



COLLEGE OF MARIN

ACADEMIC SENATE

December 2008

TIS THE SEASON TO BE THANKFUL

We wish to thank all of you who participated in this year's **Program Reviews**. The Program Review Committee will be inventorying the templates and calling on those of you who submitted reviews. Committee members will provide you with feedback about your reviews and solicit suggestions for improving the program review template.

Thank you to the **Governance Committee** members who will take program reviews, develop rubrics for ranking program needs, and rank programs. The Budget Committee will receive IPC recommendations in February and build budget recommendations. Budget will also be working on long-term budget planning, especially for such ongoing needs as technology replacement.

Thank you to **Dong Nguyen, Derek Wilson, and Sara McKinnon** who will take all the committee rankings and make them available on the template site. They will also include the Budget Committee recommendations.

Thank you to the **Educational Planning Committee** for overseeing the writing and editing of the Education Master Plan. WASC asked the committee to have a draft by December and they have met the deadline. The committee has made electronic copies of the drafts available and solicited feedback from the college community. This will be ongoing through March.

Thank you to the **Gold Book Task Force** for cheerfully plowing through one of the most dismal jobs on campus – the careful updating and rewriting of our policies and procedures, which in some cases haven't been updated since the mid-eighties and it's clear why: pouring over legal language is no fun. Our new manual will be automated and numbered according to a state-wide system that will make for quick updating as the laws and regulations change.

Thank you to the unsung heroes from the Academic Senate's **Curriculum Committee** who have updated and automated our Course Outline of Record form, helped us through program review, and taken our course changes at our desperate, last-minute pleading and turned them around in a timely fashion. Curriculum Committee members put a tremendous amount of work into helping us maintain our high professional standards.

Thank you to the Senate's **Academic Standards Committee** members for their work with and for students; to the **Staff Development Committee** for helping us craft faculty development priorities that fit our college goals; and to **DETAL** for seeing us through a transition to new requirements for distance education.

Thank you to all the **part time faculty** members who participate in governance and Senate committees, student activities, and union-related work. We know how valuable your time is and that you choose to give to the college out of a commitment to your profession and to students. We all benefit from your participation and it is greatly appreciated.

And above all, in this season to be grateful, thank you to the best and most fun worker bee of all, our own **Carol Adair** who has served as Senate secretary for the past year and is retiring at the end of this semester. Thank you, Carol for sharing your time with us. We have been honored by your presence.

Yolanda Bellisimo
President, Academic Senate

CALENDARS FROM OTHER BAY AREA SCHOOLS

When we wrote the compressed calendar survey, we thought that COM would be more in line with other schools if we had a compressed calendar. As it turns out, our current start date is similar to most other schools. Out of 75 K-12 school districts and colleges around us, only nine of them start after Labor Day and none of those schools are in Marin County.

Here is a summary for fall 2008:

Marin County K-12 Schools

- The opening day for students occurred sometime between August 20 and August 28 for all eighteen (18) school districts

Sonoma County K-12 Schools

- The opening day for students occurred sometime between August 12 and August 27 for 35 school districts
- Four districts began in September including Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified and Oak Grove Union (September 2), Geyserville Unified (September 3), Kenwood (Sept. 4)

Alameda County K-12 Schools

- The opening day for students occurred sometime between August 19 and August 27 for fourteen (14) school districts
- Four districts began in September including Alameda and Newark (Sept. 2), Emery and Fremont (Sept. 3)

UC Berkeley

- First day of instruction was August 21

UC Davis

- First day of instruction was September 22 (Davis is on quarters)

Sonoma State University

- First day of instruction was August 26

San Francisco State University

- First day of instruction was August 25

San Jose State University

- First day of instruction was August 25

University of San Francisco

- First day of instruction was August 28

San Francisco City College

- First day of instruction was August 18

Robert Kennedy compiled the results of the Compressed Calendar Survey and the Senate reviewed them at its December 4th meeting. The results are included on the final page of this news letter.

Thank you to Becky Reetz from our Tutoring Center, who sent us copies of the 2008/2009 local school calendars.

FACULTY ALERT: CLASS SIZE

We want to alert you to some problems we have experienced as a result of conversion to Banner. By viewing your courses on Banner, you will see a course enrollment figure that sets the class maximum. You can also view enrollment, empty seats, and waitlists for specific courses. We highly recommend that you review these data for all of your courses.

Apparently in the Fall 08 semester, some class sizes were set as a default of 60 for lecture courses in rooms that will only seat 20 to 24. In addition, some lab classes had maximums set at 30 or 40 when the lab can only accommodate 24 or less.

We have also had at least one instance of a course maximum set at 0, meaning no students were allowed to register as the class was showing up as filled (with zero students).

