

Academic Senators

I would like to address my concerns in regard to our November 30 meeting over hiring priorities and the extremely uneven distribution of Full Time faculty throughout SCC.

At the beginning of said meeting VP Minor made it a point to indicate that Counseling and Library Services priorities were left out because those departments could not be held to the same criterion as the other departments across campus.

But here in lies my two main concerns:

As a Senator for two years I have sat through similar meetings in which Dean Yu of Math & Sciences has touted the ridiculously large numbers of FTEs his department generates. But these impressive numbers are not a fair and equitable basis for comparison to other departments at SCC.

My first problem therefore addresses the use of Basic Skills numbers to justify hiring priorities. Currently, only Math and English offer Basic Skills courses. There are no such things as Basic Skills music, art, photography, psychology etc. so I find these numbers to be a gross misrepresentation of the whole.

With this in mind my first request is that FTEs numbers be separated between Basic Skills courses and College Level courses.

My second problem also relates to the Math, English and other departments who have several REQUIRED courses for graduation as necessitated through general education requirements. Subsequently, these departments' FTEs numbers are being effected by "loaded die". How can we accurately compare numbers of departments whose courses are required for the entire student body versus those which are mostly optional electives? Furthermore, if you add in the depressing fact that an ever-increasing number of incoming students are also being required to take Basic Skills sections, how can any other department/program even begin to compare?

My second request, therefore, is that I would also like to see the FTEs numbers separated between REQUIRED College Level courses versus OPTIONAL/ELECTIVE courses. I truly believe that those numbers of the latter group will be the most accurate for basis of comparisons.

Two concluding comments:

While I empathize with all departments who have seen a decline in Full Time faculty numbers over the years, if an area such as Math cannot successfully run their department/program with **16** Full Time faculty and an unknown quantity of Adjunct instructors, how can any department/program with 2 or less Full Time faculty be expected to not only succeed, but grow?

Finally, if the numbers show that SCC is increasingly having to support Basic Skills needs of incoming students through increased faculty hiring (especially those coming straight from high school), I think we as an Academic Senate and an institutional body should have serious discussions about our purpose/role as a Community College in higher education as well as the failings of the various school districts in our surrounding community and how to best address the root of the problem as opposed to constantly trying to be the remedy.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew M Wesley". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew M Wesley MM, MA
Academic Senator, SCC
Adjunct Instructor of Music, SCC