

5 March 2007

Message from the President

Welcome to the website for the Bakersfield College Academic Senate. The Senate serves an essential function at BC. By state law, the expertise of faculty is the most important input the college (and district) must consider when making policy and operational decisions about “academic and professional matters.” The KCCCD board policy manual specifies that the district (and the colleges) must “rely primarily upon” the advice of the faculty in eleven categories. These eleven categories represent areas of college governance where decisions are frequently made and updated and are commonly called the “10+1” [make this a link to the 10+1 page]. It is through the Senate that the faculty wield their power over these areas of college governance.

BC’s Senate is also the faculty’s link to the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (ASCCC) [make this a link], which fulfills an analogous function in relation to the CCC Board of Governors.

In this way the BC Academic Senate organizes and articulates the faculty’s position on various topics that affect local and state-wide policy in the community college system. In order to function properly, the Senate must be both a vehicle for communication and a watchdog that ensures that the faculty’s voice is sought, heard, and respected by the administration of the college, the Board of Trustees of the district, and/or the ASCCC.

I am personally committed to this dual role of the Senate and I invite/challenge all faculty to commit themselves as well. Communication and vigilance are much more effective when everyone concerned is equally engaged.

Yours collegially,

John Gerhold, President
Bakersfield College Academic Senate