Provost’s Report

Every two months Provosts from all CSU campuses meet for two days at the Academic Affairs Council Meeting. We will begin the meeting on Tuesday, April 9th with “Lessons Learned from Dealing with Emergency/Crisis Situations on Campus” led by the Provosts whose campuses were affected by the recent fires. We will also have an update from the Chancellor’s Office and the State-Wide Academic Senate chair, as well as a discussion of International and summer programs. All of these topics are of course of interest to our campus. I’ll keep you informed of what I learn.

Academic Senate/Academic Affairs Retreat on GE
At the retreat participants engaged in thoughtful conversations about our GE program and potential future directions. These conversations are continuing as members of the GE Task Force listen to input from departments and programs at meetings scheduled across the campus. The consensus of the conversations in which I participated was that we want our students to learn how to learn. We want to emphasize both the “what” and the “how” of learning (i.e., content and process). We want our graduates to be engaged and educated members of society who will lead meaningful and productive lives. In our ongoing conversations, we will now consider the best ways to reach those outcomes.

Student Success Support
As Provost I have the privilege of attending multiple events where we are congratulating many faculty and students for exceptional service or achievements. On March 11th, I was able to attend the Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) event for faculty members interested in learning about low and no-cost quality course materials options as well as Open Educational Resources (OER). That day we honored the ALS/OER Ambassadors for Fall 2018.

On March 20th we celebrated our Fullerton Finish students as they are about to graduate. The celebration honored students in Fullerton Finish in Four and California Promise who completed their degrees in four years, and our transfer students in Fullerton Finish in Two and California Promise who finished their degrees in two years. It was meaningful to hear the students as they thanked their families, faculty, and advisors for supporting them in reaching their goals.

Another way we are working to support student success is through a focus on eliminating the equity gap. The equity gap in higher education refers to the inequities that lead to lower retention and completion rates among underrepresented, first generation, and lower socio-economic populations. We have discussed the “equity gap” with multiple campus partners who are working on eliminating this gap. As we have examined our data, it is clear that one of the significant ways for us to eliminate this gap is through the retention of our students.

Reaccreditation (WASC Senior College and University Commission)
WASC has appointed a new member for our review team, Dr. Rebecca Hong from Loyola Marymount. She serves as the Senior Director of Educational Effectiveness and Assessment and I know she will do an outstanding job of evaluating our assessment process.
Dr. Sambolin, from Pomona College, another member of our review team will be visiting the Irvine Center on April 25th. We want to convey to him the mission of this location – access for students who live in South County as well as a place for entrepreneurial work located in a key business portion of Orange County. He is also reviewing two online programs through the end of this semester.

In preparation for our reaffirmation of accreditation, Su Swarat, Mark Stohs, and I are visiting divisions, departments, and colleges to review the highlights of the university’s self-study and Institutional Report. We are communicating what our campus members identified as our main strengths, our challenges, and answering any questions.

**WASC Academic Resource Conference**

This week I will join several of our colleagues at the WASC Academic Resource Conference (ARC) April 10 – 12. I want to take this opportunity to shine a spotlight on the faculty, staff, and alumni who are proudly representing our university as presenters in several sessions:

**Supplemental Instruction: A Catalyst for Student Success and Institutional Improvement**
- Trista O’Connell, Assistant Director, Supplemental Instruction Program
- Sean E. Walker, Professor of Biological Science

**Civic Engagement through AAPI Studies: How a Service-Learning Class Empowers Next-Generation Leaders and Activists in the University and Community**
- Jennifer Yee, Associate Professor, Department of Asian American Studies

**Inclusive Vantage Points: Campus Assessment for Students by Students**
- Su Swarat, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

**Offering an Assessment Inquiry Grant to Promote a Culture of Assessment**
- Jyenny Babcock, Associate Director, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness
- Su Swarat, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness
- Doug Swanson, Professor, Department of Communications

**NSSE Data Online Dissemination Tools: Put Both Quantitative & Qualitative Data in Use**
- Su Swarat, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness

**Generation Z Student Self-Assessment in a High-Impact Practice Course**
- Doug Swanson, Professor of Communications
Mechanisms of Institutional Resilience during Leadership Crises
  o  Gerard Beenen, Professor of Management and Department Chair

Strategies for Assessing Oral Communication and Information Literacy
  o  Doug Swanson, Professor of Communications