



Academic Senate

President's Report to YCCD BOT (A.K.A "Howerton Highlights")

Date: July 11, 2019

Good evening YCCD Trustees,

In a typical summer (with limited activities), I would not have much to report. However, we are not in "typical times" and as I started to write this report quickly had a list of items I need to share.

- I would like to start with students. I am currently teaching three courses this summer. It has been fast-paced and busy, but also nice spending time in the classroom focused on teaching my discipline, and working directly with students. It is rewarding for me to see students succeeding in an accelerated delivery, and this reminds me of the importance of faculty leadership as we move forward as a college and district if our students will be successful.
- Last week I received notice that the Chancellor's office received our submitted Student Equity Plan and it is now certified.
- Last week we officially welcomed Dr. Pimentel as he begins his tenure in his new role as our college president, and this week we recognized Dean Iatridis as she prepares for her own next chapter. Although we are glad to have Art join us officially, I need to share with you that some faculty are starting to express concern with the degree and rate of other administrative turn over at our college and the increase reliance on interim and acting administrators at WCC and across our district. Dr. Pimentel and I have already started conversations to see how we can minimize any possible impact to the momentum our college is making in light of these transitions.
- Tonight the YCCD Board of Trustees acknowledged the resignations of Dean Iatridis and Dr. Mayo (YCCD Vice-Chancellor of Education and Planning). Over the last few years, I have worked closely with both individuals and would like to take this opportunity to offer a public "Thank You!" for their work and collaboration with the WCC Senate. We may not have always agreed, but our conversations always revolved around student success, and faculty participation. I wish them success as they leave our college and district.
- With the news of a possible new Performance and Culinary Arts building for WCC, I would like to remind all that the college had a user group identified as far back as 2007 that included faculty. Program Reviews for Theatre, Music, and Art has continued to document the ongoing need for this academic building and space to support our curriculum and college mission. As we move forward, I expect (and strongly request) that faculty are included early in the conversation as we hope to actualize this additional academic building to our campus.

- Starting yesterday is the ASCCC Curriculum Institute held in the bay area. WCC is sending numerous faculty to this event.
 - **Nili Kirschner** (our WCC curriculum co-chair and a member of ASCCC's Curriculum Committee) is a program planner for the event. She will be co-presenting on the following sessions:
 - A pre-institute session for New/Newer Curriculum Chairs
 - Area of Emphasis Degrees in Guided Pathways and Meta Majors
 - DE Definitions
 - Curriculum and Public Documents
 - And (*probably my favorite named breakout session*) "WSCH You Were Here"
 - **Brandi Asmus** (our other WCC curriculum co-chair and a member of ASCCC's CTE Leadership Committee) will be co-presenting on the following sessions:
 - Forging and Unbreakable Bond: Strengthening the Relationship Between Local Senates and Curriculum Committees
 - Building Programs for Career Education
- We are in the process of revising/finalizing our WCC convocation planning due to some of the recent changeover, and our desire to increase our work on Guided Pathways.
- Finally, on a personal note, I will be heading to humid Memphis Tennessee after the conclusion of our summer term to visit family, and take a quick break before we hit the ground running for the upcoming Fall 2019 semester.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher J. Howerton, M.A., Ed.S.
 WCC Academic Senate President