



SBVC Academic Senate Report

Greetings, esteemed Trustees,

The faculty of SBVC returned to campus a few weeks ago. Our theme this year is *Taking Flight*, and we are doing just that, taking flight. There is excitement in seeing student faces in our classrooms, experiencing full class sections, and readying our selves for the flight we are taking this year. The Academic Senate hopes to bring many positive reports on developments, projects, and achievements that align with the District and our own Mission, Values, and Goals. We will be sure to keep you apprised of opportunities for growth and development as well. We invite you to join us in this journey.

Information to Inform Policy

The Academic Senate and faculty body want to recognize the work the District has done and the support by the Board of Trustees to provide Books+ to our students. We were pleased to be able to share with our students the continuance of this offering through the Spring 2024 semester. The impact of Books+ on student access is undeniable as this program has literally obliterated one of the largest barriers for our students. We recognize this program is costly and likely not sustainable. We also know that the removal of cost for textbooks to our students has also lined the already flush pockets of the publishers, who are responsible for the barrier to students in the first place. The conversations among faculty surround the question of what we do when Books+ comes to an end, because we know there is an end. The answer is in the continuance, ongoing development, and growth of our ZTC Degree Pathways and OER materials.

The faculty of SBVC have been committed to the offering of Open Education Resources for many years with efforts being supported by the faculty body, faculty buy in, and the award of an OER grant in 2016 per the stipulations of the [College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015](#). The campus has continued to champion the need for continued OER offerings. Funding is always a factor in long term institutionalization and forward movement with growth and development. While we, as a campus, have been able to sustain the work initiated and completed under the support of the initial OER and ZTC Grants received. we have faced a few challenges that have limited our ability to realize significant growth.

As you may know, the state has demonstrated their commitment to ZTC and OER and expectations of expansion and growth of such offerings as evidenced by the distribution of a \$20,000.00 planning grant, the distribution of \$180,000.00 for planning, and an opportunity to apply for additional funding for acceleration of the selected project.

San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate and has convened a work group, inclusive of the faculty who were instrumental in the initial ZTC/OER work under the original grants, to create a plan and proposal to take to the present to present to the collegial consultation bodies. This work will continue to be faculty led and student centers.

By now, you may be asking how this impacts policy. The Board and District has practiced the policy of funding Books+ over the past two academic years. While the benefits to students has been significant, we need to continue to support the growth and development of ZTC/OER resources and programs by way of establishing and supporting policies related to this work. ZTC/OER resources are the most sustainable method for removing the barrier of textbook cost for our students. We look forward to providing updates to you over this academic year and to your ongoing support for this work.

Report Date

September
2023

SBVC Academic Senate Report



Actions and/or Updates Related to Goals

- **Eliminate Barriers to Student Access and Success**
- **Be a Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Institution**
- **Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues**
- **Ensure Fiscal Accountability/Stability**

Noteworthy Accomplishments/Activities

- Arts and Humanities held an orientation to inform students of degree options, certificates, and career pathways for majors within the Arts and Humanities Division. Every department had faculty representation. This is work faculty are doing out of passion for their discipline, love of students, and desire to ensure students are informed of pathway options. This was a faculty-led event that supports District Goal 1: Eliminate barriers to student access and success and Goal 4: Ensure fiscal accountability and stability.
- 2023 Art Faculty Show between now and September 28, 2023 at the Gresham Gallery-San Bernardino Valley College for the hours of Monday/Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please stop by and take a look at the work of our talented faculty who share their skills and talents with our students by way of instruction.
- Fall Faculty Recital this Friday, September 15, 2023, at 7:00pm in The Mac (NH 164). This is a free event. Come by and enjoy a night of music provided by our talented faculty.
- San Bernardino is actively involved in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges with five faculty serving on statewide committees:
 - Andrea Hecht: OERI Discipline Lead for Counseling.
 - Ty Simpson
 - Carlos Scalisi: California Virtual Campus Committee
 - Davena Burns-Peters: Accreditation Committee, and Resolutions Committee
 - Jennifer Bjerke: ASCCC OERI - OER Reviewer

Report Date

September
2023

