Provost’s Report

This past week the Statewide Academic Senate General Education Task Force released its report on recommendations for the General Education program in the CSU. The Statewide Senate will determine the next steps for this report. I know that as a campus community we will carefully consider and study this important document. It’s crucial that we are ready for when the Statewide Senate asks for feedback. More importantly, we need to determine what we want for the GE program at CSUF. We need to envision what we want our students to know, what skills and attitudes are part of our signature CSUF education. It is most important that we are proactive in determining the best GE program for Cal State Fullerton students. This is what many colleagues have fought for during the debates on our Senate floor. They have asked us to step back and consider and reimagine our GE program. We will have to have campus-wide conversations that include as many stakeholders as possible, and we need to determine the best course of action to accomplish this goal. We know the Academic Senate Exec Committee in conjunction with Academic Affairs, the GE Task Force and the Academic Senate GE Committee are all considering how best to lead these conversations.

Ensuring that our students get accurate information about our current GE program, the new GE webpage has gone live. It clearly describes the changing GE landscapes and requirements in catalog years spring 2018 and earlier, 2018-2019, and fall 2019 going forward. If students have questions about their GE requirements, they are directed to consult with their team of advisors or an advisor at the Academic Advisement Center.

Student Success Efforts
The Student Success Team retreat on February 8th, jointly sponsored by Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, was well attended by faculty and staff. The participants focused on recognizing and finding solutions to the equity gap. Highlights from that day included a faculty panel with two members from the College of Engineering and Computer Science and one member from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. They spoke about changes in pedagogy to reach all students, the importance of staying on message in terms of the value of education, and the importance of encouragement for the students to do the hard work of learning. Another highlight was a panel of students who shared the barriers they have faced and the motivation they have to succeed. We heard what advisors, staff, faculty and all of us can do to encourage students to reach for their dreams and how not to discourage their goals. We listened to some of the challenges of completing a college education – and we heard this from four extremely resilient and accomplished students.

WSCUC Reaccreditation
Our Institutional Report was submitted to WSCUC on February 14, 2019. The review team (listed on our WSCUC website) will now begin reading the report in preparation for our onsite review on April 30, 2019. The onsite review is a conference call between the WSCUC review team and CSUF WSCUC Steering Committee. After this call, we will publicize to the entire campus the “lines of inquiry” or questions that WSCUC would like us to answer. In addition to this onsite
review, one of the team members from WSCUC will be visiting the Irvine Center as well as reviewing two of our completely online programs. The final portion of our WSCUC reaccreditation review will be the onsite visit October 1-3.

As we work together on these various initiatives, we begin the work of our Strategic Plan (2018 – 2023). When we make progress on our initiatives we provide students with greater opportunities to be successful. I am encouraged every time I hear students tell stories of their college successes. For many of them, it means so much to be the first person in their family to go to college or to be accepted to graduate school or to become a teacher. I am so grateful that I have the privilege of participating in all of this work with you.