

TO: San Bernardino Valley College

FROM: Gilbert J. Contreras, President



RE: College Council Updates

DATE: April 29, 2026

Dear San Bernardino Valley College,

I send this memorandum to share details regarding recent recommendations received by College Council. This memo also shares additional details for items on the August 29, 2026 College Council agenda. I encourage all governance groups to share widely with your constituency.

RECENT COLLEGE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Community Garden Initiative.** College Council recommended that Valley College explore the feasibility of a community garden, including space and staffing. VPAS Keith Bacon will take the lead exploring the implementation of this project during the Fall 2026 semester. College Council will receive an update from VPAS Keith Bacon in the Fall as well.
2. **Academic Senate Recommendation Regarding Chairs Council.** The Academic Senate voted in support of this recommendation, as part of Academic Senate's committee restructuring. Valley College will not move forward with this recommendation. President's Executive Cabinet will work collaboratively with Academic Senate leadership to reimagine the objectives of the faculty chair meetings. Currently, Chairs have regularly scheduled meetings with the VPI along with the Chair of Chairs. The College will continue with this practice to minimize the duplication of efforts.

COLLEGE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS, APRIL 29, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 3E Participatory Governance Updates

- **President’s Community Advisory Committee—Diversity & Equity**
During the 2026-27 school year, I will implement a President’s Community Advisory Committee to help guide Valley College with our guiding principle of advancing community, diversity and equity outcomes, and targets in the Valley Up Initiative. The Committee will include 15 members, nine (9) from the community, and six (6) from the college. The college members will be from the affinity groups and the academic senate president, or designee.

College Council Committee Brief Descriptions

- **Accreditation**
The Accreditation Committee serves as a recommending body to College Council to provide leadership and management of the College’s accreditation and ACCJC related matters. The committee coordinates the preparation of all required accreditation reports, such as the ISER. The committee educates campus constituents about the accreditation process and associated standards. A major task of the accreditation committee is to coordinate evidence and documentation that Valley College meets accreditation standards.
- **College Standards, Policies, and Practices**
The College Standards, Policies, and Practices committee provides recommendations to College Council on improving the student-experience to advance Valley College as a boldly student-centered institution. The committee prioritizes fostering a sense of belonging for all students by evaluating standards, policies, and practices at Valley College. Major tasks of this committee are to conduct an annual student equity walk, review online resources with an equity lens, review institutional processes and practices that present barriers for students, climate surveys, and related items requesting college input from PPAC.
- **Facilities, Safety, and Technology Committee**
The Facilities, Safety, and Technology Committee provides recommendations on the planning, development, and stewardship of the college's physical infrastructure, campus safety, and technology resources. The committee ensures that facilities, safety, and technology planning are integrated with institutional planning priorities, program review, and Master Plans. Major tasks of this committee include the implementation of a “safety walk,” active shooter training, and great shakeout training.

- **Institutional Effectiveness Committee**

The Institutional Effectiveness Committee serves a recommending body to College Council. The primary charge of the Institutional Effectiveness committee is to evaluate how effectively Valley College fulfills its mission by assessing institutional outcomes and reviewing key performance indicators. Primary tasks of the Institutional Effectiveness committee include reviewing outcome data, graduating class data, stopout data, evaluating the effectiveness of committees, updating the participatory governance handbook, review program review (senate) and program evaluation (stat cards-management) outcomes and provide recommendations for improvement.

- **Planning & Resource Allocation Committee**

The Planning and Resource Allocation Committee guides the integration of institutional planning, and resource allocation to ensure that college resources are directed by collegewide priorities. This committee reviews recommendations from institutional effectiveness, program review, and management program evaluation of the College. The Planning and Resource allocation committee helps guide the College's resource allocation based on integrated planning, holistic assessment of College resources, and outcomes driving student success and equity. Major tasks of the committee include evaluating resource requests from non-academic programs. The committee makes recommendations to the College Council.

AGENDA ITEM 4N Valley College Summer Objectives

During the Summer 2026, Valley College will continue work in the following areas:

- Valley College will create the pilot of the **Participatory Governance Academy.**
- **Implementation of the College reorganization.** Following Board approval, Valley College will continue to move the areas transitioning as part of the reorganization.

- **Public Art on campus**
As the Arts, Lectures, and Diversity Committee sunsets, Valley College will continue the work in progress by the committee to advance public art on campus. The recent project for artwork in the Greek Theatre shows promise to begin during the Summer 2026.
- **Faculty Prioritization Process**
The College needs to move with urgency during the fall term on a new process as we prioritize filling the 10 faculty vacancies as a result of the SERP. The target start date for the 10 faculty vacancies from the SERP is July 1, 2027. President's Executive Cabinet will collaborate with the Academic Senate leadership to explore strategies to meet this need.
- **Finalize the charge and responsibilities of the College Council committees for participatory governance recommendation to approve during the Fall 2026.**
- **During the Fall 2026 term, the final draft of the Valley Up Initiative, 2025-30 will return to College Council for final approval.**

