Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the first “Bird’s Eye View” of 2015. This new monthly series focuses on topics of interest and importance for Folsom Lake College (FLC) and is provided for your information. The “Bird’s Eye View” is intended as a complement to FLC’s bi-monthly “In Touch.” If you have any comments or concerns regarding any of these items feel free to contact me at rachel.rosenthal@flc.losrios.edu or 916-608-6570.

**New President’s Advisory Council**

I have established a new President’s Advisory Council (PAC) with the charge as noted below. A copy of the PAC’s charge and membership is attached to this email for your reference.

- Foster the vision and mission of the college.
- Promote communication throughout the college community.
- Act as an advisory and recommending body to the President for issues with college-wide implications to assist the President in formulating sound management decisions.

The future success of our college will be influenced by our collective abilities to discuss issues from all perspectives and leverage the knowledge and talents from all areas of the college. The PAC brings together representatives from not only all of the constituency groups, but the Harris Center and College Advancement as well. Please note that the PAC is not intended to supplant any participatory governance committees or constituency groups, rather, it is intended as a venue for dialogue on issues of college wide importance.

**Associate Degrees for Transfer Status – 78%**

In 2010, SB 1440 simplified the transfer process between community college transfer students wanting to continue at California State University through the establishment of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). Colleges were expected, at minimum, to develop ADTs for all of their degree programs for which Transfer Model Curriculum was available. FLC has 14 such programs.

FLC’s goal was to have “14 in 14” or all 14 programs approved by the deadline of the end of the 13-14 year. As of December 2014, 11 programs are approved, one is pending approval, and two have just been submitted. This is unfortunate, as FLC will be reporting 78% completion and not 100%, as required, to the Board of Governors in January. The Board will be carefully reviewing a final summary of progress for all the colleges and FLC will await their response. In the meantime, approval of these three ADTs is a top priority.
New Summer Bridge and First Year Experience programs
The infusion of state funds for the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP), $1.5M over the last two fiscal years, will allow FLC to scale existing programs, pilot new and innovative instructional and student services strategies, and enhance collaboration across the college. I am delighted with the new programs being planned and two are highlighted below.

Summer Bridge
The program is designed to improve the preparation, ease the transition to college, and give students a solid foundation before the start of fall semester. FLC’s Summer Bridge program begins in summer 2015 and will include general “college knowledge”, study skills, time management, learning styles, strategies for studying, college expectations, career counseling and computer literacy and will also have a peer mentoring component. (Program will serve as a feeder into FYE).

First Year Experience (FYE)
First Year Experience program, beginning fall 2015, is designed to support the academic, social and personal transitions of first-year students testing into developmental English and math courses. Through collaborative efforts between Student Services, faculty, staff and peer mentors, the year-long cohort program will include intentional courses, as well as specific programs and services that promote success and persistence in college.

Communication Strategies Needed
I ask for your ideas as to how to improve communication across all areas of the college. The results of FLC’s Employee Perceptions Survey administered last spring indicated a low response to “Information is communicated quickly up, down, and across the organization” with an average rating was 2.89 on a 5.0 scale.

Communication is always a challenge, but implementing new programs and achieving what we believe to be transformational improvements will require buy-in and commitment across the college. How can FLC improve its communication strategies? What can the college, your department, your area, and you do to ensure that you are as informed as you need to be?

The Bird’s Eye View, along with another new publication entitled, “The Falcon Report,” which you’ll receive in January, as well as the President’s Advisory Council were all created in an effort to improve communication. Are there other ideas? Please let me know!

Rachel