



Academic Affairs Update

May 14, 2021

AVC Community,

Congratulations on successfully completing the 2020-21 academic year under the most unusual circumstances of all our careers. I truly appreciate your efforts and hard work on behalf of our students; your flexibility to go the extra mile has made many impossible tasks possible.

We have espoused a growth mindset to adapt to a new paradigm, whether working remotely or in person over the last year, and been able to maintain our services under a set of parameters that would have been unthinkable 18 months ago. Many units have worked closely together and deserve our thanks: the President's Office, Facilities, IT, Fiscal Services, Student Services, HR, Academic Affairs, the Academic Senate and its subcommittees, the Faculty and Staff unions, our student leadership, and the Instructional Continuity and HyFlex Workgroups.

Along the way, there have been, and will continue to be, some hiccups. Working together, we will address them one at a time, operating, as President Knudson alluded to last month, with the best of intentions.

As we embark on Summer Session in a couple days, a few updates are in order:

Safety Measures in Classrooms:

Our vendors had previously indicated to us that plexiglass shields would be available for installation in classrooms prior to the start of Summer. Sadly, due to high demand, the delivery timeline has shifted, and with a few exceptions, we will not be able to have them installed before June. However, personal face shields are available to all instructors who would like one; please contact Ms. Erin Tague at etague@avc.edu to request yours.

The Environmental Assistance Group (EAG) has given the College a preliminary overview of the completed ASHRAE COVID Guideline Compliance Inspection. The follow-up inspection was completed yesterday afternoon: corrections have been made to the items that required attention during the preliminary inspection. We were told by EAG that everything is in great condition at all three locations (Main Campus; Palmdale Center; Fox Field Site). All HVAC units have been cleaned and filters changed.

Our Facilities Division has a disinfecting schedule in place for summer. As CDC guidelines become more relaxed, we will update you on any changes that may occur. Please be advised that a "disinfection" of areas is separate and distinct from a "cleaning" schedule. The emphasis will be placed on ensuring that high touch areas such as doorknobs, restrooms, hallways, and student and faculty stations are disinfected and germ-free. In addition, you may request wipes from Facilities for further disinfection of instructor desks/podiums.

Personnel Changes:

Dean Laureano Flores has submitted his resignation and is planning other professional pursuits. I would like to publicly thank Dean Flores for his dedicated service to AVC in general, and Academic Affairs in particular, over the last several years. While Dean Flores' actual resignation date is several weeks away, he has elected to enjoy some well-deserved down time and be on vacation effective next week. We wish him the very best in his future career and personal endeavors.

Most of you are familiar with **Ms. Cathy Hart**: she has graciously agreed to return to campus as of May 18 in the position of Interim Dean to help us with a variety of large projects. We are in the process of reconfiguring some duties and grants within the Academic Affairs Deans' team and will update you on the proposed changes in coming weeks.

I would also like to welcome **Ms. Robyn Serrano** to a new role on campus: she is now assisting Academic Affairs and Student Services in a variety of projects, but reporting to the President's Office. We are delighted to have her in the Administration building and welcome her with open arms.

We hope to recruit a **temporary Academic Affairs Specialist** to assist Kyle Jacobsen and Sam Darby with the mountain of additional work they have had to absorb in recent months. The position has closed and interviews will be scheduled as soon as applications are reviewed for completion and minimum qualifications by HR, and a hiring committee with the proper constituency representation is formed.

Faculty recruitments are also underway: we completed the search for **Nursing** faculty earlier this week and have invited candidates for interviews for the positions of **Firefighter Academy, Firefighter Wildland, Automotive, Biology, and Engineering** throughout the month of May. Our pool for the **Cyber Security** position turned out to be insufficient, and we will have to restart a new recruitment shortly. A few other faculty positions are undergoing the review process with interviews scheduled soon thereafter.

Many thanks to all faculty and staff who have volunteered to serve on search committees, as well as to the HR department for graciously fast-tracking multiple recruitments simultaneously. Our sincere hope is to onboard our incoming faculty in June and give them plenty of time to start the Fall semester fully prepared.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and a successful start of Summer Session.

Sincerely,

-Isabelle Saber
Vice President of Academic Affairs