

ACE Update Newsletter

ACE - Association of College Educators

West Valley-Mission Community College District

November 2007 Volume 16 Number 3

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President's Report

WELCOME!

This is the first newsletter since the ratification vote on the Tentative Agreements (TAs). With nearly half of the eligible membership voting, the Council and the negotiating team read the 5-to-1 vote in favor of ratification as approval of our endeavors and direction in regard to working conditions negotiated. For details on the few remaining articles still to be negotiated, see "Negotiations Update" following this report.

It was also great to see such a large turnout at the Health Benefits Committee's first endeavor at marketing the various health benefits products. The Health Benefits Committee is made up of District and collective bargaining units plus representatives from retiree groups and non-collective bargaining units. The main charge of the committee is to investigate health benefits as a collective and then to allow the units to negotiate the benefits.

Finally, the ACE Council is looking for members to serve on a contractual calendar committee as well as candidates for a full-time ACE Council representative from West Valley College. For further information, please see "Open ACE Positions" on page 3 below.

Ed Kleppinger
President, ACE

Negotiations Update

By Randy Castello, ACE Chief Negotiator

The ACE negotiating team is hopefully on the home stretch of wrapping up the negotiations for the

2005-2008 contract. The remaining articles which we are currently working on include:

Article 26 Performance Appraisal

Article 52 Intellectual Property/Copyrights (new)

Article 53 Technology (new)

Finalizing the contract for 2005-2008 will include a review of the associate faculty articles to make sure they conform to the full-time faculty articles. We are also discussing "re-organizing" the contract articles.

We are working hard to have most of the substantial work on the articles completed by the end of the semester for a ratification sometime in early spring. At that point negotiations on the 2008-2010 contract can begin.

Message from New Grievance Officer for West Valley Faculty

My name is Richard Greco. I have been appointed as the new grievance officer for the faculty at West Valley College. I am an attorney and have practiced law for over 20 years. During that time I worked for both the Nevada and California Supreme Court and the Nevada Legislature, where I specialized in employment law. In private practice I have been involved in many employment arbitrations, mediations, and trials, representing both employees and employers.

I promise to do my best in representing all faculty throughout the grievance process. Please feel free to e-mail or call me if you feel you have a grievance. You may reach me at richard_greco@wvm.eu.net and/or (408) 293-4844. I am looking forward to helping you.

Sincerely,
Richard Greco

Prop 92/CCI (Community College Initiative) on Ballot

The Community College Initiative (CCI) is a statewide initiative that has qualified through the signature process for California's February 5, 2008 presidential primary election. It seeks to amend the state's constitution and various statutes to accomplish three primary objectives: 1) provide California community colleges with a minimum funding guarantee separate from K-12 funding; 2) lower student fees to \$15 a unit and capping their growth; 3) ensure that community colleges remain community institutions by writing local governing boards into the state constitution.

It accomplishes these objectives without raising taxes or harming K-12 funding.

Jonathan Lightman, FACCC director, states that the implications of CCI for the community colleges are “enormous”, providing “the best opportunity for all Californians to attend college”.

To support CCI, Lightman recommends that faculty “speak to at least 30 colleagues, friends, relatives, and neighbors about the measure.”

A link to further information on the initiative is available on the FACCC homepage at www.faccc.org.

In addition contributions can be made to:

Californians for Improving Community Colleges
c/o Rix-Bradford Consultants
512 N, Larchmont Blvd.
Los Angeles 90004
Adapted from FACCTS, Fall 2007

Deadlines for Faculty

For Fall 2007

November 23

All faculty observations and student appraisals should be completed.

December 7

All applications for a sabbatical leave for 2008-09 must be in the HR office.

December 11

All faculty post-appraisal conferences should be completed.

For Spring 2008

February 1 (by first Friday in semester prior to return): See Contract Article 29 for details. Members on paid leave must notify appropriate college President of intent to return in fall 2007.

February 14 (by the third Friday in semester prior) See Contract Article 38 for details. An application for banked load leave must be submitted to your department chair and the appropriate vice-president if you are going to use banked load in fall 2008.

February 29 (by the fifth Friday in semester prior) See Contract Article 15 for details. An approved application must be submitted to the college president if you are going to start an Early Retirement Program in fall 2008.

