Senate President’s Message

Greetings Faculty!

Midsummer is upon us and I can’t help but feel in a celebratory spirit thinking about all that is possible—and we have many reasons to be optimistic. We can all relish in our collective efforts as faculty when we consider how we have a growing number of students who are graduating, transferring and realizing their academic and career aspirations. We’ve seen a 71% increase in transfers to the UC system since 2011. We are building upon this growth in completions with the addition of 37 new Career Technical Education programs. Moreover, our faculty have revised their curriculum to increase the likelihood that more students will complete transfer-level English and Math within one year starting Fall 2019. In this way, ELAC is well-positioned to satisfy AB 705 despite the lack of, and potential shift in, guidance from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO).

It is rather ironic that there’s so much uncertainty with AB 705 implementation given that the CCCCO unilaterally chose to “truncate” the legally required consultation with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). As you know from recent emails I have sent to all faculty, the ELAC Academic Senate joined other colleges and affirmed a vote of no confidence in CCC Chancellor Oakley in light of his lack of consultation with the ASCCC. I also shared with you the Chancellor’s response to the CCC Board of Governors (BOG) and a rebuttal to that response. It now appears that no confidence votes will be taken up by more college academic senates this fall and the ASCCC Fall Plenary in November unless the Chancellor resumes the collegial consultation with the ASCCC specified in the BOG’s Standard Procedures—a consultation process predicated on AB 1725 (1988) recognizing the necessity of faculty having a stronger role in governance through their academic senates.

Perhaps the emerging chorus of faculty voices raising concerns about the CCCCO explains why the final compromise on the budget shifted oversight of the new funding formula from the BOG to a special committee appointed by the Governor, the State Senate, and the State Assembly. Available evidence suggests it will be challenging, to say the least, to ensure that the performance-based elements of the formula result in helping our students as proponents hope. Fortunately, with the extraordinary efforts of its faculty, ELAC is optimally positioned to benefit from the new formula given our budding growth in completions and the desire to create new reforms and to nurture transformative change with Guided Pathways. Indeed, like midsummer, we are on the cusp of change.

Jeffrey Hernandez
Academic Senate President

Susanne Spangler, Former ELAC Honors Program Director, Presented with Honors Director Award

Susanne Spangler, retired ELAC faculty member and former Honors Program Director (2001-2015), has been awarded the Honors Director Award by the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC). The award was presented at the Honors Research Conference held at the University of California at Irvine on April 7, 2018. The award was given to Professor Spangler “for her many years of dedication to her students at East Los Angeles College” and to honor a director who “has made an outstanding contribution to the students in his or her honors program as well as to the HTCC—and thus to all students served by this organization.”
The implementation priorities, derived from the ELAC Multi-Year Guided Pathways Work Plan, that were presented at main campus and South Gate campus forums were approved by the Academic Senate with understanding that the wording will be improved by fall. Meanwhile, in light of the strong pool of applicants, two CTE faculty were selected to join our team of Guided Pathways Faculty Facilitators. Finally, all faculty are encouraged to attend the upcoming Guided Pathways Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 12:00 to 1:30pm, in G1-301AB. Key agenda items will include the following:

- Career Ladders Project’s contribution to Guided Pathways Redesign at ELAC
- Opening Day: Guided Pathways Keynote, Breakout Sessions, and Vote on Next Step
- Proposed Steps for academic mapping and meta-majors
- Proposal of possible Guided Pathways implementation teams

Please email hernanj@elac.edu by June 26 if you plan on attending so that we can ensure sufficient meeting materials.

Speaking of Guided Pathways, to help students and their families make important decisions about investing time and money in a college education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, through Salary Surfer (https://salarysurfer.cccco.edu/SalarySurfer.aspx), is providing comparative information about the earnings of recent California community college graduates who received an award in a specific program of study.

Thanks to your contributions, this year the Senate Scholarship Fund supported 35 students from 25 departments with awards of $600.00 per department. Overall, there were over 250 scholarships awarded at this year’s 2018 Spring banquet. Remember to donate online to the Senate Scholarship fund at the Foundation’s ELAC Academic Senate page.

My service to the ELAC community has showed me the importance of keeping our faculty informed and—most importantly—active as we face the monumental changes coming to community college education. I will use my experience as the current senator for the Social Sciences, AFT rep on ESGC, Co-Chair of CAFÉ, Senate rep on the PD committee, advisor to the Model United Nations club, and coordinator for the Pathway to Law School program as I help the Academic Senate communicate with faculty and increase faculty involvement in order to ensure a bright future for our students.