Academic Senate Plenary Session

“The Transformation of Education: Evolution or Revolution?”

Fall, 2012/ Irvine, CA          Kate Williams Browne, Skyline Academic Senate Vice-President

As this was my first experience with an ASCCC Plenary, I was uncertain as to how this conference would be run or what my role might be. What a well-organized program, and what a dedicated group of professional educators and advocates! I attended all 3 days of the Plenary, where I heard Keynote Addresses, Breakout Session workshops, a Discipline List Hearing, and served as a Delegate discussing and voting on Resolutions.

Sessions at a Glance:

1. **Keynotes** by our new Chancellor Brice Harris, the Student Mental Health Initiative, and a Panel Perspective on the future of CA Community Colleges were all stimulating and informative.
   a. *Dr. Harris* spoke of the Proposition 30 results, and that of the $210 million estimated gains, the Governor wants at least $160 million spent for deferrals. With cutbacks in class offerings that have dropped enrollments from 2.9 to 2.5 million, students are now going out of state for college and for transfer. It is imperative that the CCs be able to assure improved access as well as student success, so we need to advocate for as much of the monies as possible to go directly for students & the current institutions.
   b. *The Student Mental Health* movement now provides available and free services to all CC enrolled students, and this initiative can provide assistance to individual colleges to help build their systems. [www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org](http://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org) 855-304-1647.
   c. *The Panel* included B.Smith/President of the Association of Chief Business Officers, C. Friedlander/President of CC Council of CA-Federation of Teachers, S. Lay/President of CC League of CA, and M. Pilate, President/ASCCC. They encouraged us to tout what we are good at- both Success & Access- and to continuously let the public know that “Education Changes Lives” so that they see that the CC promote that best by not separating the Haves from the Have-Not. We were told that we need to advocate that ASCCC faculty is the Face of Leadership who educates the Faces of CA- that 68% of college students are at the Community Colleges.

2. **Breakout Sessions** that I chose were wide-ranging in topics and very informative.
   a. *Professional Development*, given by D. Chiabotti & M. Squires, defined PD as a 3-legged stool of Discipline currency, Teaching excellence, & Governance preparation. Faculty learning outcomes might be identified in those areas, as Ed Code- 87150 and Title 5-55724a authorize many areas of professional development to be offered. Currently the Chancellor’s office has a PD Committee of Faculty, Classified, and Administrators who are preparing a Vision Statement that will help shape the next steps of PD.
   b. *C-ID*, given by M. Pilati & D. Bailey-Fougier, showed how this system can be effective in defining the courses that will comprise appropriate higher education. Currently the
Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup has representation from the Chancellor’s Office, CC, and CSU [unsure of UC?]. After an overview of the system, there was discussion about momentum for full acceptance, the challenges of articulation, and how it could be used : both the new Associate Transfer degrees but also for CTE courses, Certificates with comparable coursework, High School-CC-CSU/UC pathway, and include ‘below college’ coursework at the CCs.

c. **Now What? Next Steps in Sacramento**, by J. Lightman of Faculty Association of CCC & D. Crump of ASCCC Executive Committee, was enlightening about how issues and appropriations occur and how important effective testimony is, both at the State Legislature and at the Home Districts. It is critical that CCs not have ‘embarrassing moments’ and have accountability in place and made public, to ensure that both government and the public realize “we are not wasting money, and are providing a crucial function/service to the public.”

d. **Nuts & Bolts of Local Senates**, by D. Davison and W. North of the ASCCC Executive Committee, was especially helpful for a new Officer. “10+1” was explained, as well as the many Senate Roles, Union consultation, Senate Procedures, and identifiable rights that should be ensured.

e. **Critical Conversations on Career Technical Education** was an eye-opener and cause for concern. “Doing What Matters: Critical Conversations” process has already taken place throughout the State and the Economic Workforce Development [EWD] along with State Regional Consortia has now identified 3 Top Sectors and 2 Emerging Sectors that will define funding priorities for the EWD and Perkins monies.

3. **Disciplines List Revision Proposals** was both challenging and interesting. Of the 8 proposals, there was little debate on several, such as Kinesiology, Peace Studies, Health Education & Pharmacy Technology. The Family & Consumer Studies seems to be pulling Family Studies away from Consumer Studies, but it is unclear how this will work at the CSU level. Teacher Education caused the biggest stir, with ECE left out of the Minimum Qualifications list, and with transitional kindergarten/preschool 4s being in the public school system & the AA-T elementary education degree having only 1 Education course and no practice teaching, there are complications with this as proposed. Both Digital Media and Stagecraft also had lively discussions.

4. **Resolutions Discussions** was fascinating, with Robert’s Rules of Order in place and timed debate throughout. Resolutions were proposed in 11 areas; some had already been agreed to put on a Consent Calendar, and nearly 30 were discussed- some approved as is, some approved with amendments, some approved only after amendments were voted down. The most controversial topic centered around Math Curriculum, regarding issues with Intermediate Algebra, Elementary Statistics, transfer-level and Basic Skills levels and success rates.
NOTES for ACTION [KWB] :

1. CTE: “Child Development/ Education/Family Studies” is NOT on the 10 Innovation List, though it is one of the 15 Sectors of CTE, and I should speak with Dean Carlson about this issue.
2. C-ID is a system I would like to use, promote, and participate as a possible Content Expert in Education.
3. Liz Llamas & Bev Muse might be interested in the student Mental Health initiative and resources, and should be forwarded the link.
4. The new Teacher Education Proposed Discipline SHOULD include MA in ECE as minimum qualifications, and ECE should be included into this Discipline in some reasonable way. I will need to talk with President Stanback Stroud, VP-I Perkins, and Senators Dianna Chiabotti, April Juarez, and Kathy Kelly who are all ECE/CD faculty at ASCCC.
5. Math Curriculum issues will need more discussion at the local College and perhaps a presentation/discussion at a Senate meeting would be helpful.