

WCC Academic Senate Resolution 23-01

Resolution of Concern in the Leadership of Interim Chancellor James Houpis and the YCCD Board of Trustees

Adopted by WCC Academic Senate: February 24, 2023

Whereas, Section 53200 (b) defines an Academic Senate as "...an organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters", and defines professional matters to be what are commonly referred to as "the 10 + 1"; and

Whereas, the 10+1 includes 1 - Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines, #4 - Educational program development, #6 – District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles, and #10 – Processes for institutional planning and budget development; and

Whereas, the Interim Chancellor James Houpis redefined the membership of DC3 without consulting the two district academic senates leading to a three-month stretch of the membership of that body's membership being in limbo and displaying a fundamental lack of understanding regarding the roles of various faculty bodies (#6); and

Whereas, the Interim Chancellor attempted to remove Academic Senate participation from the search committee for a new YCCD chancellor without consultation with either Academic Senate (#6); and

Whereas, the Interim Chancellor's role in the YCCD Board of Trustees' initial failure to move forward with funding for soccer fields at WCC, which he has claimed to be fully supportive of in many fora, has led to the need to make adjustments in the planned curriculum related to soccer at WCC, the development of a soccer/athletics program at WCC, and also interfered with planning at WCC (#1, #4, and #10); and

Whereas, the Interim Chancellor and the YCCD Board of Trustees has contradicted the WCC Academic Senate's firm belief that student needs and curriculum should drive facilities planning by stalling the progress of the soccer program and the requesting for WCC administration to find other uses of the Performing Arts and Culinary Services building during the Interim Chancellor's leadership of the Board of Trustees (#1, #4, and #10); and

Whereas, during the Interim Chancellor's tenure in the district, the YCCD Board of Trustees has become increasingly divisive and trustees are seemingly unwilling to consider the district wide implications and benefits of their decisions and are instead focusing on the gains for individual areas of representation (e.g., see Item 12.01 of the 10 November 2022 Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting) (#10); and

Whereas, during the process leading up to, and the actions taken at the 10 November Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting various Trustees added increasing, unprecedented, unconnected, and in some cases indefensible hurdles for the approval of funding for the WCC Soccer Fields:

Whereas, during the Interim Chancellor's tenure, there has been an increase in the turnover of administrators at WCC due to many factors, including, but not limited to lack of collaboration between the District and the WCC administration (#10);

Therefore be it resolved, that the WCC Academic Senate herein expresses its extremely deep concern in the leadership of the Interim Chancellor, both in dealing with matters defined as 10+1 and in leading the YCCD Board of Trustees to meet the mission of the district; and

Resolved, that the WCC Academic Senate urge the Interim Chancellor to use his remaining time with the district to reverse the divisive trend of the YCCD Board of Trustees help usher progress in any initiative that will benefit the district (e.g., soccer fields at WCC); and

Resolved, that the WCC Academic Senate urge the Interim Chancellor to be accountable in his role in working with the Academic Senates on all matters 10+1 during his remaining time with the district and accountable for his role in building a collegial and functional YCCD governing board; and

Resolved, that the WCC Academic Senate urge the YCCD Board of Trustees to work collegially toward doing what is best for the students throughout the district they serve.

Dr. Matt Clark, WCC Academic Senate President 2022-24