



College Update
November 30, 2015

Happy Monday!

One week to go until our Higher Learning Commission site visit. Just before Thanksgiving, we received word that one of the five assigned team members will likely be unable to travel next week. Fortunately, the remaining members still feel that they can complete a thorough review. We have received a preliminary schedule, which includes one area of focus chosen by the team – the TSJC budget. While they will evaluate many other activities, including assessment and credentialing, they plan to pay particular attention to finances. We are well-prepared for this analysis.

Both College Council and Management Council meet this week. On Monday, College Council will hear second readings of the new Faculty Handbook and the new Faculty Credentials Handbook. Kathy Carpenter, Faculty Senate President, has been invited to join regular faculty representatives David Barrack, John Gilmore, Angie Medina, and Diamond Mobbley for the discussion. The Faculty Handbook review is complicated, as the document contains several updated procedures covering topics ranging from credentials and development to evaluations and compensation. On Thursday, Management Council will meet for the fourth and final time this fall. This is a monthly gathering of Deans and Directors meant to provide a venue for updates and information-sharing.

Spring registration goals have been set and the thermometers are up. Student headcounts this term are 442 (Valley) and 605 (Trinidad), so goals of registering 300 (Valley) and 400 (Trinidad) students seem reasonable. We are proactively encouraging students to plan ahead – thank you in advance for assisting them. Meeting these enrollment goals will result in a reward for our students.

Please know that we are continuing to explore alternatives to the virtual model currently in place for our bookstores. Last week, the Leadership team was joined by Louie Mantelli, Josh Jones, Kathy Mrace and Gillian Hart in a preliminary visit with a Follett Bookstore representative. Several of our questions were answered and it was interesting to hear about the services that could be provided by this company. Please continue to share your thoughts and concerns regarding the bookstores with us. Ultimately, our goal is to better serve our students, whether it is by improved services from eCampus or through an alternative approach.

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 black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President