

Brief report on the Senate for Fall 2010

1. The senate set goals for the year –
 - **Goal 1:** Review the Strategic Plan implementation process to verify that the role of Academic Senate is clear and that the process chart properly captures that role.
 - **Goal 2:** Revise the by-laws to change the 2-year term for Norco Academic Senate Officers to 3-year terms.
 - **Goal 3:** Review the Educational Master Plan and make recommendations to the NSPC.
 - **Goal 4:** Facilitate transition of program review from district to local college. This transition will include forming a Program Review Committee and integrating the revised program review process into strategic planning.

2. Norco Assessment committee formed at the end of last year. Over the fall the committee has met and formulated tentative plans for assessing programs. The senate will be reviewing these plans at our meeting on Monday.

3. Several important issues for this fall remain unresolved.
 - Retreat rights put on hold till the spring.
 - Review of the decision to adopt Blackboard 9.1, after contrary recommendation for the IT Audit group. The online advisory committee started the whole process on the assumption that open source providers would require in-house support that would be beyond our capabilities and so in the end would be more expensive and not serve faculty well. They proceeded to vet providers based on that assumption and concluded, unanimously, that we should go with Blackboard. On their recommendation the senates endorsed this view. But this assumption has now come under question and we are reviewing the decision. The online advisory committee, senate presidents, and administrators will be meeting to decide whether to go ahead with the senate recommendation or reconsider open source providers.

4. In other senate news:
 - We lost our VP (Carol Farrar is serving as interim dean) and will be electing a new one on Dec. 6 following our by-laws.
 - We are electing a commencement speaker at the same meeting.
 - The senate is sponsoring informal senate lunches or other such gatherings that will be open to all members of the college community.
 - We are doing our best to stay on top of legislation that affects us (SB 1440) and so you may have seen many emails from me from this.