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President's Update | June 2020

June 02, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we close another academic year in a way that none of us could have predicted, it is important for faculty to reflect on the accomplishments we have collectively made to support our students and communities. At the college level, we have transitioned to a virtual environment to ensure continuity of education and services for our students to the best of our ability. We continue to improve those services since the jarring transition the current pandemic has required. We are evaluating the appropriateness of future course offerings for distance education and identifying the course outcomes that must be completed face-to-face so that our administrations have the capacity for informed discussions with the county departments of health moving forward. We have also worked hard to ensure college governance processes have transitioned to the virtual environment, and some

colleges have begun to evaluate those processes for effectiveness and equity. Our institutions have made

This year the ASCCC has reached nearly 12,000 attendees at our events either in-person or via webinars and discussion sessions. Our guided pathways programming had nearly 2,000 attendees, and our open educational resources initiative reached 1,500. Our professional development webinars in April and May had over 6,000 attendees. As the system continues to move forward in a mostly virtual arena, our Faculty Leadership Institute and Curriculum Institute have moved to an online platform. Based on feedback regarding what faculty need from the ASCCC, the Executive Committee will need to consider programming on instructional quality, student equity, governance, systemic bias and diversification of faculty and staff, and culturally responsive pedagogy and

to reflect our work on the

areas that are academic and professional matters. Two areas of focus included program review, particularly the faculty role and the utility of program review as part of guided pathways conversations, and curriculum processes, including framing curriculum revision and development processes around the five development criteria outlined in the Program and Course Approval Handbook. Recently, the ASCCC has engaged local senate and curriculum leaders through webinars to facilitate dialog about curriculum and distance education addendum processes, utilizing the Brown Act regularly

budget. The May Revision also includes a \$3M cut to Calbright, 15% of its ongoing budget. These cuts would be off-set a federal relief fund is passed this summer. For a perhaps easier to read summary of these details, the Chancellor's Office report about the May Revision is [here](#).

The legislature is now deliberating about the budget. The Legislative Analyst's Office has suggested a different proposal to achieve the same level of cuts [here](#). One alternative on page 5 includes eliminating Calbright, eliminating College Promise program money, and eliminating apportionment funding for intercollegiate athletics. It also cuts Strong Workforce by 6% and does not appear to cut Student Equity funding. The elimination of promise programs is harsh, but it preserves need-based financial aid at the expense of promise programs, which are not need-based. The ASCCC is concerned about the cut to athletics, which support many minoritized students and encourage their educational attainment. We have recommended that this cut could be one-time only for the 2020-2021 fiscal year instead of on-going.

The state Senate has proposed a different take on the budget by utilizing a series of deferrals that would be offset if federal monies become available. This plan would create a different hardship for districts pertaining to cashflow and payroll depending on available district reserves but may be preferable to a cut to apportionment rates. The Senate plan does not cut programs like Strong Workforce and does cut \$77M of the one-time monies of Calbright to offset shortfalls this year. A summary of the state Senate proposal is [here](#). The state Assembly continues to deliberate on the budget, and at this time a final recommendation from that body is not available.

Once the Senate and the Assembly both have agreement on their final budget proposals, the Senate Pro Tem, the Assembly Speaker, and the governor will meet to determine the final budget for the state of California.

This year, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the legislative process has been significantly truncated. The only bills

At-Large: Silvester Henderson, Los Medanos College

At-Large: Michelle Velasquez Bean, Rio Hondo College

I want to sincerely thank everyone who chose to run for a position. Deciding to participate as a candidate in an election process is not easy, and the commitment on the part of all who ran to the ASCCC, to faculty colleagues, and most importantly to students is admirable.

We are also recruiting faculty for state-wide service for the 2020-2021 academic year. Every faculty voice is important, and we encourage all interested individuals to consider filling out an application [here](#). We appoint nearly 900 faculty to a variety of committees across the state to ensure the faculty voice and have made a concerted effort to diversify those voices across the categories of race or ethnicity, gender, life experiences shaped by military



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