March 30, 2009 Senate Board Meeting

Calendar for 2010-2011: The Senate Board voted for Draft #2, also supported by the College Wide Calendar Committee. Unique feature: there will be a week off between spring and summer sessions.

Academic Senate’s Student Scholarship Fund: The Senate scholarship fund has been hit hard by stock market decline, bad economy. PCC Foundation’s financial planners, Smith Barney, gave an overview of how the current financial situation has impacted the Foundation’s funds. Concern about fund losses and sensitivity to new federal guidelines prompted the Executive Committee to recommend a significant reduction in funds available for scholarships this year. For those who want to help, please write a check to “Academic Senate Scholarships,” and send to Judy (x7211) in C-227.

SLOARC (Student Learning Outcomes & Assessment Resource Center) will offer eLumen overview workshops, beginning Tuesday, April 28. Call x7319 for details.

Election of New Senate Officers: Please return your ballots by Noon Friday, April 17, to C-129.

Survey of Faculty on Student Integrity and Authentication Practices: Please complete the Senate’s Survey on Student Academic Integrity and Authentication. Survey data will summarize current practices and help clarify areas that could use improvement. Authentication of students taking online courses is an important sub-focus. Return completed surveys in provided self-addressed envelopes.

The Accreditation Team’s Exit Report: Upon exiting the campus the Team’s Chair shared that there were many commendations, but he chose not to enumerate them. The ACCJC will provide the college its formal written report some time around August, but the Chair shared a few of its recommendations: (1) Systematically assess the effectiveness of our college’s evaluation processes, (2) Expand assessment of SLO’s to the program, degree, and certificate levels, (3) Establish policies and procedures addressing the quality and integrity of distance education, (4) Have management and classified employees develop a code of ethics, (5) Establish an Irrevocable Trust for certain funds such as our self-insurance fund, (6) Ensure that evaluations of classified staff are done in timely fashion, and (7) Develop evaluation procedures addressing the effectiveness of our governance structures and decision making processes.

Retirement Honorees: For faculty and staff working 10+ years before retiring, an etched, lighted plaque identifying them by name will be placed in their honor on the wall in new Circadian Room.

Campus No-Smoking Policy: PCC is moving toward a no-smoking campus, while providing some designated smoking areas.

Announcements:
- ASCCC Plenary Session: April 16-18, San Francisco Westin.
- Faculty Lecture/Performance by Jacquie Smith (culinary arts), Thursday, April 30, 12-1, Forum
- Campuswide staff mixer on Cinco de Mayo.