



The Senate Brief

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Academic Senate Copresidents:

Allen Keppner
David Holper

Assistant:
Sally Frazier

Addressing Our Accreditation Recommendations

Over the last five years of College of the Redwoods' accreditation challenges, we have been a very busy college.

Faculty and staff have helped address ACCJC recommendations. This has involved working with administrators on a wide variety of issues, such as revising the majority of course outlines in our catalogue to include Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), serving on the Curriculum Committee (which has involved both training faculty in this methodology and reviewing the new course outlines), serving on the Assessment Committee (to develop a methodology for how to assess SLOs), serving on the Program Review Committee to develop and implement a workable Program Review process, and repeatedly serving on Accreditation Steering Committees.

Similarly, administrators have worked hard on such issues as improving "our capacity for collaborative and data-driven decision-making"; to develop viable financial plans to help guide the college more effectively; to begin linking Program Review "to the annual planning process for all programs and services"; to help coordinate faculty, staff, and administrators in developing a Technology Plan, a Facilities Master Plan, and an Educational Master Plan.

An honest assessment of how far we've come from 2005 would have to acknowledge that as a college community, our efforts have required an enormous amount of time and commitment to solving our collective problems.

Even at the end of last semester and the beginning of this one, good work has been and continues to be done on the Program Review Committee (refining the process and forms) and how to address assessment of SLOs. For instance, if we are able to follow through on the current Assessment plans, we should be able to train all faculty in how to evaluate an SLO this semester, have faculty evaluate at least one SLO for their courses, develop a two-year plan to further develop and refine assessment, and then provide evidence to the ACCJC for its January 2010 meeting (as an addendum to our October report). Furthermore, faculty and administration are now seeking help in understanding our roles and responsibilities (in terms of shared governance). On September 28-29, the Community College League of California and the

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges will do an overview of the history and practice of shared governance, as well as conduct breakout sessions with the constituent groups so that the facilitators can better understand our issues and help us address them.

Given all these advances and hard work on the part of all constituent groups, where do we still fall short? In the most recent Academic Senate discussion of the Follow-Up Report that the Accreditation Steering Committee has been diligently working over the last several weeks, several items were repeatedly stressed, some of which were also addressed in last month's Senate Brief:

- Though the various administrations since 2005 have repeatedly spoken about how Program Review will inform planning and budgeting, there has been little substantive evidence to support that claim. There needs to be a more transparent model to demonstrate integrated planning.
- Though the Academic Senate and the administration have improved communications this semester, the administration has not yet responded to such issues as faculty hiring prioritization, with an apparent freeze on math and English hires; the choice and implementation of MyCR and online tutoring services; College Council agenda (for such stalled process as Course Grade Challenge and Program Revitalization and Discontinuance); and a reopening of the Center for Teaching Excellence, including the Faculty Mentoring Program for newly hired faculty.
- Recently, President Marsee has committed to meeting regularly with Academic Senate Co-Presidents, and the Academic Senate welcomes this opportunity. In the meantime, for many faculty, communications this semester have worsened, not only because senate leaders have not yet been able to meet with President Marsee, but also because of the difficulty the current deans are having in meeting with their divisions. Regular meetings between faculty and administration will go a long way toward increasing trust and collaboration.
- During the summer, a number of initiatives directly related to instruction were taken with very limited or, in some cases, no faculty consultation. These include changing online learning management systems to MyCR and tutor.com, moving forward with the purchase of a Garberville site, and the opening of the McKinleyville site and moving the Arcata site (neither done with adequate preparation, especially in terms of multimedia classrooms). Communication about these changes would have allowed for smoother and more effective transitions.

We look forward to resolving these issues over the next few months. This will require good faith, increased communication, and hard work on the part of the faculty and the administration. We will all be better served to resolve these conflicts and move forward. By doing so, we will not only answer the ACCJC's recommendations, we will also be better able to focus on our work—and ultimately, of course, that means a better educational experience for every student who walks through our doors.

The Senate Brief is prepared in the interest of supporting communication between the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees.

REDWOODS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Special Meeting of the Academic Senate

- Eureka: 7351 Tompkins Hill Road, Lakeview Room
- Del Norte: 883 West Washington Boulevard, Crescent City, Room DN 6
- Mendocino Coast: 1211 Del Mar Drive, Ft. Bragg, Room 106 B

**Friday, September 25, 2009
11:30 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Introductions and Public Comment: Members of the audience are invited to make comments regarding any subject appropriate to the Academic Senate.
3. Action Item
 - 3.1 Endorse Accreditation Progress Report Draft, Allen Keppner (access updated draft via the CR website—Accreditation/scroll to the bottom of the page and on the left side of the screen select Follow-up Report Drafts/select the most recent revision.)
4. Announcements and Open Forum
 - 4.1 CCLC/Academic Senate Technical Assistance, September 28 and 29, David Holper (Attachment)
 - 4.2 Department of Labor Grant Funded Faculty Position – Welding, Steve Brown
5. Adjournment

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**Next Meeting:
October 2, 2009, 1 p.m.**