April 1, 2015

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the April edition of the “Bird’s Eye View.” This is a monthly series focusing on topics of interest and importance for Folsom Lake College (FLC). “Bird’s Eye View” is intended to complement FLC’s bi-monthly “In Touch” and is sent to all FLC faculty and staff during the first week of every month.

**Black History Month/Social Justice Week/Women’s History Month**

Kudos to the Multicultural and Diversity Committee and the Associated Students’ new Diversity Club for sponsoring the most well attended, and extensive Black History Month, Social Justice Week, and Women’s History Month events ever! The topics and presentations were thought-provoking, broad ranging, and helped create a community committed to furthering social justice.

There were so many excellent presentations (well marketed, I might add) and I wished I’d had the opportunity to attend them all. Of particular note were the “Sacramento’s Response to Ferguson,” Diversity Dialogues, and “Before Roe v. Wade.” Our collective understanding of diversity, in all its forms, helps to support FLC’s mission of a collaborative and innovative environment that honors diversity and provides an equitable environment for teaching and learning. Excellent way, too, for students, faculty, and staff to dialogue and explore what multiculturalism and diversity at FLC means to them. Can’t wait for next year!

**Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program**

In March, the Board of Governors approved 12 of 15 maximum pilot baccalaureate degrees for the California community colleges. The criteria were fairly rigorous: each district may offer only one degree, the degree program must not be offered by UC or CSU, and the subject area must meet unmet workforce needs. The Bachelor’s degree programs receiving final approval are:

- Antelope Valley Airframe Manufacturing Technology
- Bakersfield Industrial Automation
- Cypress Mortuary Science
- Feather River Equine Industry
- Foothill Dental Hygiene
- Mira Costa Biomanufacturing
- Modesto Respiratory Care
- Mesa Health Information Management
- Santa Ana Occupational Studies
- Shasta Health Information Management
- Skyline Respiratory Therapy
- West Los Angeles Dental Hygiene
Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative

The 14-15 state budget included funding for an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI), designed to “advance colleges’ institutional effectiveness and in the process, significantly affect the number of accreditation sanctions and audit issues, while enhancing the system’s ability to effectively serve students.” The initiative has three components: Statewide goals indicator system, technical assistance through Partnership Resource Teams (PRT), and professional development opportunities.

The timeline for implementation is ambitious, requiring all colleges to adopt and post a goals framework by July 1, 2015. The indicators must include, at minimum, course completion rate, accreditation status, audit findings and fund balance with the third and fourth indicators common district wide. The indicators for FLC were presented at the March 24 Academic Senate meeting and are currently being vetted through the college’s participatory governance process. The indicators are scheduled for a final review at the May 18 Institutional Planning Committee meeting, with submission to IEPI for posting on the Chancellor’s Office website by June 30.

2012-2015 FLC Strategic Plan Update

I had mentioned at spring convocation that it’s time to update FLC’s Strategic Plan. I stated that I expected the initial planning charette, or meeting to map new strategies, to occur in May. After consultation with the Academic Senate, IPC, and Dean of Planning and Research regarding the timeline, the schedule has been revised. The initial charrette is now targeted for early fall semester with completion in spring 2016. This revised schedule will provide more continuity, allow consideration of the Los Rios District’s strategic planning efforts (occurring in 15-16), and permit incorporation of FLC’s accreditation results into the new strategic plan. So stay tuned.

With spring break behind us, the spring semester is zipping by. Hiring will be a key priority for the next few months as the college hopes to hire twelve full time faculty, one dean, and several classified positions. These new Falcons will bring fresh energy, new experiences, and backgrounds into the “roost” to support our continual focus on students and the achievement of their educational goals. Thank you to the interview committees for your contributions to this critical effort.

Falcons soar!

Rachel