

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE DE ANZA ACADEMIC SENATE

January 2007

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President's Message

Lydia Hearn

At the beginning of this school year, I challenged you to become engaged and take action. You did. You are.

We all are...and the campus is even more animated because of it. We, the entire body of faculty known as the Academic Senate, are involved with a host of initiatives that provide a better learning environment not only for our students but a better teaching and learning environment for ourselves as faculty. Indeed, the feeling of enthusiasm and the involvement of faculty are infused in the fabric of our campus.

We have been coordinating shared governance processes and communications, resulting in a shared governance website that will be the central site to stay apprised of all governance happenings on campus. Also more faculty have become involved in shared governance committees, and have participated in ongoing dialogue with the Academic Senate Executive Committee to strengthen our faculty voice in governance.

Specifically, we participated in the allocation decisions for six faculty and five non-faculty growth positions. The faculty positions are Biology/Health Technology/Medical Lab Technology, Chemistry, English, Women's Softball Coach, Political Science, and Outreach/First Year Experience Counselor.

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A Report from the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee

For the past year the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee has been generating ideas to benefit the campus in a forward-thinking way. Ideally, our campus could thrive as an environmentally sustainable model for other institutions by exceeding the requirements for environmental building regulations and promoting actions that maximize our resources and minimally impact our environment. Ultimately, practicing environmentally sustainable acts would benefit not only our campus environment, but the people who work and learn at De Anza collectively.

Some of our committee's ideas include: continuing efforts for yearly volunteer

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The non-faculty positions are Curriculum Scheduling Assistant, Director of Assessment Center, Web Programmer, Physics Lab Technician, and Outreach Assistant. Most hiring committees are well underway in order to hire before the 2007-2008 school year begins.

With the new growth positions in addition to vacant faculty positions, we will have over 20 new faculty next year. Please consider volunteering for a tenure review committee either as a department, division, or at-large member. Probably the most significant and time-intensive involvement has been with Strategic Planning. Faculty have been involved at every point of the process. Early in the quarter, the Initiative Teams reconvened to incorporate the feedback that was developed through the opening day activities.

Once the four initiatives were fine-tuned, a campus-wide process continued in which divisions, departments, programs, individuals, and other groups proposed commitments to action; the Academic Senate's specific commitment is to provide faculty advising in the areas of our expertise—disciplines and careers.

All the commitments were compiled into a master document. If you are interested in reviewing the mass of commitments from the campus, you may find a copy in the Academic Senate office, newly relocated in the Administration Building facing the front double doors. Just the sheer quantity and quality of the commitments is uplifting and manifests the ongoing dedication of the employees here at De Anza.

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Practices

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campus cleanups to encourage proper waste disposal, promoting the purchase of environmentally sustainable materials for building and classroom renovations, creating and distributing a survey to assess awareness of environmentally sustainable practices, and creating staff development workshops to inform and encourage faculty to engage in such practices.

Our website is currently in progress but we would love to hear your questions, comments, or ideas, either in person or via email, and we are always interested in having more members. Contacts: Dave Capitolo, Kristin Jensen Sullivan, Laura Raffaelli, or Stephen Zill.

By Laura Raffaelli

Stardate 1/1/07

Wayne Chenoweth

In the beginning, I formed a simple question. What is the origin of our directive? I hoped that knowing the answer would reveal the secret to steering starship De Anza. I found the trek to be more like Kirk's "To boldly go where no man has gone before" than following a simple path to enlightenment like so many before me. I journeyed through galaxies of Campus Budget Teams and Instructional Planning and Budget Teams which meet in different time dimensions all revolving around the supernova College Council about three times every quarter eon.

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President's Message

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During the months of January and February, teams comprised of faculty, classified staff, and administrators will form to create a master plan and budget proposal for the Strategic Planning initiatives. The complexity of coordinating all these efforts might seem daunting at first, but I hope that we are encouraged in seeing the attempt to work collaboratively as an entire campus to such an extent that we have not seen before.

