





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 DATE: November 17-18, 2014

SUBJECT: Faculty Professional Development Efforts by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges		Item Number: 4.6	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item provides a report to the Board of Governors on efforts by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to promote statewide professional development for faculty. Dr. Pamela Walker, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Dr. David Morse, President of the Academic Senate will make the presentation.

BACKGROUND: Title 5, Section 53200, defines the Academic Senate’s role as the primary recommending voice to the Board of Governors regarding academic and professional matters, including professional development activities for faculty. The Academic Senate fulfills this obligation by developing and providing faculty professional development through a variety of venues and delivery methods. This report will update the board regarding current and ongoing activities that the Senate is leading to provide professional development for faculty in pursuit of the board’s goals and of system wide quality in terms of both academic excellence and college governance.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: The state Academic Senate represents all faculty in the state, including credit and noncredit, full and part time, counselors, librarians, and all other faculty. The Senate is led by an elected group of 14 faculty leaders, plus an executive director, and the Senate maintains an office in Sacramento with a small staff to assist the faculty leaders in carrying out the mission of the senate. One of the primary activities of the Academic Senate is to provide professional development activities for faculty. Current projects or initiatives offered by the Senate in this area are as follows:

- Professional Development College: The first module, faculty leadership and governance, began in June 2014 and will conclude in June 2015. The second module, career technical education and curriculum, will commence in January 2015. The Academic Senate is providing continuing education units for these modules and pursuing credentialing options.
- Professional Development paper: The Academic Senate publishes numerous papers to provide guidance on important issues to faculty statewide. The paper *Faculty Development: A Senate Issue*, originally adopted in April 2000, is currently undergoing revision and will offer effective practices and practical solutions for professional development issues on campuses.
- Events: The Academic Senate holds numerous events that offer professional development activities to faculty, staff, and administrators, including regional meetings (for example, in Fall 2014, 300 individuals attended Curriculum Regionals and 200 attended the Equity and Student Success regionals), institutes, and bi-annual plenary sessions.
- C-ID – Discipline Input Group meetings offer an opportunity for professional development within disciplines regarding curriculum.
- The Academic Senate is currently engaged in efforts to bring more part-time faculty into professional development activities, including having a part-time faculty member on the Academic Senate Professional Development Committee and publishing a recent article in the *Rostrum* on professional development activities for part-time faculty, with suggestions as to why such activities are essential for the quality of a college's overall academic program.
- At the request of Executive Director Paul Steenhausen, the Academic Senate has appointed two representatives to the board of the new Student Success Center to provide a faculty voice regarding the center's professional development activities.
- With the passage of Assembly Bill 2558 and the inclusion of dedicated funding for professional development in the California Community Colleges 2015-16 system budget request, the Academic Senate's leadership in the area of faculty professional development will become even more essential. Further funding for professional development would allow the Academic Senate to provide even greater guidance and opportunities in the pursuit of the board's goals and of academic and organizational excellence for the entire system.