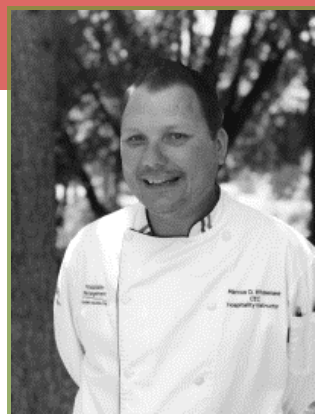


Columbia College

Academic Senate

# Newsletter

November 2023



## President's Report

Greetings Columbia College Family. It has been a busy semester and I can't believe we are approaching finals.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges held the Spring Plenary on November 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. I attended virtually and had the honor of being our faculty voice. Attached are the [resolutions](#) that passed the session. I will

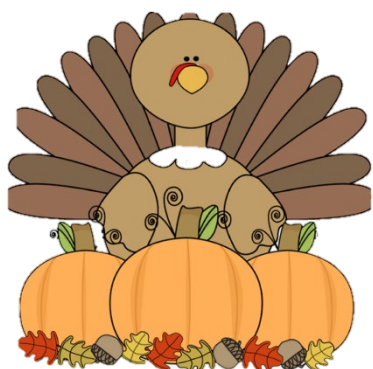
be highlighting the resolutions at our next Academic Senate meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> but in the meantime, I encourage Faculty members to look them over and if something catches your eye, let me know.

Election Chair Lahna VonEpps has sent out ballots for spring positions, please check your email and vote. I would like to encourage all Faculty members to step out of their comfort zone and be a part of the bigger picture. I also encourage Faculty members to attend the Academic Senate meetings in which our business is conducted. You have a voice!!

President-Elect Eric Andal is leading the charge of having the Academic Senate and the Classified Senate work closely together. I'm looking forward to the projects that are in the works.

Happy Holiday!!

Submitted by,  
Marcus Whisenant



### Academic Senate Executive Team

#### President

Marcus Whisenant

#### Vice President/President Elect

Erik Andal

#### Past President

Lahna Von Epps

#### Curriculum Chair

Alicia Kolstad

#### Representative-at-Large for College Council

Vanessa Muro-Marai

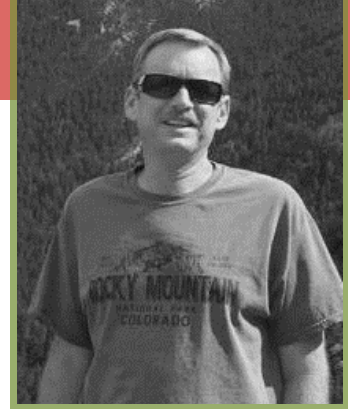
#### Part Time Faculty Representative

Shannon Van Zant

#### YFA Member-at-Large/College Council Representative

Pam Guerra-Schmidt

## Vice President's Report



### **The Brown Act – Spring, 2024 and Forward**

At our last Senate meeting we discussed the Brown Act and the Senate's requirement to hold meetings in person, beginning January 1st. I've since had some questions from faculty concerning these 'new' rules. So, here's a recap:

The "Classic" (pre-Covid) Brown Act provision allowed for remote teleconferencing. And because the Classic Brown Act still applies, "A" member can join the meeting remotely so long as 1. That remote location is published in the agenda, 2. The remote location is open for the public to join the meeting, and 3. That member does not join remotely for more than 20% of the meetings in a calendar year.

The only real change, starting in January, is one additional option: if "A" member wants to join remotely and has a justifiable reason (caring for a family member, sick, traveling on district business, etc.), that remote location need not be published in the agenda and that location need not be open to the public. While the Senate meetings will need to be scheduled for in-person, faculty may remotely join those meetings for up to 20% of the calendar meetings.

### **VPI**

Our VPI office has experienced some irregularities in terms of having a VPI. As we know, Brian Sanders is currently our (permanent) VPI. However, he was assigned as MJC's interim VPI and he remains in that position today. To fill his spot, Raelene stepped up as our interim VPI. But Raelene is currently on leave. Dr. Tran chose to fill the VPI vacancy by assigning those tasks to Melissa Raby, as an additional duty. But that doesn't seem like a prudent move, IMO. The VPI on any campus is arguably one of the most important positions. The VPI ensures compliance with many Title V mandates, oversees enrollment management, serves as the district officer for our curriculum issues, and many more very vital tasks. VPI duties can't be effectively accomplished as additional duties.

Brian Sanders is a finalist for the president position at Woodland Community College and also MJC. If he becomes a president at one of those colleges, or does not get one of those positions and decides not to return to Columbia College, we need to work with administration to get the search going for a permanent VPI quickly!

Submitted by,  
Erik Andal



## Curriculum Chair Report



The Curriculum Committee continues to move forward with implementation and operationalization of multiple legislative modifications to California Educational Code. A big thanks to all the members of the Committee for their commitment to the well-being of the college's curriculum.

