

Senate report:  
Spring Plenary Session 2004

### **General Observations:**

- All schools in the California System are very much alike in their problems and successes.
- All schools have their own unique problems created by their environment, and district evolution.
- Enrollment is up and down, it depended upon who you spoke with and what district.
- New president was inserted at Shasta College after a vote of no-confidence was given to the president of nine years by the senate. (This has been happening around the state.)
- The resolution process is a very fair process. Yes tedious, but many times one word in the wrong place made a big difference in the meaning.
- I feel that our area is very proactive in the resolution writing, and was well represented in all aspects of the conference.
- The remodeled John Wayne Airport is a nice place to fly to-and-from.
- The hotel and area was very nice. ( too bad we didn't have any time to take advantage of the area)
- Southern California has a large contingence and can block resolution.
- All Academic Senators and instructors are truly trying to do the best they can for the students and their college.

### **Break Out Sessions**

- **Assaults on Academic Freedom: How Might we Respond?**
  - Colleges are all having problems with censorship coming from administration, board members and legislative bodies.
  - The Patriot Act can be viewed as an assault on Academic Freedoms.
  - An instructor has the ability to select textbooks and decide upon pedagogical delivery in their classroom.
  - The syllabus is the one document that protects the instructor from false accusations made by students or administrators.
- **Technology for Teaching: Statewide Technology Resources**
  - An introduction to all the services offered online or via satellite.
  - An abundant amount of instructor training is out there through the various educational organizations. Most of it is free unless you want to convert the courses into college credit.
  - @one, California Virtual Campus, CCCConfer, CCCSAT and High Tech Center Training Unit are those units who will help you with technology and access needs for your special students.
  - Need a book done in Brail or visually adapted? It will cost you nothing through the chancellor's office (ATPC) some can be done in two or three weeks.
- **Bringing Technology into the Classroom: What Matters, Best Practices**
  - Distributive education has an increased role in each of our colleges.

- The three stage model has help make it easier for students and instructors to use updated curriculum.
- Stage one (Information) is using a website to post information about classes and instructors.
- Stage two (Instruction) is to post syllabus, lectures and possibly assignments on a website for students to use.
- Stage Three (Interactivity) the use of email, discussion groups, chats and other communication tools by the instructor to interact with students. Portals such as WebCT and BlackBoard were designed for this form of interaction.
- Many instructors, regardless of the discipline, have moved into stage one or two, due mostly to textbooks producing materials to be used in this model.
- **Promoting a Sustainability Curriculum: Why We Must**
  - Promoted the use of native plants while doing site planning.
  - Introduced a very successful program (Sustainable**Works**) used by Santa Monica Community College. The program stresses sustainable food chains, water purification and site planning.
  - The program is funded by an environmental friendly organization that is looking to expand the program to other colleges throughout the United States.
- **Equivalency Practices Survey Results and Their Implications.**
  - All colleges are to have a procedure to grant minimum qualifications. Some are more formal then others.
  - No such thing as a single class equivalency.
  - Cross-listing a class is very popular in most districts.

#### **Keynotes:**

All keynote speakers were very informative, entertaining, and thought provoking. Roger Bowen, AAUP General Secretary, gave a broad view of Academic freedom and the many cases throughout the US that the union has had to fight.

Scott Lay's presentation and opinions about the budgets in California was a wakeup call for colleges to be watchdogs of their assembly and senate representatives.

Patrick M.Callan, National Center for Public Policy and High Education, was very positive of the job we do, but critical of the way that California goes about a number of items. These items became great discussion topics between Chancellor Drummond and David Viar who responded to Callan's remarks.

#### **Other:**

- Korean Barbeque is great, you have to try it.
- Amazing how all our areas are growing.
- Every college seems to be experimenting with schedules.
- Once again the resolution to increase English and Math requirements was deferred.