

PVCC Faculty Senate News

October 2013

PVCC Faculty Senate Update

Your faculty senate met on Thursday, October 3rd.

We still need five faculty to serve on the three committees for Maricopa Priorities (Steering Team, Instructional Programs Task Force, and Support Programs/Services Task Force). The two task forces will complete their work by May 2014 and the Steering Team will complete their work by June 2014. These committees review and prioritize the program reviews submitted by the divisions. If you can serve, please contact Mary Lou Mosley or myself.

I am in the process of reconciling my list of faculty with the approved faculty lines. As you are aware, we received 6 faculty lines from the 60/40 initiative and we estimate filling about 17 vacancies. Once we have an accurate count, we can insure all vacant faculty lines are filled. We have been assured by Dr. Dale that no vacant faculty lines will be used to fund other expenses.

Our FTSE is down about 2.6% which means we will be facing budget reductions.

PVCC is moving along with its HLC accreditation process. Special thanks should be given to our faculty leaders who are participating on the criterion teams. This is a huge job and very demanding on their time. Please remember, we all have a part to play whether or not we are on the HLC committee!

FEC News

CEC – There was only an executive session held since FEC last met.

New Faculty Hiring – The Faculty Association leadership met with Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Jim Bowers to discuss the presentation of information sessions at the colleges to discuss the recent changes in the RFP. In addition, a systemic recruitment strategy for hiring new faculty was discussed.

Meeting with Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost – A meeting with Drs. Rufus Glasper and Maria Harper-Marinick was held to discuss online education and the possibility of the Faculty Association leadership having a conversation with the Governing Board.

Membership Benefits/Domestic Partners – A clarification was made that spouses include domestic partners for the enhanced legal benefits offered to FA members.

Chris Coughlin reported to Council Lee Combs', District General Counsel, opinion on underage students. Combs said that Department Chairs and faculty have the right to know if they will have an underage student in their class but cannot decide whether to accept that student in their class. Combs stated that he would recommend termination for anyone who discriminates against an underage student as this is a matter of federal law. Faculty may be asked to provide reasonable accommodations to underage students and controversial issues should be discussed with parents and the underage student. Lindsay

Leavitt, Faculty Association attorney, confirmed Lee Combs findings. The question was raised if FERPA applies to this issue. The reply was if the student was under 18 years of age, issues related to content of the course could be discussed with parents. Another question was raised about liability protection for faculty who have underage students in their classes. The reply was that nothing would happen to faculty personally as they are indemnified by the college. A lawsuit could be brought to the college and even if the faculty member was named in the lawsuit, the faculty member is protected. Council discussed not having to change a class or their curriculum, as the student is assuming the risk of taking the class. Council was reminded that any policy changes need to go through the Common Pages Committee. A draft version for a student under the age of 18 requesting admission was distributed.

Patty Finkenstadt gave an update to Council on this issue. She said that pregnancy (including recovery) may be considered a temporary medical disability, requires documentation to the Disability Student Resource and may require reasonable academic accommodation, but routine doctor appointments should be scheduled around classes. However, issues arising due to parenting and missing classes due to childcare issues should be treated as any other absence from class. Council was asked to send any additional questions to Patty who will collate them and send them to the FA Legal Counsel to research. Lindsay stated that "reasonable" in law means that things will be decided on a case by case basis. Discussion ensued on reasonable accommodations for things like timed exams, etc. Council learned that a disabled student in New York appealed to have more time on the bar exam and won. Lindsay shared that is was a developing area of law. Council was reminded that faculty and administration are on the same side of this issue.

EBAC – Express Scripts announced new formulary changes for 2014. The average number of members/month is increasing. Cost increased 3.8% due to paying more for prescriptions. Increased use of specialty drugs is driving up the cost (\$2000.00 or more per month or only one pharmacy can distribute the drug). The generic fill rate has increased to 74%, but still under benchmark. Home delivery is at 73%, which is higher than benchmark with \$1,037,867 in savings (Maricopa \$728,597, member \$309,269). Inflammatory conditions, asthma, cancer, and multiple sclerosis are the top 4 conditions driving specialty drugs. Copay cards are being issued by manufacturers to help consumers pay for the drugs, but they are not accepted through mail order. Some specialty medications have assistance programs. Drugs that get removed from the formulary will have exclusion overrides as needed. Exclusion criteria will allow a doctor to tell Express Scripts that the patient needs to be on the medication. Maricopa can opt out to stay with the formulary we have and go with the proposed formulary. EBAC voted to go out for bid for a new pharmaceutical provider.

Tobacco Cessation Drugs - Employees wanting to quit smoking other tobacco products were limited by a 30 day window for medications. \$260/person per year was available to help with quit smoking prescriptions. There will be no limit for one year on the medications.

ACA Non-Discrimination Compliance & Marketplace Notices - Beginning 7-1-2014 OYO and OSO will receive the same level of flex credits and eligible for tiers. They get the whole package. All part-time board approved employees will no longer be covered by the Maricopa health plan. They will be able to go to the exchange and get a subsidy if they qualify.

