



College Update
August 24, 2015

Happy First Day of Classes!

Our campuses have returned to life. Students have worked with advisors to select course schedules and orientation sessions have prepared them for today. While enrollment numbers are lagging, we do not yet have a clear picture of the impact of this shortfall. At last report, we had an FTE enrollment of 475, compared to 530 on a day-to-day look back. Last fall, the final FTE enrollment was reported at 609. There is still time to attain higher numbers, as students were continuing to arrive late last week. In addition, many concurrent enrollment students have not yet completed registration. Once fall numbers have settled, we plan to share them with you.

As you may recall, Trinidad State proposed a Quality Initiative to the Higher Learning Commission in May 2013 entitled *Integrated Strategic Planning: Redefining the Institution through Data-Informed Decision-Making*. Last Friday, we submitted a final report on this project. A review panel will determine whether we undertook this project with genuine effort. We believe we were successful, in spite of the budget difficulties navigated over the past two years. The report is readily available to you.

Last spring, we began addressing several faculty compensation issues, including overload pay. As you may recall, we discovered that compensation for additional work was being handled by four different methodologies, depending on discipline and campus. A more uniform overload proposal was developed and presented to College Council late last spring, with a commitment to finalize in the fall. Last Friday, Faculty Senate invited me to meet with them for clarification and discussion. Several issues with the proposed procedure were identified and a faculty committee was assembled for further discussion. They will report recommendations to the Faculty Senate for consideration by the College Council later this semester.

As you know, we are gathering nominations for College Council positions this week. Ten seats are available, distributed among our three employee groups. Please consider serving Trinidad State in this capacity. Ballots have been distributed to campus mailboxes and are due by Friday.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great week!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President