

October 28, 2009

"The Times They Are a-Changin'"—Bob Dylan 1964

I remember the earlier President's Update messages I wrote and noticed that I used to start these communications with an inspirational quotation based on the classics steeped in universal wisdom. But the "Times They Are a-Changin'" and this morning I thought I would begin by embedding a link that is mind altering to say the least. Some of you may have seen it before, if so, just share with someone else. It is called "Did You Know."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMcfrLYDm2U>

We have Vision, Mission, Values, Strategic Planning Linked to Resource Allocation

Accreditation Team Visitors - we're ready for you. Good things are worth waiting for and worth arguing about (ok, discussing). This kind of energy and involvement simply means we care about the final outcome and, while the road has been long, we now can take the first step in testing the structure we have established linking planning to budgeting.

For those of you who may not have been following the story as closely, here is a little background. San Diego Mesa College has always had excellent accreditation visits and the outcome of each visit has been a reaffirmation of our work. Nevertheless, in the last two visits, there have been recommendations for improvement and one of these focused on our need to streamline our strategic planning process and to link this process to the resource allocation decisions we made as a college. The visiting accreditation team said, in fact, that Mesa had many planning venues but these were not clearly connected to one another.

Nearly six years ago, we began our work to address this particular recommendation. The topic was discussed and addressed at nearly all of the President's Cabinet annual retreats and we continued to make changes until we felt we had it right. The first major change was the streamlining of our Vision, Mission and Values statement followed by the design of an integrated planning process and ultimately the addition of a Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) that closed the loop on our ability to demonstrate the link between planning and resource allocation. Yesterday (10/27/09) in President's Cabinet, we finally adopted the full package and we are now ready to pilot our work.

For ease of reference, I have provided links to the [Vision, Mission, Values Statement](#) (adopted by San Diego Mesa College but yet to be approved by our Board of Trustees), the [Strategic Planning Model](#), and the [Resource Allocation Committee](#) material.

Banner Day for President's Cabinet

President's Cabinet also reviewed the final draft of our Program Review Handbook, which is a very especial piece because it is the first document of its kind to include measurable outcomes for Instruction, Student Services, and Administrative Services. Why is this important? Because most colleges include instruction in their program reviews, a few more include student services,

but very few include administrative services. Kudos to all who helped to develop this document especially the Committee Co-Chairs: Yvonne Bergland, Rob Fremland, Monica Romero, Kathleen Wells, and Susan Mun. Special commendations to Ron Perez and his staff for their willingness to go where no VPA had gone before as they tackled the task of bringing the program review process to their area of work. Great Job!

Participatory Governance

A couple of weeks ago, I joined Chancellor Carroll, Anthony Beebe, Terry Burgess, and Patricia Hsieh in a daylong set of presentations designed as part of the curriculum for the SDCCD's Management Intensive Training Program. I was assigned the presentation on "Participatory Governance." I revised and updated a PowerPoint presentation I had used in the past, and since then I have had occasion to go over the material twice more - including a brief presentation at President's Cabinet. Since then, I have received requests for a copy of the PowerPoint and, as such, I have provided a link to the [presentation here](#). It is important to note that other than the sequencing and ordering of the slides, none of it is original material – the credit goes to the individuals referenced at the end of the presentation. I hope you find it useful.

Mesa's and the Surrounding Community

As president, I have the privilege of receiving information from many corners of the campus. I often marvel how much can happen in one week while knowing full well that there are many other activities and accomplishments that may go unnoticed. The material I have gathered below represents what I know to be the tip of the iceberg and I know you will be most impressed about the breadth and depth of our work as an institution of higher education that influences the community well beyond the campus footprint.

San Diego Science Festival 2010: The Science of Us

San Diego Mesa College participated in last year's festival, it proved to be a foundational event for the Science Festival in general and a distinguishing marker for Mesa College as a leader in science and technology education.

