

AS President Report 3/17/21

I again begin this update by saying their name, Atatiana Jefferson October 12, 2019. This may at times seem to be an act of “just saying a name”. This was an action begun by our previous Senate President, Amy Avelar, to recognize the reason we need to work on our equity our diversity and ant-hate/anti-racism. These are very real and current issues present in our society today. I will continue to say their names through the remainder of the semester, and I invite you to do the same.

The month of March has a fifth Wednesday. The fifth Wednesday is reserved in the case there is a need for meeting or to entertain a special topics meeting. After discussion with the Executive Committee, the decision was to allow the fifth Wednesday of this month remain open for a time of respite for the Senate body. There will be no fifth Wednesday meeting.

As many may have heard by now, there has been confirmation that our format of instruction for Summer and Fall 2021 will remain online. While some may have been expecting this announcement, hearing confirmation of remaining online may have come as a surprise to others. There have been a segment of faculty expressing concern about our decision being different than that of what we are hearing from our surrounding colleges and the impact it will have on our enrollment. While it is not my purview to delve into this subject too deeply, I do want to confirm for faculty that many conversations have been and are being had about the best approach for the coming semesters and all are being done from the lens of what is best and safest for our students and faculty. There are conversations and plans being had as to how to get in front of the messaging to our students as we know that perception is reality. We need to let our students know that we are here, and we want them to be here as well.

I would like to recognize the new Senators that have filled a few vacant positions. I want to thank them for stepping up and being willing to join us in the work of Senate. Chef Stacey will be taking over the remainder of Josh Milligan’s term and will also be serving as our CTE Liaison. We welcome Stacey back to Senate. Counseling and Student Services also had a vacancy, and we welcome Ty Simpson on in the role of Senator. Ty has been part of Senate through Guided Pathways for some time now, but she will now be serving in the role of Senator as well. Thank you both again for your willingness to serve.

We again of a list of faculty being recognized with applause cards at the next board meeting. Both Valley and Crafton are keeping the district busy with cards. The list of faculty for this round include:

- Amy Avelar
- Lucas Cuny
- Sara Gray-Castro
- Rania Hamdy
- Celica Huston
- Mary LawlerX2
- David Smith

Respectfully,

Davena Burns-Peters

Academic Senate President