



Special Interest Articles:

- Governor's Budget Update
- Accreditation Re-Visit
- College Council Update

Bi-Weekly Newsletter to Help Connect with VC Employees

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide another vehicle for improved communications between the Office of the President and employees at Valley College.

Although I am greatly involved in the collegial consultation process and meet often with various groups of employees,

I still feel disconnected from faculty and staff and therefore am initiating a bi-weekly newsletter, in an attempt to improve communications overall. I know this will only serve as one mechanism in my goal for improved communication, but I am hopeful that

faculty and staff will have a better sense of what the major campus issues are and an improved connection with my office.

APPLAUSE CARDS:

Be sure to fill out an APPLAUSE card when you feel a faculty member, classified staff, or manager has gone over-and-above the call of duty to provide extraordinary service to you or to students.

APPLAUSE cards are just one way to recognize each other for their extraordinary effort or service.

If you need more blank cards, call Jacque at x8298.

Governor's Budget Impact of VC / SBCCD

The primary election will be held on March 2, 2004, and should bring some clarity to the status of the California political scene. There are five significant ballot proposals that will be addressed by voters. Proposition 55 (Facilities Bond) will provide \$13.2 billion for K-12, community college and university construction. Higher education will get about 1/3rd of the appropriation and of that amount 40 percent will be appropriated to the community colleges. There is provision in the bond that it will rollover to the November election if it fails.

Proposition 56 has as its main focus a constitutional

change that will allow the legislature to pass a budget with 55 percent support. The current 75 percent pass rate has been in place since 1932. The bill would also cut off legislative pay if the budget is late, holding the legislature in session until a bill is completed, and places other conditions on the legislature to ensure action on the state budget. The bill will make it possible for a majority party to pass a bill and raise taxes.

The next two propositions, 57 and 58 are linked together and have been proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Prop 57 is a \$15 Billion bond that is intended to correct the bonding situation created by the former governor when he

initiated a \$10.8 bond to address the current year's budget without going out for a vote of the people. That bond is being challenged in the courts and it is difficult to predict the outcome. This new bond would legitimize that proposal by getting sufficient support and would replace the existing bond measure with a lower bond rate and a shorter payoff. In addition there is another \$1.9 million bond that was created by the previous governor that has already been rejected by the courts. The result is that the \$15 million proposal is primarily replacing existing indebtedness. There will be

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Governor's Budget cont.



approximately \$2 billion in new bond funding.

To create an appeal for the bond issue the Governor also proposed Prop 58 which is intended to limit spending increases by the legislature by setting a cap on the budget growth based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In addition, the bill provides for a "rainy day" fund to protect against economic conditions in the future, allows the legislature and the governor to make mid-year

cuts in the event that state income does not meet expectations, and has other cost controlling features.

The big question is what will happen if Prop 57 and 58 do not pass. A number of doomsday proposals have been suggested with the expectation that all current budget proposals will be back on the table. That prediction is realistic. What will happen for sure is that a flurry of legislative action will take place and we will

see the potential for new propositions to deal with the issues on the November ballot. However, the legislature will have to deal with the 2004/2005 budget before that election. The real hole in the budget is projected at about 25 percent and there is sill buffer language from Proposition 98 unless that proposition is suspended.

"....we are looking at one of the following dates for a re-visit: April 8, 9, or 12.

Accreditation Team to Re-Visit Valley College

The previous Accreditation Team submitted 16 recommendations for Valley College to respond to, 13 of them by March 1, 2004. Draft responses to these recommendations have been disseminated via campus email for the past month.

I spoke to the Accrediting Commission last week and

we are looking at one of the following dates for a re-visit: April 8, 9, or 12. As soon as I have confirmation of the date, I will inform the campus community.

The major concerns of the 13 recommendations focus on three primary areas: our collegial consultation

process, strategic planning, and linking strategic planning to the budget development process.

We believe we have diligently responded to their concerns and are optimistic that they will recognize this and accept our response as satisfactory.

Valley Commencement to be Held at Arrowhead Credit Union Park on May 20



As a pilot event, we are holding this year's graduation at the Arrowhead Credit Union Park. Until the new campus is finished, or until parking and construction is under control, and until an

alternative plan can be designed to accommodate growing crowds, the Commencement Committee recommended that we accept Arrowhead's offer that they provide the venue (free of

charge) for this year's graduation. We believe that attendees and participants will appreciate the new venue but a full evaluation will be completed before making any decisions for next year.



