



*Dear Board of Trustees Members,
Administrators and Co-Workers --*

The LPC Classified Senate report from September is attached to this short October report. We have a few new items to report this month.

Instead of our regular October Senate meeting the SEIU is purchasing a sandwich lunch for classified staff on October 28th. We are grateful for the Union hosting the lunch – we always have a good time visiting and catching up with each other at these events. We often get 45-60 people (out of 109 classified staff) in attendance, which is a great turnout.

We are also planning a Spring Classified Flex Day. Jeff Sperry¹ is getting his committee together to continue the theme of “Hidden Gems of LPC”, “Uncovering the Gems of LPC”, “Polishing the Gems...”, etc. The “Gems” theme will feature more LPC speakers and activities that we have not accessed before.

Examples of low-cost types of presentations we will try to take advantage of include last Spring’s “Hidden Gems of LPC”. The ValleyCare Health System health educator gave a program on stress reduction and wellness, and we then saw the film “Discounted Dreams: High Hopes and Harsh Realities at America’s Community Colleges.” Dr. Pamela Luster also led a discussion of the history of community college difficulties and what we can do from our desks and departments to ease the strain on the students with whom we come in contact. This was a very heartfelt and touching session, as we all know students who are struggling for an education while keeping up their other responsibilities. And VP Bob Kratochvil gave an afternoon walking tour of new facilities and plans for the campus. We look forward to asking other campus staff to help with other low-cost but highly informative Flex Day sessions.

*Thanks for all **you** do to make this possible.*

Sharon Gach
In service as LPC Classified
Senate President 2010-11

¹ Technical Support staff for *Blackboard* and Teaching & Learning Center and Senate Vice President of Activities.

*Thank You for
Your Support of Classified Senate*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, Chancellor Kinnamon, the College Presidents, and the Faculty Senates for their support of the Classified Senates at our three locations. I want you to know that we have met with other college Senates in the state and heard how some are totally unrecognized and fight to be admitted to committee meetings and decision-making bodies.

At LPC we have even been invited to sit on several Faculty Senate committees and are honored to participate in these and to be heard as another point of view in discussions. These include Student Learning Outcomes and Instructional Program Review.

Many staff have come from other types of companies where these contributions were not possible. Others have been here for a number of years and have observed the ebbs and flows of college life; they often have a unique point to contribute to conversations.

It is also a growth experience to be involved in committee work*. At some recent LPC committees we have ended up saying: “It’s gonna be messy, but we’ll do it anyway.” We have a new Institutional Effectiveness Committee, new Program Review processes in development for instructional and non-instructional programs, as well as the new buildings coming on line to learn to ‘operate’. All are good, “messy” work to be involved in!

Finally, I’d like to publicly thank Dr. Kinnamon for inviting the three Classified Senate Presidents to meet with him Oct. 14th. It was a delight to discuss topics of mutual interest, and to get to know each other a little better. Good ideas for mutual benefit came out of our time together.

I and the LPC Classified Senate Governing Council tremendously appreciate your support, respect and encouragement to give back to the College. As has been said before, “Students First” and “Together We Make a Difference”. Thanks for encouraging us to be a part of this.

Cordially, Sharon

*Or, is it the old phrase “A camel is a horse built by a committee”?