC Foundation has begun an annual major gifts campaign with a goal of $300,000 over the next two years to be used for student scholarships, book grants, departmental programs, and some unfunded Prep A & AA capital needs. The Foundation is selling bricks for the new Fine Arts Plaza and mission style benches. Senate elections were held and familiar faces will return to the Senate executive board: Susan McMurray, President; June Smith, Vice President; Jim Stanbery, Recording Secretary; and Brenda Guertin, Corresponding Secretary.

Los Angeles Mission College

By Angela Echeverri
Academic Senate President

Earlier this year, Mission was the subject of a review of its procedures and processes for reporting noncredit FTES by the State Controller’s Office. The review concluded that during a three-year period (July 1, 2001–June 30, 2004), one of the noncredit courses offered by LMMC failed to meet requirements necessary for state appropriation. The review also found that FTES reported for noncredit courses were significantly overstated. Needless to say, the impact on our enrollment and financial aid revenue will be significant. The college is undertaking the arduous process of correcting the problems uncovered by the review. These findings have also reached in a statewide review of noncredit courses by the State Chancellor’s Office.

Los Angeles Valley College

By Shannon Stack
Academic Senate President

We are beginning to organize our self-study for accreditation. Debrah Kaye was chosen to chair the college’s accreditation team. We are holding a kick-off event May 24th for all members of the standards committees.

Los Angeles Pierce College

By Barbara Logan
Academic Senate President

Our accreditation self-study has begun under the able leadership of Greg Gillem. Almost all of the committees have been formed and are making their fast passages through the accreditation standards. A well-attended workshop featuring the associate director of the accrediting commission was held in April. In a follow-up workshop, Mary Young and Joy McCaulin shared the understanding of Commission expectations based on the recent participation in an evaluation team visit to Fullerton College.

Los Angeles Trade Tech College

By Shanon Stack
Academic Senate President

On the facilities front, we were glad to resolve the dispute that I mentioned in the last newsletter. The Language Arts Building project will go forward, although the departments may be combined with other humanities departments in a larger building in order to save money.

Last spring a Senate task force developed steps that students, faculty, and the bookstores might take to reduce textbook costs. More recently we invited representatives from a large publishing firm to come to a Senate meeting to take part in a continuing discussion of this issue. For those who are interested, the State Senate adopted a very helpful “white paper” on textbook issues at its last Spring Session.

Los Angeles Trade Tech Senate and AFT Leadership honor outgoing Chancellor Peter Landsberger. At the event, L-R: Dorothy Smith, Deirdre Woods, Jim Browne, Brenda Austin, Larry Pegler, Leslie Kitu, Chancellor Landsberger, Chair Johnson, John McDowell, AFT, and Leon Marzillier.