

## Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

### Taking Account:

### Show and Tell

April 7-9, 2005

*Spring Session 2005*

I arrived April 7<sup>th</sup> for dinner. The food was excellent, and the student entertainment was good. The theme was diversity and or multi-culturalism. I got there late due to commitments in Woodland on Thursday; therefore, I missed half of the sessions including the breakouts on Thursday. However, I attended two very interesting sessions on Friday, April 8. Both of these sessions were, in a manner, delivered on the issues of diversity and equity “for all”. The first session was titled Excellence in diversity hiring among Community College faculty. Phillip Maynard of Mt. San Antonio College and Angela Wilson of Yuba College led this. In the discussion there was also faculty from Citrus College of who had received an award for encouraging diversity within their population. They did this by simply diversifying the faculty and staff and, therefore, attracting a more diverse student population. The process to achieve this was a simple one. They got faculty buy-in to the idea and took all voting members of hiring committees through sensitivity training. Their Senate leadership became advocates. I would hope that we in our district could follow such an example.

The other session I attended was titled Academic Freedom and Students Rights-Not a Contradiction in Terms. The presenter was Leon Marziller of Los Angeles Valley College. The discussion was encouraged due to issues raised by Senate Bill 5 (Morrow), labeled by the author as a “Student Bill of Rights”. This session raised many red flags in the discussion on Academic Freedom (freedom to teach) as well the freedom to learn, i.e. policies on student rights and responsibilities in regard to academic freedom. Many of the concerns were about the curricula in the Arts and Humanities.

The over all tone or language in the bill reflects the language of David Horwitz, a civil rights activist turned conservative. One of the organizations Horwitz’s group attacks is the AAUP. I would suggest that we all take a moment and read their web site. It would be my hope that we as faculty, even though we are of diverse political alignment, unify in support of our earned Academic Freedoms.

Respectfully: Terry Turner