

Board Report 4/12/2023

Good evening BOT- I am reporting from Sonora on this day that would have been the date that Columbia hosted the BOT meeting, but for lack of sufficient technology.

- We are at the sprint to the finish to the end of the semester, with our sights set on graduation on 4/28. Thank you in advance to the BOT members who are planning on attending graduation in person and congratulating our dedicated graduates who have worked so hard to persist in their education through a pandemic!
- Academic Senate is supporting Faculty in the program review process, using data and evidence to analyze the success and challenges of each program as well as making data informed recommendations of how funds could be allocated to support programs. At the Fall Inservice day, programs in the STEM (Chem, bio, physics,) area will be presenting their program reviews, so for instance in my own area- the math department –we have been digging through the data to look at how different modalities of learning (in person, hybrid online/inperson, fully remote, fully online) effect enrollment and student success rates. We are looking at the impact of external factors such as AB705, post-pandemic student attitudes about college in general, guided pathways, etc and trying to make well informed decision of what the math program should do next to respond to new legislation like AB1705 and our ever changing world.
- Looking way ahead to program review for Fall 2024- of some concern is the group of programs under the “general education” heading (Drama, Ethnic Studies, Humanities, Philosophy, Spanish, Sign Language), English Language Learning- this also happens to be a nearly complete list of programs at Columbia that have no full-time faculty at this time. These programs without full time faculty, must rely on uncompensated volunteer work by part-time faculty to oversee the program review, make curricular updates, and grow the programs. Our excellent part-time faculty do a great job, but this is not a sustainable practice. What we have seen again and again is that programs without full-time faculty are starved out and eventually just go away. This is a symptom of a systemic issue in Ca Community Colleges - At last district council I brought up the landmark 1989 legislation AB 1725 -the 75%/25% ratio – the recommendation that at least 75% of credit instruction be taught by full-time faculty-and if the district does not meet this recommendation that this is when the FON comes into effect to make sure that at least a minimum number of full-time faculty be employed. As you know, this last year YCCD didn't make this minimum FON, so its no surprise that as a district we are not even close to the 75% ideal ratio. We need to do better. At Columbia we have had a revolving door of presidents that don't see the impact of their decisions on what faculty positions they approve or deny... but where we stand now is our general education programs are without full-time faculty, having been denied full-time faculty proposals again and again through multiple presidents, with the faculty recommendation unheeded time after time. And this isn't specifically directed at Dr Tran, who has done her due diligence, it's the ongoing problem of balancing shared governance responsibilities with high turnover administration and the wisdom of faculty who have dedicated decades, boots on the ground and are the first responders to students' needs.. A quote from section 70 of AB1725 *because the quality, quantity, and composition of full-time faculty have the most immediate and direct impact on the quality of instruction, overall reform cannot succeed without sufficient members of full-time faculty with sufficient opportunities for continued staff development, and with sufficient opportunity for*

participation in institutional governance. So, faculty belong everywhere that decisions are being made, our recommendations are well informed, and there needs to be enough of us to get the necessary work done without relying on uncompensated volunteer work from our part-time faculty.

- This years full-time faculty -Consent agenda 7.7, I would like to welcome to YCCD and the Columbia college family:
 - Distance Education Coordinator, Ashli Bumgardner
 - Instructor of Welding, Jesse Ray
 - Looking forward to seeing the other successful candidates on the May BOT agenda. Everyone is excited to welcome the new full-time faculty and waiting for “Pending Board Approval” is sometimes so hard to wait for!
 - Looking ahead, Columbia will be conducting workshops for probationary faculty to guide and support them into becoming the engaged and involved faculty members that a small rural college requires each faculty member to be. We’re calling the “Supporting Probationary Faculty” work “SPF- your future is so bright you need SPF!” I am excited to be the lab leader for this group and their faculty mentors.
- This is my last Board of Trustees report as Columbia AS pres. Marcus Whisenant, current AS VP/Pres Elect starts his term on May 1.

Thank you for hearing my report, it has been an honor to serve the district in this capacity and I am also delighted to return to the classroom full-time. If there are any questions or comments I would be happy to elaborate.