Please check your courses and report any problems to Admissions and Records.

Who killed our Liberal Arts Degrees and what can we do about it?

The State's System Office has informed the community colleges that some Liberal Arts Degrees are out of compliance with revisions to Title 5, mainly because these degrees do not designate a specific discipline, or core of courses, and instead allow students to pick and choose from several unrelated areas of study in order to fulfill the degree requirements while also fulfilling general education requirements for transfer. Other degrees lacked sufficient minimum unit requirements and the Transfer Degree has simply been scrapped by the state and can only be offered as a certificate of achievement.

Many schools, in reading the Title 5 update, expected their degrees would remain in compliance (including us) and did not make changes to them. As a result, many schools were caught off guard. We were informed in Fall 07 that out-of-compliance degrees would be eliminated at exactly the same time we were put on probation by WASC. We chose to focus on our WASC problems but, along with other colleges, we did complain about the short time given to make revisions. The System Office took pity and allowed us until Fall 09 before dropping the out-of-compliance degrees. The System Office has also prepared a fast-track short form to expedite the process for reapplication and approval.

In order to continue offering our threatened degrees we must revise and resubmit them without the open list of courses that traditionally fulfilled the degree requirements. Or, as the vice Chancellor put it: "...an associate degree cannot consist of CSU breadth, IGETC, or the local GE pattern with the remaining units in other general education courses or electives, selected at the student's discretion." Degrees must now identify a specific core of courses as options.

Research data gathered and analyzed by Academic Senate member Robert Kennedy show that 60% of the degrees granted at COM are non-vocational and of those, 90% of degrees granted no longer comply with Title 5 requirements. In other words, 90% of the non-vocational students who received degrees in 07/08 would not be able to receive those same degrees in 09/10 unless we get them re-certified. If we don't, we can consider holding graduation in one of the Math & Science building faculty offices, which, as you know, have a maximum occupancy of 1.5 people.

Currently, the following degrees are out of compliance and will no longer be available as of Fall 2009 if they are not revised and approved:

- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Social Science
- University Transfer
- Modern Languages
- Natural Science
- Physical Science
- Behavioral Science

These degrees are not listed in the 08/09 catalog so that new students will not be misled into thinking they are still available. However, students who started these degrees in the last academic year will be allowed to complete them in this academic year.

The Senate, OIM, the Curriculum Committee, and the chairs of the affected departments are in the process of developing degrees that will comply with Title 5. We are modeling these after degrees from other community colleges that have already been approved by the System Office. This will assure a fast turnaround and give us the opportunity to offer these degrees by Fall 2009.

For a full copy of Robert Kennedy's report on "Liberal Arts Degrees Problems and Solutions" please visit the Academic Senate web site at: <http://www.marin.edu/senate/index.html>.

COMPRESSED CALENDAR SURVEY RESULTS

Surveys were mailed to all full and part time faculty with teaching contracts in Fall Semester 2008, which is approximately 500 faculty. There were 54 respondents. We asked the question, "When should COM go to a compressed calendar?" with four possible answers including: 2012, 20__, Immediately, Never. Answers were tracked according to disciplines taught if that information was provided. The results are as follows.

Department	2010	2012	Immediately	Never	No Response	Grand Total
Foreign Lang.		2	2	1	1	6
Life Sciences		2	1	2		5
Art			3		1	4
English	1		2	1		4
Communications	1		2	1		4
BIS			2		1	3
Social Science		1		2		3
Music			1	1		2
Physical Science			1		1	2
Nursing			1	1		2
ESL				2		2
Mathematics	1			1		2
PE			1	1		2
ECE				1		1
Auto	1					1
Court Reporting		1				1
Real Estate				1		1
Credit ESL				1		1
Non Credit ESL					1	1
DSPS		1				1
Admin of Justice				1		1
Humanities			1			1
No Discipline			2	2		4
Grand Total	4	7	19	19	5	54

Assuming that a 10% return rate is reflective of the full faculty, this tells us that a majority think we should move to compressed calendar sometime between now and 2012. The return rate tells us that there is a certain level of ambivalence within the faculty (54/500), while the range of selected options within some departments suggests there is not always department-level agreement. In most schools it is the predominately lecture-based disciplines that support compressed calendar and the disciplines dependent upon labs and studios that do not. This does not seem to be the case at COM. According to our survey, there is much support for compressed calendar among the lab and studio dependent disciplines.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the survey! This and other information gleaned from the survey will help us as we prepare for the transition to compressed calendar.

If you wish to review the full survey results, please go to the Academic Senate web site at: <http://www.marin.edu/senate/index.html>.