



*Academic Senate
Solano Community College
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www.solano.edu/academic_senate*

To: Stan Arterberry, interim Superintendent-President, Solano Community College District

CC: LaNae Jaimez, Academic Senate Vice-President; Amy Obegi, Program Review Coordinator

From: Michael Wyly, Academic Senate President

Re: Actions taken by the Academic Senate re: hiring on 30 November 2015

Date: 5 December 2015

Recently, I have been apprised by other faculty of some of the content of a student survey which is currently being circulated electronically by Solano Community College District.

It appears that the content of at least some of the questions seeks to evaluate the efficacy of academic programs at Solano Community College, including library services and curriculum.

First, it is difficult to conduct a full assessment of these questions as faculty have neither been consulted nor been made formally aware of the content of this survey, at least not through recognized processes of communication. Certainly, neither the Senate nor its subcommittees were apprised of or consulted in the development of this survey.

Second, per Board Policy 2005 and §53200, Solano Community College has processes already in place for the evaluation of its programs. These processes have been correctly assembled by the Senate and/or its subcommittees; where appropriate, these processes have been approved in cooperation with administrative partners. Significantly, these processes appropriately rely on discipline expertise when evaluating programs. Indeed, the Academic Senate and its Program Review committee have made substantial changes to our program review process in the last two years to maintain Title 5 compliance; these processes include the development of student surveys with faculty-developed, program-specific questions.

Third, this is not the first instance of administration instigating program evaluation/review. Currently, each School has had a program nominated by its deans for discontinuance. As the conversations have developed during the meetings of the senate, it seems clear that faculty, program review data, and other data sources have been inconsistently consulted and/or cited by academic deans. Moreover, the function of the discontinuance policy is seemingly becoming more and more conflated with program review. In short, I worry that this survey is another instance of program evaluation outside of the regular program review process per BP 2005 and §53200.

As such, I have put this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Solano Community College Academic Senate, scheduled for Monday, 12.7.2015.

In anticipation of that discussion, I request that the content of the current survey be made available to the Senate to facilitate transparency. Moreover, I request that the District invite Senate input into the quality and intent of the questions, especially where curricular and programmatic evaluation, or other items which fall under Senate purview, are concerned.

I want to assure our administrative partners that the Senate values the solicitation of information from our students. However, I contend that the Senate or appointed representatives should have been a part of this process since its inception, and I question the decision of the District to exclude faculty from the development of such a survey, especially if it becomes clear that programs and/or other matters of curriculum are being evaluated outside of processes set for program review.