



San Bernardino Valley College Student Trustee's Report Thursday, April 9, 2009

Student Senate for California Community Colleges



The Student Senate, established to work in conjunction with local associated student organizations, serves as the representative voice of California's 2.7 million community college students to our state leaders and partners in education. It is our job to daily bring forward student's concerns, thoughts, ideas and suggestions to our policy

makers. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley in San Diego, California from May 1-3, 2009.

This spring we come to you with the theme "Fighting the Fiscal Meltdown: Tools for a Stable Future." Beyond allowing for you to present resolutions for ratification, we will provide an array of breakout sessions to grow and strengthen grassroots campaigns and advocacy, to educate students about pressing statewide issues and to create networking opportunities for all student governments.

We will also be holding elections to fill ten Senator At-Large positions for the 2009-2010 academic year and are currently accepting candidate statements for these positions. Any student in attendance at the General Assembly may run. Nominations will close after the first general session on May 1, 2009.

The SSSCC Council voted to support the following resolution for the upcoming Spring General Assembly. It will be presented the 111 community colleges for their approval.

3.01 S09 Removal of Basic Skills Unit Cap Javier Alcaez, San Bernardino Valley College, Student Senate Council

Whereas, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the total number of seats used for Basic Skills courses in Spring 2008 was 135,696; only 71.57% were retained and merely 51.04% succeeded;

Whereas, Title 5 §55035 states that, "...no student shall receive more than 30 semester units (or 45 quarter units) of credit for remedial coursework, making California the only state with a unit cap on remedial coursework (as defined as "nondegree-applicable courses" and that "the governing board of a district may provide a waiver of the limitation on remedial coursework with respect to any student who shows significant, measurable progress toward the development of skills appropriate to his or her enrollment in degree-applicable credit courses..." but the wording "...may provide a waiver..." is ambiguous and does not guarantee students the opportunity to access such a waiver;

Whereas, many community college districts specify up to 22 basic skills courses, which while designed to help students succeed may also result in students surpassing the 30-unit semester threshold and are then being “restricted to taking only noncredit courses, nondegree-applicable courses which do not involve remediation, and those degree-applicable credit courses which do not have prerequisites or advisories on recommended preparation”; and

Whereas, underprepared students must already navigate other restrictions to achieving the coursework, such as repetition limits, withdrawal limits, and financial aid limits;

Resolved, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges advocate for the removal of the 30-unit cap on basic skills courses; and

Resolved, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to urge the Board of Governors, Consultation Council, and all statewide bodies, committees, and ad-hoc groups to make the amendments stated above to Title 5 §55035.

Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society



I recently joined SBVC's Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. It was gratifying when the club agreed to allow a few select members, including myself, to form an AGS Constitution & Bylaws sub-committee. I was included because of my experience in restructuring organizational constitutions.

The focus of this committee will be to reform the founding documents of the organization so the club may be more effective by placing the highest priority in excellence, continually striving to improve scholarly and professional competence, maintaining personal and academic integrity, and accepting the role of and obligations associated with membership in a community of scholars that include practicing, fostering and defending community service, social responsibility, and respect for the opinion of others.

I was extremely pleased that I can be a participant in the process to assist an SBVC club to be well-organized so that it may serve the community at-large.

M.E.Ch.A

We have been facilitating a three-month extended “Chicano Forum Series.” The series is designed to promote and bring awareness to the issues that are constantly occurring and reoccurring society as a whole. As a whole nation, it is particularly important to keep an open mind and understand the issues that separate us from one another. The purpose is to provide the means by which students particularly, but also advisors, can comprehend the contentious issues of our times and advocate for policies that promote the well-being of the diversity in California. Participants will become conversant with key issues as they impact this diverse community.

The series began in February with the theme for that month being, *Worker/Immigrant Rights*. Various films were shown that brought to light the harsh realities of life as a farm worker and/or an immigrant. Additionally, a protest was organized by our chapter to boycott the restaurant *Chipotle*. The boycott was aimed to address the restaurant's purchasing of agriculture products from companies that exploit their workers. March focused on *Women's Issues*. Female empowerment forums were presented along with historical films on issues that women have faced throughout time.

We will conclude our series with *Environmental Issues* in the month of April. We have a series of films that will be shown during the month, one of which is, *The Garden of Eden*. Additionally, we have planned to plant a tree on the 22nd, which turns out to be Earth Day.

All forums and films are shown every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Campus Center 139. Everyone is welcome!



***Respectfully submitted by,
Javier Alcaraz
Student Trustee – SBVC***