

Friends and Colleagues,

I'm writing from my couch at home on Sunday because my sore legs are confining me from moving very far. I went on a 12-mile run with Elizabeth Bishop and Barbara Lee this weekend. It was just another Saturday morning run out to Bird Rock for them, but my legs are sore and I can't do much else.

Anyway, I write to report some exciting things the Academic Senate is doing and to once again plea for faculty participation on committees and for vibrant faculty members to step forward into some leadership positions, including the SLO coordinator and a seat on the College Council. We have called a special one-hour meeting this coming Thursday to discuss the proposals of the Basic Skills Initiative Committee and to consider the revised MPC Mission Statement proposed by the College Council. The agenda is posted in its usual place here:

<http://www.mpcfakulty.net/senate/home.htm>

Curriculum Advisory Committee

First of all, huge props go to Lynn Iwamoto who has stepped forward to chair the Curriculum Advisory Committee. This is a huge responsibility for one of our most important committees. The conversation in this committee centers on ensuring the academic integrity of our college courses. Send a big "Thank You" to Lynn Iwamoto.

Secondly, it was reported at the last Academic Senate meeting that the Nursing division will be sending a representative to the CAC next semester. Thank you to the Nursing division.

As I've reported many times, the CAC still needs representatives from Creative Arts, Physical Education, Life Science, and Supportive Services.

Basic Skills Initiative

Props to the Basic Skills Initiative Committee for all the important tasks they have completed. They have completed a data-supported assessment of developmental education at MPC. They have a five-year action plan, and are currently in the process of refining a one-year action plan and resource allocation plan. Aspects of this one-year plan must go to the board to be approved to send to the state chancellor's office, all within this month. It is this plan that we'll be discussing on Thursday. Please join us. The materials generated by the BSI Committee are linked from our agenda for this Thursday:

<http://www.mpcfakulty.net/senate/4-10-08/agenda4-10-08.htm>

Check it out and join us.

Mission Statement

As part of our regular review of our mission and goals at MPC, the College Council has recently proposed a revision to our Mission Statement. We will be reviewing this proposal on Thursday. Please send any comments our way and we will consider incorporating them into our recommendations to the College Council. We have already received a few comments, by the way.

College Council's Proposed Mission Statement:

Committed to fostering student learning and success, MPC provides excellent instruction, programs, facilities, and services to support the goals of students seeking transfer, career, and life-long learning opportunities. By so doing, MPC enhances the intellectual, cultural and economic vitality of this diverse community.

Pleading for Faculty Leadership and Participation—SLOs and College Council

Well folks, we still need a vibrant and passionate faculty member to step forward and serve as our SLO Coordinator. This position is pretty much expected by the Accrediting Commission and will be an integral part in explaining what we expect from our students and how we assess them when the accrediting visiting team comes around. The primary duties are to continue where Robynn and I left off and provide leadership for MPC faculty in developing program SLOs and SLO assessment strategies. You won't have to do this totally alone. I am certainly willing to help and you are encouraged to collaborate with the Academic Senate and the CAC. The Union has successfully negotiated release time for this position of 40% in the first year and 20% in the following two years. There will be some sort of benchmarks established to gauge progress. Please, we need somebody here who is cognizant of the limitations of SLOs, but also recognizes how they can be of value to an educational institution like MPC. We really need somebody to step forward here folks. A job description is at the end of the "Articulating SLOs for MPC" booklet we handed out at Flex Days. A copy is linked at the Academic Senate SLO page here: <http://www.mpcfakulty.net/senate/slo.htm>

Also, there will be an open faculty seat on the College Council beginning in the 08-09 academic year. College Council is responsible for institutional planning, resource allocation, and making recommendations to the president to bring to the board of trustees. The College Council meets the first and third Thursdays of every month at 2:30. Interested persons should contact our Committee on Committees, currently composed of Alan Haffa and Debbie Anthony.

By the way, our Committee on Committees needs another person as well. If you'd like to help encourage faculty members to serve on committees, please forward your name to Alan and/or Debbie.

Thanks,

-Fred