Since we are continually striving to increase our ongoing dollars, for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year a portion of the District one-time monies will be allocated to initiatives aimed at achieving growth (which includes retaining current students and enrolling new students). The hope is to grow such that the one-time monies can be translated into ongoing dollars, leading to new faculty and non-faculty positions and the ability to fund ongoing as well as new programs and initiatives with better stability.

Once the master Strategic Plan and Budget Proposal is created, it will be submitted to all the Planning and Budget Teams for review with the teams making recommendations to the College Council. Information about the Strategic Plan is regularly updated and can be found at www.deanza.edu/strategicplan.

If you have any input, please consult any of your Academic Senate officers, Senators, or shared governance faculty representatives. Their names are identified at <http://faculty.deanza.edu/academicssenate/>.

Also please feel free to review the weekly agendas and meeting notes to stay current on Academic Senate concerns.

In October, the Academic Senate officers attended the statewide Academic Senate plenary session to attend workshops and to

vote on statewide resolutions. Some of the resolutions focused on topics such as underage minors on campus, honoring assessment scores of other community colleges, academic integrity in shortened courses, and most notably, the Associate's Degree (see Fall 2006 newsletter article).

* * *

At least once a week, I run into a faculty member who asks how s/he could be more involved, not necessarily knowing what specific committee to serve on, only knowing that s/he wants to participate. When this happens, I recognize that the faculty at De Anza understand the powerful voice we have both inside the classroom and beyond it as well. I wish you a fulfilling quarter.

Teaching and Learning Conference

The Academic Senate and the Office of Instruction are hosting the second annual Teaching and Learning Conference on January 26th, 2007 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Administration Building (and adjoining classrooms).

This FREE conference will feature some of De Anza's best scholars and teachers sharing various ways they effectively engage students in learning. This year we have expanding the conference to also include student services and their commitment to student success.

Refreshments and lunch will be served. PGA/PAA hours or stipends (for part-time faculty) are available. Please reserve your spot with Mary Kay Englen in The Office of Staff and Organizational Development.

Starship

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I had a star map, but alas it did not accurately represent all star clusters and entirely omitted dangerous wormholes. Too few details also pointed me in the wrong direction at times.

My mind warped as it tried to wrap itself around the import of all these meetings as if I were an outside observer wondering how all this discussion would ever manifest itself into physical reality – the very act of creation itself that I seek. Will program reviews and strategic planning converge? Will budget be spent so all may delight in the fruits of their labor? Will the abstract become grassroots? So we continue to meet and sometimes a bit of magic happens and we, the crew, do agree to implement, with conditions and contingencies to be sure, but voila! It's then the trip seems worthwhile.

I discovered the origin of our initiatives, the object of my search, is the not a stationary well defined target that any one person knows at any given moment. It's more organic, changing as it grows, driven largely by deadlines. So I resolved to map and record this journey so others may follow, perhaps even those with a less pioneering spirit because the way is known. The supernova folks agree to this project and soon will post the results of their labor so all may be fruitful and multiply. I believe this will provide timely accurate information to all our constituent group leaders and members so they can:

- Have consistent means of communication for governance groups
- Have access to documents and files before meetings to have time to reflect on their contents
- Make informed decisions based on facts
- Cut short misconceptions and rumors

- Increase participation by virtue of being better informed
- Automate their information collection via News Feeds

Look for the address of this shared governance Web site in an upcoming Campus Memo. Live long and prosper.

Top Ten Reasons You Should Care About Your Academic Senate

by Alex Kramer

10. Who else meets publicly for two hours every week to discuss campus issues?
9. If there's a major problem, we'll form a subcommittee to work on it.
8. We make sure that hiring and tenure committees are fair and balanced.
7. If we don't stand up to... I mean, umm..., if we don't work together with the administration, who will?
6. We give each division equal representation to voice their concerns and provide input on policy changes and proposals.
5. We're good people!
4. We sponsor cool on-campus events such as conferences and guest speakers.
3. We make sure faculty volunteer (or, if needed, are volunteered!) to serve on all the committees that require representation.
2. Without Senate, when would Paul Setziol get to share his enlightening campus history lessons?

And the number one reason you should care about Academic Senate is:

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1. We put the share in shared governance!