Concerns from Social Science/Creative Arts Division:
Annual Program Plans, Budget, Implementing Institutional Plans Accurately, and Transparency

In the Division Meeting held on May 1, 2015, several members of the faculty raised passionate concerns regarding Annual Program Plans, accurate implementation of Institutional Planning, the lack of a current Budget, and general transparency in the processes from the college’s administration. The SS/CA Division asked a number of questions that need to be answered:

APP
1. **Are these being read by anyone other than the Division Deans?** Faculty members put a great deal of work goes into these documents, under the assumption that they will ultimately help student success rates.
2. **Will faculty receive feedback on these?** To date, none of the faculty have received feedback, so Question #7 in the form is moot.
3. **What is the timeline for receiving feedback and allocations?** The problem does not appear to be in the plan, but rather in the implementation and the timing. There doesn’t seem to be a closing of the loop/completing the cycle. The timeline needs to be clarified.

Budget
1. **What is going on?** Student success is suffering because instructional equipment cannot be purchased, appropriations cannot be made for the Main Theater or the Gallery Theater, already-purchased computers cannot be installed in the MIDI lab because there are no desks, etc. The success gap is one result of the lack of instructional equipment.
2. **Why did the projection of a significant budget deficit catch us by surprise?** The rosy picture painted on Opening Day (August 2014) seems to have changed significantly, and unexpectedly.
3. **Some questions raised by faculty at recent SPARC meetings have been dismissed and not adequately answered.** For instance, if 8% of the annual budget is not personnel-related (millions of dollars), can we discuss allocations in these areas (including instructional equipment)?
4. **How do we enforce our own institutional rules regarding allocation and planning, as outlined in our own accreditation self-evaluation documents?** Short version, pages 16-17; long version, pages 100-112.
   http://skylinecollege.edu/accreditationselfevaluation/assets/documents/1_volume_I_23sept.pdf

It seems that our work on Annual Program Plans and other efforts to improve student success are not helping students! Faculty members are attempting to address the success gaps that have been identified, but cannot do so without feedback and clarity.

Incidentally, the Academic Senate certainly has purview over these issues within the “10 plus 1”: Program Review is part of #9, and Budget Allocation is part of #10.

Shall we draft a resolution to request from the administration that there be better transparency and compliance with the procedures that have been established? Is there a way to do so firmly, yet without sounding inflammatory/demanding?