

Fellow Faculty,

This update is mostly about the business of faculty work -- the things we are doing, and the things we need to do. That work is critically important, of course, and I really ask you to read each item below. The ability of our institution depends on informed and engaged faculty participation. After the blue bar business, I hope it's all right that I add a personal comment.

Convocation day

On the first page of the Academic Senate website <http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicssenate/> is a link to this important college-wide all-hands event on April 15, 2011. Click that link and read that flyer, please. On that day, departments and programs will have the chance to engage in thoughtful reflection on their programs, perhaps completing their entire program review update. Also, while you're there, check out all that the newly revitalized website has to offer.

Survey

Only 10 more days are left to take the all-faculty survey <http://www.research.fhda.edu/cgi-bin/rws3.pl?FORM=AcademicSenate>. Remember to let me know after taking the survey to enter the free prize drawing. Take 5 minutes now, please!

SB1440

At the two faculty fora, many faculty members learned more about the required new Associate's degrees for transfer. Since those events, departments have been working on developing new degrees, with Speech Communication and Kinesiology leading the way, and at least 4 other disciplines soon to come. Please visit our SB1440 page, where I've put the most informative and updated links: <http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicssenate/sb1440.html>

Course studio

New this Spring! Find it under Faculty in MyPortal. MyCourses lists the classes that you teach. Students see their classes. Link students to an online tool that you already use, such as Catalyst or your faculty website. Or activate Course Studio, a Yahoo group-like tool inside MyPortal. Learn more at http://ets.fhda.edu/call_center/gc_studio or check it out in MyPortal.

Enrollment

You know that enrollment was down the past couple quarters, and you've heard my plea to bring it up next quarter. If you're willing to help, now is the time! I hope you've seen flyers around campus encouraging students to recruit their friends and family

to help out with our enrollment challenges. Let's all of us reach out to students in our classes and everywhere to help them help our college. In week 1 of spring quarter, labs will again be open in LCW, Library, and AT102 for students to find open classes.

Proposed changes to GE requirements

I can count nearly 100 of our faculty colleagues who have engaged in discussions around this topic. Still, the Executive Committee of your Academic Senate could use more feedback. Please take a minute to review the GE pages <http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/ge.html>. There you can find a form to submit your feedback to me, either in handwriting or printed in my mailbox or just as an attachment to an email -- whatever is easiest for you.

I write these words deeply troubled by two simultaneous disasters unfolding at this very moment. I cannot begin to describe my horror at the images of destruction of the earthquake and the resulting tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan. I have family and friends there, and I'm filled with gratitude--of course--that all are safe. But I am saddened that many of our Japanese students and many others in the Japanese community here in the Bay Area do not share my family's good fortune. If you wish to contribute to disaster relief, please visit <http://www.google.com/crisisresponse/japanquake2011.html#donation>.

The other disaster is the state budget crisis. As I write this, Governor Brown is trying to muster the last couple votes needed to get the tax question on the ballot for Californians to decide. Even if he is successful, all levels of public education, from kindergarten to university, will be hit with a kick to the gut, and tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters across the state will see their dreams deferred. In the thick of this aggravation, my despair is tempered by the obvious good work that I see every day, by the counselor who shared his recent success stories with troubled and challenged students, by the instructor who mentioned that she has not lost a single student this quarter--even though she added more students to her class than normal. This selfless dedication to our students is what gives me hope that we will triumph even over deep cuts.

Thanks for reading.

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