

# January 31, 2011

## Dear Mesa College Colleagues:

Welcome back to the Spring 2011 semester. It is good to see the campus busy with faculty and students again and I hope your first week has proceeded smoothly. Certainly, the campus has been exceedingly busy with the highest student enrollment in recent memory and the challenges of construction occurring while the college continues its normal operation. My thanks to everyone for your optimistic spirit and understanding as we address these challenges.

## ENROLLMENT

On opening day, Mesa College was up about 11% overall in headcount and FTES and offering 2,221 class sections (or 243 sections more than last spring). For the 2010-11 as a whole, the projections are that Mesa will earn 7,672 FTES, or 825 FTES (12%) more than our target. For those who like statistics, see the table below.

No. of Class Sections: 2,221; (Increase) 243 (12%)

FTES: 6,988 738; (Increase) 738 (11.8%)

Headcount: 24,127; (Increase) 2,338 (11%)

# of Class Enrollments: 58,969; 6,183

Percent Fill: 87%

Waitlisted Sections: 1,271

Waitlisted Seats: 6,993

## PERSONNEL AND DUTIES CHANGES

Vice President of Student Services Dr. Barbara Kavalier has moved on to San Jose City College, where she was selected to be their new president; the college thanked Barbara at a reception in January. Brian Stockert is currently serving as the Acting VPSS. Announcements for an Interim VPSS (internal) and a permanent VPSS will be posted very shortly.

Dr. Charles Zappia has resigned from his position as Interim Dean, Social & Behavioral Sciences returning to faculty status. My grateful thanks to Charlie for his contributions to his school and the college. Announcements for both an interim dean and a permanent dean are being prepared and will soon be posted.

We have a change in the Mesa Site Compliance Officer (SCO) for the spring semester. Two faculty members will cover the duties: Health Services Director Suzanne Khambata will undertake the informal investigation of discrimination and harassment complaints; Humanities

Professor Sondra Frisch (SCO educator) will undertake the EEO compliance including EEO training and review of screening committee paperwork. Please welcome these two individuals to their role. And my thanks to Professor Donna Duchow for her work as Mesa's SCO for the past two and a half years. Also Dr. Jill Baker, Dean of Business and Technology, will serve on the SDCCD EEO Committee together with continuing classified staff member Joyce Skaryak.

Art History Professor Denise Rogers is stepping up as the chair this spring of the Mesa Diversity Committee. Denise's continuing role as Humanities Institute Coordinator may facilitate some additional collaborations between these two committees.

Three faculty members were selected for the spring accreditation compliance activities: Physical Education Professor Ed Helscher and Chemistry Professor Dr. Saloua Saidane for Student Learning Outcomes, and History Professor Dr. Donald Abbott for Strategic Planning. I am grateful to these individuals for taking on these important roles.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF FORUM**

My thanks to those of you who attended the forums (fora?). The power points and handouts are posted on the web at <http://www.sdmesa.edu/president/cabinet.cfm> under 2011 Spring Forum. Documents include:

Strategic Plan \* Environmental Scan 2010-2011

Proposed Key Performance Indicators/Objectives

SDMC Integrated Planning (Proposed)

President's Forum Presentation on January 14 & 21

2011 Campus Safety Presentation

Mental Health Presentation

Student Learning Outcomes Presentation

A major focus of the forum was our progress towards meeting accreditation recommendations in two areas: Strategic Planning and SLOs. The first three documents, developed and presented by the Strategic Planning Committee, are for review by Mesa's participatory governance groups during the next month. The fourth is the forum power point that describes the context of these three documents. The input collected during the governance discussions will be reviewed at the March 4th President's Cabinet Retreat.

The seventh document on SLOs describes the processes being used to address the SLO recommendation and was presented by Ed Helscher and Saloua Saidane.

The other main focus of the forum was campus safety and mental health resources (documents 5 and 6).

If you were not able to attend the forum, please take a few minutes to access the website and review these documents.

## **BUDGET REALITIES**

With a new California governor and state legislators, the political and economic environment for California Community Colleges has come into sharp focus through the twin realities of budget and student success. The governor proposes to address the \$24.5 billion budget gap through a combination of reductions and proposed tax extensions. The community college reductions (\$400 M plus an additional \$110 million through student fee increases) are known, although the mechanism by which they will be achieved is still in discussion. If the tax extension is not approved in June (or not even placed before voters), then the reductions would double in size with consequences that are hard to comprehend. Concurrent with the budget debate is discussion of our mission, student success, retention, equity, and similar important matters – change is certainly on the horizon. We are fortunate to have Mesa’s Academic Senate President Cynthia Rico Bravo serving on the statewide Student Success Task Force – she will serve as a strong advocate for students and faculty. Cynthia and I will bring updates to President’s Cabinet on a regular basis to keep the college informed.

My best wishes to you all for a successful Spring Semester!

Liz

**Elizabeth Armstrong**

**Interim President**

San Diego Mesa College

7250 Mesa College Drive

San Diego, CA 92111-4998

Ph: 619-388-2721

Fax: 619-388-2929

earmstro@sdccd.edu

www.sdmesa.edu