President's Survey Results

You may recall that before I arrived last July, a survey was conducted asking employees what they expected of the President and what major concerns/issues did they see at Valley College. Several employees have indicated that they would like to see the results of the survey. The results have been summarized and are shown below.

SURVEY RESULTS OF MAJOR CAMPUS CONCERNS

- PROBLEMS WITH PROGRAMS OR CURRICULUM
- IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS
- HIRING/VACANCY REPLACEMENTS
- BUDGET
- IMPROVE EMPLOYEE MORALE
- ISSUES OF DIVERSITY, TREATMENT, RESPECT OF EACH OTHER
- IMPROVE TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OTHER CONCERNS / ISSUES

- IMPROVE CAMPUS APPEARANCE
- STABILIZE VALLEY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- IMPROVE DECISION MAKING PROCESS
- COLLEGIAL CONSULTATION / CONSTITUENT INCLUSION
- IMPROVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS / IMAGE
- ACQUIRE EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING
- CLASS SCHEDULING AND STUDENT RETENTION

PRIMARY EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

- COMMUNICATION STYLE
- DECISION-MAKING STYLE
- MANAGEMENT STYLE
- WORK TO IMPROVE MORALE
- IMPROVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- OBTAIN GRANT FUNDING
- CAMPUS VISIBILITY

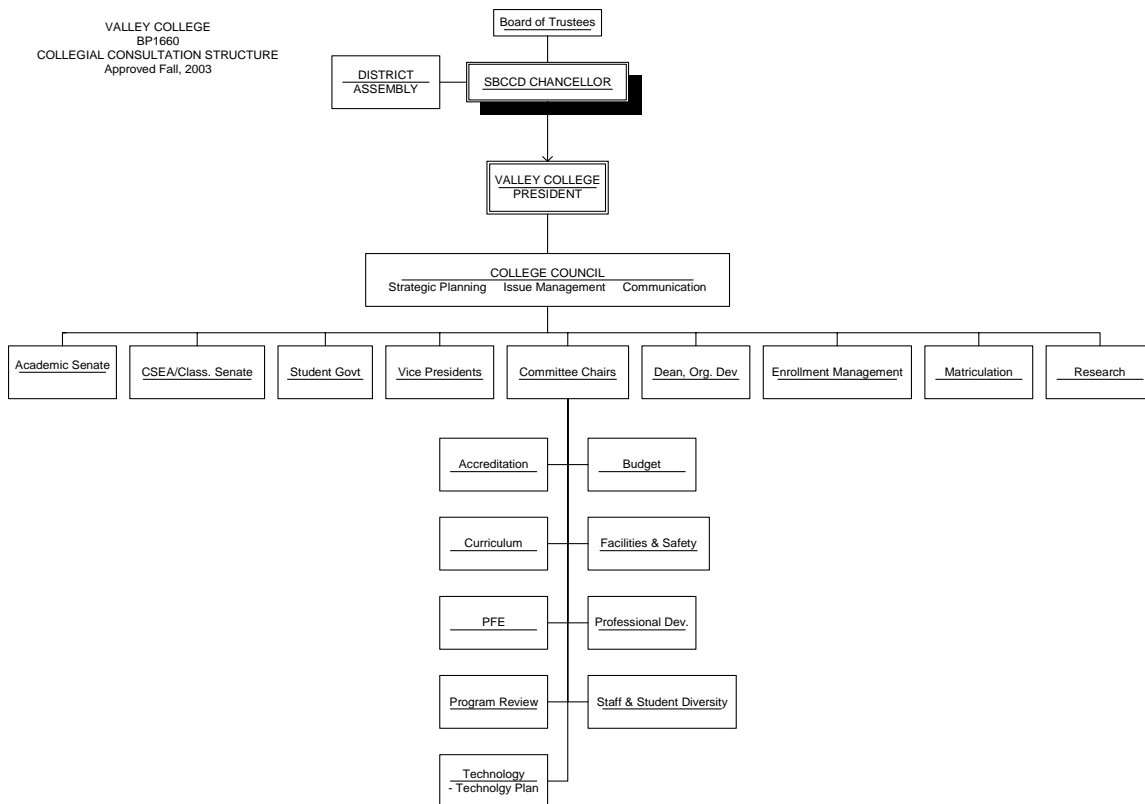
OTHER EXPECTATIONS

- ADDRESS PROGRAMS & CURRICULUM ISSUES
- RESPECT CONSTITUENT INVOLVEMENT
- RE-INVIGORATE STUDENT & CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
- ADDRESS HIRING ISSUES
- HELP MAKE THE BUDGET AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE



