November 17, 2008 Senate Board Meeting

Title 5 Update: C & I approves new requirements for AA and AS degrees. C & I approves eleven majors and areas of emphasis for our AA majors. Other items:

- Students taking a lecture and a lab class must do so in the same discipline. For instance, if taking Geology, a Geology lab is required. Much discussion/debate of this at C & I.
- Students earning multiple Certificates of Achievement in the same field (e.g., Accounting), can only receive one AS degree.
- FYI: An incomplete grade may be given by a teacher, without the student’s signature.

Fall 2008 Statewide Academic Senate Plenary Session: Four faculty from PCC attended. Theme: Celebrating Participatory Governance: Twenty years after AB 1725. More info later.

Support for our Adjunct Faculty: Our adjunct faculty teach a significant number of our classes. They are currently asking for support in three areas: (1) paid office hours, (2) seniority hire-back rights, (3) health care insurance. The senate board will be continuing its discussion of the academic merits of moving toward paying adjunct faculty for office hours at its next board meeting. Adjunct faculty are valued members of the college community. Many have practical real world experience they use to enhance their teaching. Many have fulfilled vital roles for our programs for many, many years and some come to the college’s rescue in cases of emergencies. Thank you, adjunct faculty.

Basic Skills Initiative (BSI): A Basic Skills Task Force has been formed. Dr. Lynn Wright (English) is our Basic Skills Coordinator. The BSI provides funding for community colleges across the state that develop a plan to enhance the successes of the many underprepared students entering their colleges. The program primarily addresses reading, writing, math, ESL (credit and non-credit), and related counseling services. It also provides funds for the professional development of faculty. The primary goal is to improve student success - and provide data - qualitative and quantitative - that supports that various program interventions have indeed improved student success.

Two Academic Senate fundraisers scheduled:

- Holiday Graphic Bash to create your own cards, notes, gift tags, etc. Use typography, graphics. Thursday, December 4th, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room T-107. $20 check payable to the Academic Senate. (supports Senate general fund)
- Attractive PCC mouse pads (available soon – before the holidays), showing mirror pools in front of the C-Building. Estimated sale price: $7.50 each. (supports Senate scholarship fund)

Accreditation Self-Study Report: The Senate Board authorized President Jim Bickley to sign the report certifying that faculty concur that the self study included broad campus-wide participation and that it accurately reflects the nature and substance of PCC.

Announcements:

- Students pick up cigarette butts around campus on Tuesday, November 18, 2008
- Great American Smoke Out, Thursday, November 20, 2008