- The Academic Senate approved the Columbia College Philosophy and Criteria for Associate in Science and Associate in Arts Degrees and General Education at the November 17, 2023 Academic Senate meeting.
  - Area E will no longer be a part of CCGE
- In addition, our Noncredit Coursework and Certificates of Competency and Completion Requirements for the 2024-2025 Catalog were approved.
- Columbia College's guiding principles for Activity Units were also approved. Activity units at Columbia will be referred to as "Lab with Homework (Activity) Units".
- New courses were assigned to appropriate disciplines in the following areas: Ethnic Studies, Music, Geography and Guidance.
- Columbia's Baccalaureate Degree Proposal in Cooperative Land Stewardship was denied approval by the CCC Chancellors Office on 10/13/23 however, administration plans to resubmit in January.
- In Spring 2024 the Curriculum Committee will be reviewing curriculum developed by MJC faculty working on stipends resulting from a grant award related to Health Career Education. Administration informs us that we will be offering a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Skills Attainment Certificate as well as a Medical Assistant (MA) Certificate of Achievement. Columbia College does not currently employ any qualified discipline faculty in Medical or Health Career Education which is why MJC faculty will develop the curriculum. Administration is going after grants in areas that we do not have fulltime faculty. Full-time faculty were not requested in the College Outlook.
- The Academic Senate approved waiving the Academic Senate bylaws to include all full-time faculty members as eligible to serve as Curriculum Chair for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- SLOPR Coordinator position on Curriculum Committee updated to SLO Coordinator to reflect changes to the SLO MOU .
- Title 5 (55250 et seq) has been updated with regards to Work Experience. This will require modification on all Work Experience classes in all disciplines. The Curriculum Committee is seeking to coordinate with administration on the appropriate course of action for these modifications and alignment with board policy.

Submitted by,  
Alicia Kolstad-Curriculum Chair





As we are starting to get the hang of this TLC thing, we have determined that we need a good process for proposals, especially when it comes to our grant funding and stipends for professional development. We want to be transparent, in line with YFA, and also be able to maximize the faculty, staff, and student benefit from this grant funding while we have it! So, we'll be working on that, but don't let that hinder you from bringing your great ideas forward. Watch for some professional development workshop invitations in the spring, as well as more and different types of speaker series events based on your suggestions. Keep your ideas coming – we have funding for Teaching Test Kitchen Labs (TTKL), Ethnic Studies curriculum development, ZTC (zero/low-cost textbooks), the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Grant, and maybe others that could be used to fund your ideas for professional development.

## Teaching, Learning, and Community

We are SOOOO excited to host our first (of more?) TLC Teaching and Learning Summit, Feb 29 & March 1 featuring Dr. Sandra McGuire (renowned speaker and author of Teach Yourself to Learn), as part of our Speaker Series. We will also have some fun lunches book club style in preparation for the Summit, and a possible TTKL opportunity for integrating these strategies into your teaching pedagogy. We have started a planning group (meeting on Monday afternoons if you are interested in joining – let us know), but in the meantime save the date! More details coming soon!

We have a couple faculty members taking advantage of our Peer Observation Pool (POP) this year, so you may get lucky and asked to be observed. Remember, this is not part of our formal evaluation process, but an incentivized way to learn from amazing colleagues that can help you do your work better, in our own disciplines and outside of them. You can POP, too! Learn more and find the application [here](#).

Ashli Bumgardner, DE Coordinator, has been diligently working on bringing us demo opportunities for Simple Syllabus so we all can weigh in on the important decision of whether or not to implement this digital syllabus tool. If we do this... it will be for ALL faculty and class syllabi, so your feedback is important. We have been given the green light on financing, so now it's up to faculty to make a deciding vote before the end of the term (hopefully at our upcoming Senate meeting). Please contact [Ashli](#) if you have any questions.

Thanks to Stephanie Beaver-Guzman for bringing our Native Voices event to campus- it was a powerful evening and well attended- what a great event for our community to come and learn together. We are also in the planning stages of Spring term's Professional Development Day (formerly known as Flex) and hope to see you all there. We'll be sending out an invitation with the agenda once we get it nailed down so you can see how cool it will be 😊. And... I'm excited that Daniel wants to keep going with me on this crazy train for next year – remember to vote for our Academic Senate positions to lock him in, lol!

Submitted by,  
Kirsten Miller



**When you think of professional development... think TLC!**



## Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Finance Committee, and Cultural Enrichment Committee



### **Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC)**

The November Institutional Effectiveness Committee meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will take place on 12/4 from 3:00-4:30. Topics include updates on Accreditation/ISER, Teaching Learning and Community (TLC), an enrollment snapshot, and a discussion about the findings from the Governance Survey completed during spring 2023. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns about institutional effectiveness, let us know! I am one of the current tri-chairs and Kirsten Miller and Jim Retemeyer also serve as faculty reps on the Council.

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee will hold its first meeting of the semester on 12/11 under the leadership of Kristina Godinez who is the new Senior Director of Administrative Services. If you have questions or concerns regarding the College's finances, please share them with me or Dr. Stephanie Beaver-Guzman and we will bring them forward. We'll have more to report after the first meeting!

