

Classified Senate Inventory 2013-2014

Thank you for taking a moment to assess your Classified Senate. Please DO NOT include your name. All you need to do is fill it out and submit it! Thank you!

**1. Did you participate on a shared governance committee this year?**

- YES
- NO

**Why or why not?**

Because in my job I found that it was very important to have institutional effectiveness evaluations for the college, and to have full representation on the college council. Due to what I see and have learned in my position, it inspired me to serve.

I wonder if people who work in areas that are more 'hands on teaching', and less about shared governance, have a harder time seeing the importance of committee work? I think if I worked in the Library, for example, I wouldn't know what to say at meetings, or how to interpret various issues; therefore, I might feel lost in some of the meetings. This just occurred to me.

WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER/MORE INTERESTING FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE NEXT YEAR?

It would make it easier, and less guilt-ridden for being away from my desk, if we received direct encouragement from our supervisors to participate in committees, and other Classified activities, such as educational sessions for flex day.

I know for a fact due to my position, that it has been a few years since the Administrators have discussed the importance of recognizing shared governance in all layers of employees. It has been a few years since the Administrators passed on their encouragement in Classified Senate to their staff. Certain administrators will always be encouraging - as long as the critical work and services can get done - and some administrators need reminders of this.

DID YOU ATTEND A CLASSIFIED SENATE MEETING THIS YEAR?

YES

WHY OR WHY NOT?

Along with the important things we have accomplished under the leadership of Ms. DeNisco, I have had a wonderful time getting to know my colleagues over the last 5 years in Senate. It makes my work life much more fulfilling, and I have forged friendships that I believe will last through my retirement years! I'm very appreciative of this, especially since I did not know many people at all in Livermore, as I had never worked in Livermore before coming to this job 8 yrs ago.

**What would make it easier/more interesting for you to participate next year?**

Encouragement from supervisors - and other people's supervisors also. The more administrators who respect Classified Senate, and classified staff opinions in meetings! - the more that Classified Staff will want to participate. And they will feel more comfortable participating because it won't just be an uphill battle.

Also, from time to time I get the impression that my opinion is 'less' in meetings. Not just from administrators, but from faculty who have strong opinions. It's not a direct disrespect, but sort of like - 'We are just giving you your say because we are supposed to'. (As evidenced by how the IPC operated this spring, and the faculty co-chair's inability to hold her emotions in check, to the detriment of the committee work; and that not everyone got to speak equally in the meeting.

I believe this stems from the State not formally recognizing the Classified Senates; thus ' why do we need to treat you as a full equal.'

It occurs to me that this should come from the college president, and also from the Chancellor's cabinet, and the the Chancellor herself. All levels should support the Classified Senate member's participation; and differentiate it from the SEIU participation.

**3. Did the Classified Senate do an adequate job on college governance committees this year?**

YES

WHY OR WHY NOT?

Wow, did we speak up. I think we did the best we could, considering all the issues presented to the college. I think of Gerry Gire in Facilities, and Heidi Ulrech in DBSG/whatever new cte. she will be on. I think of Frances DeNisco doing the chair of the Planning TF, and what a great job. Dr. Russell said he appreciated my participation in College Council, so that we don't overlook anything and remember all the actions that needed to take place. (Yes, you know who I am, don't you!)

**4. WERE THERE ISSUES THAT THE CLASSIFIED SENATE DID NOT ADDRESS, THAT YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS YEAR?**

I cannot think of anything.

**5. WHAT ISSUES SHOULD THE CLASSIFIED SENATE ADDRESS NEXT YEAR?**  
Increased respect for the Senate's existence, as noted above.

**6. Do you understand the role of the Classified Senate at LPC?**  
**YES.**

The Senate is here to represent the non-bargaining items of college life for classified professionals, to provide the college with information on Classified input in regard to serving students better, and for better operations of the college. it is to provide educational opportunities for classified professionals (I wish those words were shorter to type!!) - and also for increased collegiality among classified workers.

**7. Is the Classified Senate doing a good job?**  
**YES.**

Because we are everywhere, and we have been speaking up.

**8. Any ideas about how the Senate could improve participation?**

Continue to let people know how much their voices need to be heard, and that - yes, things change slowly - but if we don't speak out certain ideas will not be known, and some things will not 'be the best they can be.'

I am thinking of the Space Allocation Cte for the New Bldg - many voices are needed to get everything in the bldg that students, faculty and staff will need. Thinking of the Library, the Staff input is critical to get the flow of the students, the right arrangement of furniture and circulation desks, and to make these changes be efficient for several decades. The Staff are Always Here - We Know A lot of What It Takes to Serve the Students!!

Also, continue to let people know how rewarding it is to work together, see some change (even if not a lot), and get to know our colleagues better.

**9. Is the Classified Senate leadership doing an adequate job?**

**YES**

Frances is doing a wonderful job with all the many activities, reminders, and also thinking about things in the Bigger Picture. I appreciate the cool-headedness of both Frances and Todd! It is good that Todd is available to be 'the Face of the Classified' at the board meetings.

**10. Do we need a Classified Senate at Las Positas?**

**YES**

If we 'just' had the SEIU, things would be very contentious and the cool-headed voices would not be heard in shared gov. committees, or even in our own offices.

I feel very strongly that the Senate is a neutral voice, to state what needs the students have, which the administrators and faculty just could not know, because they are not observing from the same vantage points as the Classified desks/ positions.

S. Gach  
6/12/14