

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored and deeply grateful for the nomination to serve as your Academic Senate President.

Reflecting on my journey at San Bernardino Valley College, I have embraced leadership from the start. As an Adjunct Counselor, I played a pivotal role in the newly established First Year Experience (FYE) Program and contributed to the opening of the Dreamers Resource Center.

As time progressed, I was honored to be appointed as a full-time General Counselor within the General Counseling Department. My leadership took shape as I immersed myself into Open Education Resources, successfully incorporating Zero Textbook Costs into every Student Development course while spearheading various teaching modalities.

A year before achieving tenure, my esteemed colleagues entrusted me with the role of co-chair of the Counseling Department, a position I embraced with dedication and enthusiasm. With the support from my co-chair, we were able to successfully navigate challenges, including implementing training and providing support for our sixty plus colleagues' well-being amidst the complexities of the Covid Pandemic. I maintained open communication with all faculty, staff, and administrators, during these difficult transitions, ensuring an inclusive process for everyone to be informed and involved. Additionally, my co-chair and I facilitated the migration of our in-person student services to Cranium Café, an online and student-friendly platform, supporting collegial collaboration and fostering open discussion within all counseling departments as we moved to remote work.

The Academic Senate is the faculty voice in shared governance. Over the years, in my commitment to the campus and our students, I have taken a variety of leadership roles and opportunities that strengthen our campus shared governance. These roles include serving as a committee member of Facilities and Safety and Technology & Curriculum, interim Articulation officer, member of Student Services Council and Student Equity Planning Committee, participant in the SBCCD Academic Calendar Committee, Full-time Representative and Negotiations team member of SBCCD-CTA, advocate for the faculty body at the a Board of Trustees (BoT) meetings, and active involvement in the President's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, actively engaged in My Campus, My Culture, and My Community as an ally for our represented groups, and ASCCC OERI Discipline Lead of Counseling. These same roles have uniquely prepared me to effectively lead our Academic Senate as we take on significant milestones and challenges that we will face over the next two years, including the selection of our next College President.

Currently, serving as your Vice President of Academic Senate, I remain committed to proactive leadership, asking questions, supporting faculty associations, participating in crucial committees that impact student success, and upholding the purview of the Senate in all academic and professional matters as defined by the 10+1. In this role, I have demonstrated my commitment by advocating for the hiring of tenured faculty positions and endorsing faculty members' perspective on pedagogy within the classroom. Additionally, I have prioritized transparency and communication with Guided Pathways to ensure collaboration of ZTC/OER implementation and the Acceleration grant.

My vision for Academic Senate is rooted in forward-thinking strategies, empowering faculty to engage in local and statewide dialogue and take continued action in professional matters under 10+1. I envision open discussions, transparency, inclusivity, and effective communication., along with being proactive and working together in unity for the success of our students.

In the spirit of our shared values, I aim to embrace the principles enshrined in the Government Code, Title 5, Section 54950, emphasizing the importance of staying informed in decision-making and ensuring the Senate serves as the official voice for SBVC.

In closing, I am eager to serve as your next Academic Senate President and contribute my dedication, skills, and passion to the betterment of our college community. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve and collaborate with all of you.

Together, let us make our voices heard as the faculty representatives of SBVC!

Sincerely,

Andrea Hecht, M.S.

Vice President of Academic Senate
Associate Professor & General Counselor, Counseling Department
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