### **Cultural Enrichment Committee**

The Cultural Enrichment Committee (CEC) has met twice this semester (last Wednesday of the month from 3:00-4:00 Buckeye 104). We are very proud to have supported the 5th Native Voices event on 11/16. Thank you to Dr. Stephanie Beaver-Guzman for her continued leadership in bringing Native issues and voices to the forefront on our campus. We are already holding the date for La Fiesta on 10/5/2024! Thank you to Vanessa Muro-Marai for her leadership of this event.

The group has updated the website to include the new mission statement. We are really pleased to have Ashley Escalera joining us as a student representative. Keep an eye out for cultural enrichment displays and activities around campus and a multi-cultural day in the spring semester. If you have ideas about supporting cultural enrichment on campus, please reach out to me.

Submitted by  
Adrienne Seegers



## Distance Education Committee

The Distance Education Committee held its third meeting of the 2023-2024 school year on November 17th. Below are some highlights of our current work.

- We've been working on growing the representation on our committee, and we're glad to have representation from faculty, staff, and students!
- Efforts from the DE Committee and TLC have moved us forward to demo sessions for Simple Syllabus. We're hosting these open sessions for faculty, staff, deans, and management to try out Simple Syllabus and give feedback. These open sessions occurred November 21, 12-1 pm and 3-4 pm, November 28, 10:30-11:30 am, and November 30, 10-11 am. Feedback from these sessions will be taken to the Academic Senate Executive Team December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- During our workgroup session for the DE Faculty Handbook, we came up with an idea to create a document that includes best practices for regular and substantive interaction as a standalone resource for faculty. A small workgroup of 3 will be creating this document to share back with the committee.
- Thank you to Tamara Oxford for attention to a request for a Mental Health Syllabus Statement! We will be requesting placement of this statement in the Faculty Hub in Canvas.
- We discussed availability of proctoring tools and have decided to look into pricing for Proctorio. This could be a helpful tool for online courses that need proctored exams.
- We started brainstorming ideas for Spring 2023 Professional Development and plan to finalize those plans after our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Submitted by,  
Ashli Bumgardner



## Part-time Faculty Representative Report

No report this month



## Technology Committee

The Technology Committee met on November 16.

- Some Committee members have shifted since the last meeting in the spring; consequently, all participants were introduced. Brook Crouse, Executive Secretary of Student Services conducted the meeting.
- Jeff Swank reported on the issues with the Oak Pavilion sound system which was installed incorrectly, and now is being assessed and problem solved.
- Martin Kjaer led a discussion about charging students for nonreturn of laptops. Suggested fees would be \$150 for old laptops, \$450 for new ones, and an undisclosed amount for the high-end laptops.
- Martin encouraged anyone interested in replacing old computers for their department, to get a quote from our IT. Current money for replacement of computers will not be like it was during Covid. Purchasing computers will be a department-by-department decision pending available funding.
- Ryan Brady announced that New Firewalls have been installed across the District providing greater protection for the network. Eventually Columbia will be getting new desk phones.
- A discussion about MFA (multifactor authentication) took place. All colleges that receive federal money, (like Pell Grants) are required to implement MFAs. There is currently the ability to sign up for MFA via the IT Service Portal for those who wish to participate in a soft roll out.
- Joe Macklin announced that they are now working on the CVC-OEI (California Virtual College-Online Educational Initiative) which will allow Columbia College to become a teaching college for Distance Education. That could occur sometime in the spring semester.



Submitted by,  
Kath Christensen



## Academic Senate Representative at-Large Report

College Council Report:

- College store: vending machines in progress
- Spring Marketing: Marketing will reach to Oakdale, with postcards mailed out. Request to look into adding Waterford area for marketing.
- Holiday Celebration: 12/6: 11:30-1pm, ugly sweater contest for staff and student leaders
- K16: Secured for \$18.1 million

I wish you all good health, quality time with loved ones, and joy as we approach the holiday seasons.

Be well friends, see you in the next year!

Submitted by,  
Vanessa Muro-Marai



Ofrenda

## STUDENTS HAVING FUN!



Student Trustee, Alyssa Rae Samaripa being sworn in by Chancellor Young

## Faulty Getting Involved and Having Fun!



Child Development Event!







**December 6**  
**December 7**  
**December 8**

**Employee Holiday Lunch**  
**Cram Night (4-8pm)**  
**Academic Senate Meeting**

**January 11**  
**January 26**

**Academic Senate In-service Meeting**  
**Academic Senate Meeting**

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### **Faculty Birthdays**

Tom Hofstra  
Joe Manlove  
Ruth Macneille  
Tom Johnson  
Adrienne Seegers  
Colin Thomas  
Tim Elizondo  
Jesse Ray

December 9  
December 11  
December 13  
December 17  
December 23  
December 26  
December 29  
December 29

Rebekah Rogers  
Erik Andal  
Nate Rien  
Don Dickinson

January 2  
January 5  
January 11  
January 19

