

Item IB Public Comment:
Follow-up to December 2013 Executive Committee Meeting
ASCCC Executive Committee Meeting
January 3, 2014

Dear Academic Senate Community:

I am an Anthropology instructor at Gavilan College, my local union's new president, former local senate president, and an appointee to the ASCCC Academic Integrity Task Force. From 2010-2012, I served as an appointee to the ASCCC Futures Committee during the deliberations of the game-changing Student Success Task Force. As a CCC faculty member and faculty leader who has gained much from ASCCC mentorship and leadership, I wish to echo the sentiments expressed by the public testimonies of our past presidents: I am disappointed and embarrassed by this recent waste of precious Senate resources!

Our past presidents have written so eloquently and substantively about the positive strides and potential directions put into place by our past and recent senate leadership in collaboration with Julie Adams. I will briefly reiterate three areas that matter to me as a faculty leader who cares about our students and where our system is heading.

I would like to be represented by an ASCCC that prioritizes: 1) modeling and teaching collaborative leadership; 2) taking the lead on the SLO/PLO battle in light of recent accreditation failures; and 3) working with FACCC and our unions to make sure faculty secure a more central role in the "student success" reform movement. As a Futures Committee member who worked closely with Julie Adams, I know Julie is abundantly qualified and committed to working with executive board members and faculty on these ongoing and pressing goals.

If ASCCC takes the lead on these timely issues in creative and constructive ways, we could position faculty to stay at the center of our system's reform movement. If we are so shortsighted as to allow our own leadership to dismantle and restructure our organization, which had been functioning and growing, we will miss the boat. We will drift at sea, at the mercy of outside reformers for the next twenty years! Outside reformers with a well-funded agenda are aggressively changing our system, laughing at our antics, as we idle away our time and energy sitting in closed sessions!

I am saddened and surprised by the turn this presidency has taken. As a faculty member, I have been wondering where our Senate has been lately. I have worried that this president's hasty decision to assign work that once took place within committees (providing opportunities for mentorship and training) to task forces has precluded the ASCCC from taking full advantage of field expertise. I don't know the details that led to this drama of the closed session, the lawyer, and the public testimonies from five past presidents! But, honestly, I don't want to waste my time and energy finding out.

Our spring elections are upon us. In the spirit of getting our organization back on track, I would like to ask our faculty and senate presidents to vote against another year of dysfunction.

Respectfully,
Debbie Klein, PhD



Anthropology Instructor
Academic Integrity Task Force Member
Former Futures Committee Member
Former Local Academic Senate President