In fact, the organizers of last year's event, Jeremy Babendure, Ph.D. UCSD, and Loren Thompson, Vice Chancellor, UCSD, were tremendously impressed by Mesa's participation. Our booths were among the most popular, particularly for young persons and for entire families. Our Psychology, Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics faculty deserve star billing for their efforts that day but, most important of all, for their affability and ability to connect with future young scientists.

Jaye Van Kirk has already made initial contact for this year's Science Festival and San Diego Mesa College is one of the most popular participants on the list for organizers of the 2010 event. Finally, it is important to note that success of the inaugural event has led to a multimillion-dollar grant from NSF to expand the festival to other parts of the U.S. It is now the "USA Science and Engineering Festival" and will now be expanded to other regions including: Boston (MIT/Harvard), Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.

<http://usasciencefestival.org/>

In Memoriam

Israel T. Cosio (“I.T.”) Member of the staff of the San Diego Community College District since 1973 and Director of the San Diego Mesa College Placement Office/Career Center from 1990 until his retirement in 1994.

California Association on Postsecondary Education and Disabilities (CAPED)

At the recent CAPED Conference in San Diego, two of Mesa’s finest and brightest were recognized for their outstanding work.

Professor Jill Baker received the CAPED Teacher of the Year Award that recognizes an outstanding faculty member (outside of DSP&S) who has made a significant contribution to the educational needs of the disabled learner in the classroom. Specifically, Jill was recognized for her work on accessible instructional materials and classroom technology.

Professor Jill Jansen received the CAPED Recognition Award that identifies outstanding achievement and contribution on the part of a CAPED member to the field of education for students with disabilities. Jill developed an intern model for future learning disability specialists.

I say that the Jills Have It!

Judith Baca Chicana Muralist Honors Mesa

Kudos to Professor Alessandra Moctezuma who, in collaboration with the Chicano Studies Department and the Humanities institute, succeeded in their efforts to bring Judith Baca to the San Diego Mesa College Art Gallery. Judith Baca is an internationally renowned Chicana muralist and her mural, La Memoria de Nuestra Tierra: Colorado 2000 (The Memory of Our Land,) filled 25 feet of the gallery walls. The Exhibit is currently on display through November 12, 2009.

Judith Baca has given birth to new genres in art and has developed extremely original concepts for viewing the work of muralists. Baca is the co-founder of SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center) a community arts organization in Venice, CA. In 1976, she embarked on the monumental project of the Great Wall, a half-mile long mural painted in the L.A. river flood control channel in the San Fernando Valley, CA.

Also on display at the Mesa Art Gallery are large-scale paintings for the Cesar Chavez monument: Arch of Dignity, Equality and Justice, which was completed at San Jose State University last year. Judith Baca’s public art always focuses on the struggle of people for their rights and affirms the ties of each community to their home. She speaks of “co-creating” art with the community and in this manner something great emerges which she calls “sites of public memory.”

View the artist's work at <http://www.judybaca.com> or <http://www.sparemurals.org>

Student's Voice—Vibrant, Talented and Powerful

At the October 23-24, 2009 Annual Southern California Regional Conference of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges, our student newspaper, the Mesa Press, earned four awards.

Co-editor in Chief Sarah Swasey was awarded first place in the on-the-spot News Writing competition. Professor Janna Braun, noted, "This is the first time a Mesa Press staff member has earned first place in any JACC on-the-spot writing competition."

Other awards earned by Mesa Press staff members include a second award for Sarah Swasey in the News Writing category, Brittany Wiczek received Honorable Mention for Editorial Writing, and BJ Grieve received Honorable Mention for Column Writing.

Under any circumstances these achievements are considered magnificent, but all the more so when we note that there had been a break in the publication of the Mesa Press. Special commendations to Professor Janna Braun, advisory to the Mesa Press, who is in large part responsible for re-starting the paper just four years ago.

The Mesa Press is currently edited by Sarah Swasey, Brook Dailey, and Danny West.