A document regarding Dual Enrollment Academic Standards was distributed. I will post it on the Faculty Senate Web Site.

Faculty News

Congratulations to Marianne Auten and Diane Chapman who earned their Ed.D's.

At last week's Career Fair, I got a wonderful surprise. I had recommended one of my programming students for an internship at American Express. She has been working there for about a year. It looks like they are going to offer a full-time programming position by the end of the year. The icing on the cake is two of my other students received internships at American Express as well.

Two division chair seats are up for election; Communications/Humanities and English. Marilyn Cristiano is running for Communications/Humanities and Mike Mitchell is running for English. Balloting will be this week and the results will be announced Monday, October 21st.

Meet Your Faculty

Marianne Auten



Marianne has been working at PVCC since 1989 when she did an internship as part of her Masters in Counseling degree at ASU, and has been teaching and counseling here ever since. She particularly enjoys teaching CPD150, the Strategies for College Success course. Over the past few years, Marianne has become a big fan of the field of Positive Psychology – the science of what makes us happy and successful. This interest led her to recently completing her doctorate (Aug 2013) and writing her dissertation on the topic of developing a growth mindset in community college students. In her personal life, Marianne has been married for 30 years and has two grown children. The most exciting current event is her first grandchild due in just a few weeks!

Meggin Kirk

I am the full-time education faculty member in the Social Sciences Division...I couldn't be more excited!! If you were wondering..

I grew up in Washington State and earned my undergraduate degrees in Environmental Science and Elementary Education from Western Washington University. The sun brought me to the Southwest where I earned my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction—Teaching English as a Second Language. I began my teaching career in a variety of outdoor education programs and eventually taught for 10 years in the K-12 school system.

Shortly after the birth of my two daughters (now 6 and 7), I accepted part-time work teaching EDU classes as an adjunct faculty member at PVCC and the University of Phoenix. Although I enjoyed spending time with my girls and working part-time, I am thrilled to be part of the full-time crowd at PVCC!

In my "spare" time I enjoy hiking, biking, running, traveling, reading, and spending time with my husband and daughters.

One of the highlights of my time spent at PVCC is our bi-annual "Festival of Tales"--A storytelling festival hosted by EDU 292 (The Art of Storytelling) and sponsored by Club Ed, Southwest Human Development, Reading is Fundamental, and First Things First. Each semester the storytelling students share stories while various clubs, classes, and community groups host story/culture related experiences and projects. Over the past 5 years, we've brought over 8,000 participants and volunteers onto our campus, given away over 30,000 brand new books, and provided opportunities for students to showcase their learning in an authentic setting.

Another highlight of my time spent at PVCC is the EDU department's involvement with MCCD's Future Educator's Conference. This past spring we hosted the MCCD Future Educator's Conference where we hosted over thirty guest presenters and over 200 participants. The "future educators" learned firsthand the importance of bringing lessons to life by building relationships, establishing a rigorous curriculum, and making learning relevant to our students' lives.

I am continuously amazed at our presence in the community as our students complete their "field experience" in the classroom, over 2,000 hours each semester! They volunteer for various philanthropic events including elementary school field days, literacy nights, tutoring, and more. Our PVCC students reach out to local high school future teacher classes and clubs. Harriet Betts, Teacher Development Coordinator, and I are very excited and currently working to expand our various programs in the education department.

Looking forward, I am excited to work with a wonderful group of adjunct instructors, my division and the PVCC community at large.

Abigail (Abby) Rusu – Business/Information Technology



I have worked in the Healthcare and IT Industries for over 12 years. Most recently, I worked for a 20 hospital group in Administration. I have a Bachelor's degree in Business from Arizona State University, and a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology. I would like to pursue my doctorate in the near future!

In my free time I enjoy being outside (when it is not 110 in September!). I play soccer on a rec league, hike, bike, and run. I am a proud Girl Scout Leader for Troop 2177. I am married and have two girls and one boy (my dachshund mix Nugget). Oh and I have a cat too.

It is an honor to be a part of the faculty team at PVCC.

Marissa Wolfe – Mathematics



I'm from Missouri. I started tutoring math in the community college when I was 18 and loved helping students with math so much that I got my degrees just so I could teach math in the community college setting. I finished my master's degree and started teaching as full time faculty at Ozarks Technical Community College just 3 weeks later. I absolutely love helping my students. I also enjoy mentoring students who are the first in their family to go to college, since I was a first-generation college student. I've been married for 17 years and have 2 little dogs, a Yorkshire Terrier named Mallory and a Havanese named Maya. Besides teaching, I like cooking & baking, playing piano, making jewelry, hiking, camping, home repair and renovation, and decorating. I'm really enjoying being at PVCC and am so thankful the weather is cooling down! :-)

I hope everyone is having a good semester. If there is anything I can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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