College Council Update

College Council is the primary or central entity for the coordination of the collegial consultation process as required by AB1725. Members of College Council have worked diligently this past fall to revise collegial consultation as it relates directly to the needs of Valley College. As shown below, College Council is primarily responsible for: Strategic Planning, Issues Management, and Communication. Constituent groups are represented on College Councils, as are the chairs of the 9 standing committees. One of the recommendations from the previous Accreditation Team had to do with clarifying the structure and role of College Council so that the campus community understood how College Council functions. Shown below is the organizational chart for College Council.



In addition to addressing the structure of College Council, considerable time has been spent on formalizing the Strategic Planning Process for the College. The process involves having the 5 primary components of planning (Program Review, Technology, Facilities, Professional Development, and Enrollment Management) submit annual plans with a list of prioritized needs. These plans are to be submitted to College Council, reviewed, and then sent to the President. I will then submit them to the Budget Committee for the identification of funds to fund the priorities listed. This item was also a recommendation from the Accreditation Team.

Other agenda items addressed this year include:

- ♦ Construction, landscaping, and tree removal issues
- ♦ Emergency preparation, drills, and safety
- ♦ Fees
- ♦ Committee Reports
- ♦ Accreditation Updates
- ♦ Learning-Centered Discussions & Training



Classified Senate Under Consideration

At a meeting on February 20, interested classified employees met with me to discuss their possible interest in re-establishing a Classified Senate.

As I explained to those in attendance, classified employees have a defined role in the collegial consultation process and that many colleges have a Classified Senate to serve this function. In the absence of having a Classified Senate at VC, CSEA, particularly Sarah Miller, has graciously served in this capacity, but it is an overwhelming job for one person to do.

Classified Senates work in partnership, but are distinctly separate from CSEA. The Classified Senate will not deal with or address any items applicable to the CSEA contract, but serve as a conduit for soliciting classified employee feedback on non-contract policy and institutional issues. They also serve as the primary communication link between College Council, the President, and classified employees.

At this meeting, a sub-committee was identified who will work towards gathering classified input as

to their interest in re-establishing a Classified Senate at Valley College (there was an active senate in the mid-1990's).

A proposal was accepted to hold a second meeting in which Classified Senate members from CHC, and Diane Dusick, VC Academic Senate President, attend to share their experiences. If the VC employees are interested, my hope would be to have a Classified Senate in place by fall, 2004, if not sooner.

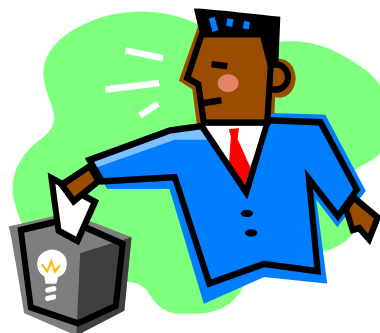


Suggestion Box to be Installed

College Council has approved that a Suggestion Box be placed in a highly visible and accessible location for students and employees to submit their suggestions for improvement

A box has been located and will be placed in an area outside of my office

All suggestions will be reviewed and submitted to the appropriate manager or to College Council to address.



*LIBRARY DEDICATION
SCHEDULED FOR LATE
SPRING, 2004*

Strategic Planning Process

Strategic Planning is a critical part of doing business. Although the process previously existed, the Accreditation Team recommended that we re-define our process, clearly linking it to key planning components, as well as linking it to the budget development process. Shown below is the structure for the Valley College Strategic Planning Process. We are currently at the phase where the primary planning groups (Program Review, Technology, Facilities, Professional Development, and Enrollment Management) will be submitting their annual plans to College Council.

