

From: Gribbons, Barry C
Subject: Campus Update
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Dear Monarchs,

In recent weeks, we have received quite a bit of good news regarding the pandemic, with dramatically falling numbers of new cases and hospitalizations only a fraction of where they were in early January, announcements that the County has moved into the least restrictive Yellow tier, the Governor indicating intentions of ending the tiered system entirely on June 15th, and the County indicating that they expect us to reach herd immunity in July. What a striking difference from the news of the past year! I imagine that many safety measures from the pandemic will remain in place for some time. Nonetheless, the news is certainly welcome and brings hope and optimism at a time when we all surely need it.

I have a few campus updates for you about student access, accreditation, graduation celebrations, facilities, and a variety of events. First, I want to recognize that May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This is an important opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich contributions of generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders that have been made for the benefit of the United States. Connie Chung Joe from the Asian Americans Advancing Justice LA shared some great resources at the Chancellor's Committee on Asian American Pacific Islander Affairs. One is for [Bystander Training](#) and the other is for a PBS documentary [Far East Deep South](#). Please take some time to visit both of these to learn more if you haven't already seen them.

Student Access and Enrollments

The campus community has been incredibly busy working to ensure students have access to college and strengthen enrollments. I'm deeply appreciative of everyone's efforts to this end. For the Fall semester, we currently have 46 percent of our sections in-person or hybrid and 32 percent of our seats are in-person or hybrid. While this is a little lower than the target, we will closely monitor enrollments and reach out to departments to make any adjustments that might be needed such as adding in-person seats to ensure that we meet student demand. Nevertheless, the numbers are good and will likely be higher than surrounding colleges.

Marketing for the Summer intersession and Fall semester has started and will be in full force through the summer. This includes social media ads, radio spots, direct mail pieces, light pole banners, bus shelters, and cable ads. You can see a sampling of the ads [here](#). More will be added to the link over the next week or so. We also will closely monitor the impact of the various modes of advertising to measure their effectiveness.

Complementing the marketing, Student Services is hiring staff to call every student who has dropped out since the pandemic started to ensure that they know that they know that they can take classes safely in-person or online from their homes. Of course, we also will regularly email and text students, continue conducting outreach with local high schools, and post enrollment messages on Canvas.

In preparation for the increased number of in-person classes, we are also moving forward with HVAC changes (MERV 13 or better filters and other upgrades such as pathogen-killing devices and increasing fresh air) and hiring additional staff for regular sanitization. While there have been indications that the state will move away from the tiered system and the County has indicated that we will reach herd immunity in July as I mentioned above, we want to move forward with these measures to promote a safe and healthy environment. We will also send out detailed guidance on how to address issues in the

classroom, such as students who refuse to wear facial coverings despite the health orders. Our ICC Operations and Logistics Chief is busy purchasing a variety of requested items, including microphones for faculty wearing masks while teaching, personal tri-fold Plexiglas barriers, and sanitizer supplies/wipes. Lastly, the District is currently evaluating mandatory vaccines for students.

Accreditation

Accreditation ensures that all colleges and universities not only meet minimum standards of quality, but engage in a cycle of continuous improvement focused on our mission to help students to achieve their educational goals. The accreditation process is a robust, peer-driven system and culminates in the review of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER). The following is a general timeline for our current cycle:

- Spring 2021: June 2022: College and District teams engaged in writing the ISER
- June 2022: College governance ISER approval (ISER completed)
- July 2022: Board IESS ISER review
- Aug 2022: Board ISER approval and submission to commission
- Fall 2022: Team ISER review
- Spring 2023: Focused site visit
- June 2023: Commission meeting

ISER writing teams for each standard led by tri-chairs are busy working on the first draft. Additionally, many folks are busy with the Steering Committee and last Friday's LAVC ISER Mega-Meeting. I want to express my appreciation for everyone's efforts on this important work and their thoughtful, careful attention to the details despite everyone's bandwidth already being taxed with end of year activities and planning for recovery from the pandemic. Thank you!

Graduation

Graduation planning is at full stride. Our virtual ceremony will be airing on June 8th and Student Services has been busy distributing graduation regalia and grad packages that include yard and window signs to our graduates. In addition to the College ceremony on June 8th, the [Lavender Graduation](#) is today at 4pm and the [Black Graduation Celebration](#) is on May 25th and 3pm. I hope that you are able to join the wonderful celebrations of our students' resilience, dedication, and success.

Facilities Updates

Planning for Academic Complex 1 and Academic Building 2 is well underway. Both are going to be beautiful iconic buildings and will present a great face to the community from both Burbank and Fulton. For current renderings, see the following:

- [Academic Complex 1](#)
- [Academic Building 2](#)

Construction for the VACC is ongoing. The current schedule has the project being completed at the end of the current calendar year. However, the pace of the project is being closely monitored by the BuildLACCD team, and more updates to the schedule are likely.

Campus Center abatement continues. As you know, Campus Center was flooded several months ago, and the flooding damaged the transformers. The Campus Center transformers have been repaired and abatement is well underway; once that is done, restoration can be completed. We expect this process to continue into the Fall semester. As a result, we will need to make arrangements to temporarily relocate any classes or activities that were in the basement. Ideally, we would permanently move many of the users to other locations and use the basement primarily for storage. I know that Academic Affairs and Facilities will be looking into options to accommodate this.

Bungalows 48 and 80 to 85 are in the process of being removed. This will be another major milestone for the college. We expect that this work will be completed in the Fall.

Field lighting is being explored. As many of you might know, we have had an interest in field lighting and upgrading stadium lights to minimize light pollution since the athletic facilities were constructed. We are currently exploring the possibility of these projects moving forward. We should know more in the next couple of weeks about the extent to which these projects will be feasible.

Upcoming Events

We have several upcoming events. I hope that you are able to join us for the following:

- [Re-Organization Town Hall](#) on May 18th at 3pm;
- [Campus Safety and Security Forum](#) on May 24th at 5pm;
- [Employee Appreciation Extravaganza](#) on May 26th at 2pm; and
- Vaccination and Health Fair on campus June 26th 9am to 1pm.

Thank you again for all of your efforts. I appreciate everyone's tireless efforts in service of our students! Please let me know how I can support you!

Highest regards,

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