

Senate Bytes

Antelope Valley College Academic Senate Newsletter

September 2005

Welcome Back

It just does not seem possible, but here we are starting another academic year. The Academic Senate this year has a lot of work to do and your senate representatives will be asking for feedback on a variety of issues. The Senate in Spring 2000 obtained board approval on which items (of the eleven areas mandated by Title 5, Section 53200 "Academic and Professional Matters") would be *rely primary upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate* and which would be by *mutual agreement with the governing board, or its designees and the Academic Senate*. The Senate Operations Manual and the Faculty Handbook contain those specific agreed areas for Antelope Valley College. You are encouraged to review that agreement.



We have 178 full time faculty, 429 adjunct faculty, and 2 interns working as adjunct faculty. Welcome new faculty! Our college is growing and expanding with new courses and services. We are currently in a growth mode. As we strive to reach our 8% growth, we all play a vital role in meeting the needs of our current and future students. We hope that you will come by and visit the Academic Senate and let us know how all is going and how we can better serve you.

Faculty Handbook

Each member of the full-time faculty received a copy of the latest version of the Faculty Handbook in their mailboxes. If you prefer an electronic version in a PDF file, it is now available on the Academic Senate Web: <http://www.avc.edu/organizations/senate/index.htm>. Click on the document link to access the file.



The Faculty Handbook is not just for the full-time faculty; adjunct faculty should take advantage of this valuable resource as well. Additional copies may be found in reserve at the Library and with each division dean/director. The handbook contains information ranging from the mission of the Academic Senate to essentials for instruction, and faculty responsibilities. In the Spring, we will be surveying you to determine how to make the handbook more useful and informative. Please, as you use the handbook, feel free to email the senate office with your suggestions for revisions, or just wait and respond to the survey.

**Academic Senate meets the
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
at 3 p.m. in room SSV 151.**

We need your help! The Academic Senate is looking for a few good faculty to participate in Tenure Review Committees, a Student Appeals Committee, and the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee (one 3-year term and one year of a 3-year term). If you are interested, please contact the senate office, or better yet, attend the next senate meeting (1st and 3rd Thursday at 3 p.m. in SSV151) and let us know in person.



From your Officer-at-Large

Greetings! I'm sure all of you know by now that part of my duties involve coordinating the revision of AVC's board policies and academic procedures. While the first two chapters mostly dealt with items related to the functioning of the Board of Trustees, chapters 3, 4 and 5 deal with items that more directly impact the worklife of faculty. For instance, we are now focusing on chapter 3 which involves items related to harassment, securing of copyright, intellectual property rights and other such topics.



Chapters 4 and 5, Academic Affairs and Student Services impact faculty even more. Dr. Fisher and I expect to complete these chapters during the fall semester and the Academic Senate will be working with policies and procedures related to academic and professional matters over the next few months on behalf of faculty. Chapters 6 and 7 will be completed during the spring semester.

Even though the Academic Senate will be working on your behalf, your ideas and suggestions, especially on topics where we have no existing policies or procedures, are extremely valuable in helping us formulate the most effective policies and procedures. So I am asking that you give careful consideration to items that your senate representatives will be bringing to you throughout the fall semester. If you wish to review any of the policies and procedures for yourself, they can be found on the AVC Intranet. If you wish to provide feedback personally, or have questions, please feel free to email any information directly to me at rmanley@avc.edu. Your ideas and suggestions are needed and appreciated. Have a great semester! *Richard*

The Senate Bytes is a monthly newsletter of the Antelope Valley College Academic Senate.
Editor: Ed Beyer
722-6374 or ebeyer@avc.edu.

New Organization Structure

Dr. Fisher presented a memo to the College Coordinating Council regarding the process to determine a new college organizational structure. He would like to begin discussions on how the structure of the college organization should look. Dr. Fisher is proposing that all employees of the Academic Affairs and Student Services areas be asked to consider whether a flat structure, similar to the structure currently in place, or a tiered structure, one that might include deans and assistant deans and/or department chairs, be the organizational structure for AVC.



The Senate will be very involved in coming to agreement on the final campus structure. Senate representatives have been asked to provide feedback at the September 15, 2005 Senate meeting. Please, if you wish to have input into this process, be sure to talk with your division senate representative. Dr. Fisher's memo was distributed to division senate representatives at the last senate meeting, please contact her or him if you wish to review the document. The memo also references the SPBC Organization Evaluation Report, which is available in PDF format on the SPBC Web at <http://www.avc.edu/organizations/spbc/>.

Spring Break

The Academic Senate has engaged in a discussion regarding the Spring Break schedule. Last Spring the Calendar Committee took a proposal to Coordinating Council to determine if there would be campus-wide support to move the weeklong break to the ninth week of the semester rather than the traditional time just before Easter. Since this change has pedagogical implications, the Academic Senate is asking for your input. Senate representatives are being asked to bring feedback to the Senate on the 15th. Please speak up!



Senate Operations Manual The Senate Operations Manual has been slightly updated. The manual is undergoing one last review and then all the senate representatives will receive updated pages to replace the pages currently in the manual. If any senate representative needs a complete manual, contact the Academic Senate office. Senate representatives are encouraged to bring the manual to each Academic Senate meeting. Patricia is calling on senate representatives to take a close look at the Senate Constitution and bring forward any comments so that the Senate Executive can incorporate changes in the Spring. Please keep in mind that amending the Senate Constitution requires ratification from a simple majority of the *total regular faculty*, not just the senate representatives.