March 14

Submit column advancement application to Human Resources for fall 2008 salary adjustment.

March 21 (by eighth Friday in the semester prior) See contract Article 25 for details. Submit a completed application to HR to request a change in your permanent assignment to a split or concurrent assignment

April 4 (by first Friday in April) See Contract Article 47 for details.
Written compliance reports due to the PG&D Committee
Associate faculty apply for insurance reimbursement. See Contract Article 102 for details.

FSA Requests

Submit an FSA request with HR before the committee review dates.
In spring 2008 the committee will meet the week of February 25 and April 14.

Note

In general, a grievance has a time limit. A faculty member has twenty (20) days from the date they know or reasonably should have known of an alleged grievance to initiate the grievance. (See Contract Article 48.)

Open ACE Positions

West Valley College ACE Full-Time-Faculty Representative to serve through spring semester 2010. If you are interested in this position, please contact the ACE Secretary (contact information below) by Monday, December 3 for election procedures and details.
WVMCCD Academic Calendar Committee ACE Representative from West Valley College. If you are interested in this position, please contact the ACE Secretary (contact information below) for application procedures and details.

Reminders for Faculty

- Regularly check the ACE website for contract information, minutes, announcements and union information : www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/ace.
- If you are due for an evaluation, please make sure that you are being evaluated. Please check with your department or division chair for this information. If there are any questions or problems please contact the ACE Secretary (contact information below).
- Get involved! In the near future there will be forums to discuss the next contract (2008-2011) please provide your input. If you cannot attend the meetings please send your ideas to either the ACE Secretary or to an ACE Representative. Also you should be receiving or have already received a survey for this contract please complete it and return it as soon as you can.
- Vote in the Presidential primary in February 2008! Get informed! Review all of the ballot measures!

Contact ACE Secretary, Susanna Pancella at susanna_pancella@wvm.edu if you have questions or concerns on any of the above reminders.

Your Union at Work

- Faculty ratification and Board approval of package of articles for 2005-2008 contract: Completed.
- ACE Constitution changes on by the faculty: Pending current vote.
- Surveys for the 2008-2011 contract: Soon to be sent to faculty.
- Grievances: None pending.
- Monthly forums and newsletters on 2005-2008 contract and proposed ACE constitutional changes:
Held on both campuses in September, October, and November.

Don't Forget to Write

All - faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees - are welcome to communicate with the ACE Council. Let Council members know what you think or just share a thought. Send communications to Susanna Pancella, Mission College, MS#21 or email susanna_pancella@wvm.edu.

ASSOCIATE-FACULTY MATTERS

Memo for Associate Faculty: Health Benefits

By Marge Thronson, Associate Faculty ACE Council Representative

I have been informed that there are more applications for health benefits this semester than there are funds available. Therefore, associate faculty may not receive the full \$1,000 that they applied for.

Available funds will be distributed in proportion to the expenses submitted, as per the contract.

Also, the first Friday in April, which is the deadline for spring applications, occurs during spring break, so be mindful of the deadline. Please keep watching the associate faculty section of this newsletter for further developments on all associate items of interest. We're on top of them for you!

ACE COUNCIL

President	Ed Kleppinger	Sociology/Humanities	MC
Vice-President	Roberta Berlani	Biology	WVC
Secretary; Full-time-Faculty Rep.	Susanna Pancella	Computer Applications	MC
Full-time-Faculty Representative	Ron Smebye	Computer Applications	MC
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Negotiator	Ellen McAlister	Learning Services	MC
Associate-Faculty Negotiator	Louise odat	Work Experience	MC
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Webmaster	Sallie Wisner	Computer Applications	MC
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ACE Web site: <http://www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/ace/>

ACE Update Newsletter: Published during the academic year by the Association of College Educators, an independent California corporation certified by the California PERB as the exclusive employee representative for the Faculty of the West Valley-Mission Community College District Letters. Questions and comments on topics in the newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to the appropriate ACE Council member(s); communications concerning the newsletter itself should be addressed to the newsletter editor.

ACE Update Newsletter • ACE: Association of College Educators, Inc.
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95070