

General Observations:

- All schools in the California System are very much alike in their problems and successes. *No real south versus north in issues or discussions; this is a welcome change from years past.*
- The State senate walks a fine line between asking for central control of academic issues and allowing local control of the same issues. *Example: Associate degrees and what units are needed may be different in each college, but the state demands so many units for it to become a degree.*
- All schools have their own unique problems created by their environment, and district evolution. *Example: Marin College has been in declining enrollment for the past 5 years, they know it has to do with the lack of cheap housing for families, and that those families that are there have enough wealth that they start their children in a 4 year school. Copper Mountain is on the opposite end of the spectrum economically but having the same problem of declining enrollment. They believe it is due to the war in Iraq, many students and their family members don't take classes because they don't know where they may be in a month.*
- Enrollment is up and down, it depended upon the district and their situation.
- Our area is very proactive in the resolution writing, and was well represented in all aspects of the conference. Strong partners in our area: Butte, Santa Rosa JC, Sac City, and Cosumnes River.
- Non-credit classes did an excellent job of presenting the importance of their programs to the community college.
- Information Technology classes are now being request to be made a graduation requirement for an associates degree. *The resolution to make an IT course a requirement passed unanimously.*
- All Academic Senators and instructors are truly trying to do the best they can for the students and their college.

Break Out Sessions

- **Redefining the Associate Degree**
 - What is the difference between an Associates of Arts and Science? Most of our colleges have there own definition which makes it a nightmare for counselors and employers to understand what the student has earned or what units can be transferred.
 - Should they just be based on the IGETC and CSU GE? If this was the case then we would loss or water down one of our missions as a community college.
 - Should we just have an Associates with no distinction? Other states may not recognize the degree. Some degrees may not require all the classes need in a discipline therefore rendering it worthless.
- **Does Length Matter? The impact of Compressed Calendars and Courses on Student Success.**
 - Split decision by colleges if they liked them they really like it! Or if they hated them they really hated them!

- Many different models and schedules being used. Some colleges have been using them for as much as five years.
- Studies showed that learning and retention has gone up slowly over a three year period.
- A survey or study needs to be done on how well student like these new schedules.
- Issues with these schedules were: loss of college hour and collegial time, in effective use of longer class time by some instructors and students, and misunderstanding of units and funding.

Resolutions Summary: What Passed that will have an effect on us.

- Recommend that the local college support the SLO coordinator.
- Recommend that HR is required to use the *Registry* (online) for all faculty hires.
- Diversity data needs to be collected and compare statewide.
- Policies for AP classes, Articulation, transfer classes and funding practices were resolved.
- Credit and Non-Credit class recognition of value to the CCS.
- Abbreviated classes must meet requirement of rigor and assessment.
- Recommend to require information technology in the degree.
- Recommend that all technology plans are reviewed by faculty as a total cost of ownership is being developed.
- Survey distant education student to see what works and what doesn't.
- Redefine what a definition of an Associates of Arts is and what an Associates of Science is.
- Recommending that all courses in the area of emphasis of an Associates degree be a C not just a C average.
- Transfer needs to be defined and appears this will change what we tell students.
- Suggested that colleges accept all assessment tools used by other colleges for placement.

Keynotes:

I missed all the keynote speakers but did hear the candidates running for south and at-large executive committee membership. The candidates were very involved in their local senate and I feel all would have been great members.

Other:

- Great to see Tanna there she helped me understand registration and funding issues, plus was great conversation about travel places. Great that we have a direct representative to the Systems Office and state department.
- Santa Rosa JC, Butte College, Shasta College, Diablo, and me had a great discussion in the airport about everything dealing with our colleges (High energy people).
- Made new friends with Copper Mountain, Southwestern, Mission, Ohlone, San Jacinta, and SBV colleges.
- Every college still seems to be experimenting with schedules.

- Great to visit with the other members of the Yuba Community College District while there. It was good we had someone from all three campuses to see and interact with the Academic senate process. It is always amazing that something gets done, but it does!