

# ACTING SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT BOARD COMMENTS

August 22, 2024

President Olivares-Lambert, Board Members, and Community Members:

There have been several eventful activities in the past two weeks, top among them is the beginning of the academic year. Summer enrollment was robust, and we are hopeful for an equally strong fall semester. Other notable happenings include a busy student life in the Quad and a sense of energy that the fall semester is underway.

On a more serious note, in the event anyone present is not aware, Dr. Shannon is currently out on medical leave due to an unexpected complication related to foot surgery. I do communicate with him regularly and we continue to expect his return by the end of December. The Executive Team shared this information with the community last week.

The Executive Team had an extended meeting with Academic Senate leaders last week and met again with the Academic Senate president earlier this week. At the two meetings, the Academic Senate leadership shared that consultation has been inconsistent over the past two years.

The Academic Senate President voiced particular concerns about two issues: first, the shared governance consultations and communications that occurred on the College's reorganization from schools to academic and career communities. The Senate was not expecting the implementation. However, administrators who are no longer at the College pushed this decision forward without consultation from the faculty constituency. Hearing this, I explained that at the same time, Dr. Shannon and the other Executive Team members were told a different story -- that the faculty had been working on the change to ACCs for two years and were anxious to begin the implementation.

The Academic Senate also advised that they are concerned about consultation regarding the MacKenzie Scott gift. While Academic Senate leaders asked for updates on the funds, there were no significant changes or plans for these funds from June 2021 to spring 2024. Hearing this, the Executive Team and I explained that during this time period, the College was addressing spending over \$50m in HEERF funds with \$35m in direct student aid and other COVID relief activities. HEERF had a spending deadline of 6/30/24. Student aid was the focus first, as MacKenzie Scott's funding had no deadline. Again, the Academic Senate leaders

stated that they were not provided this information. Why that information also was not shared by former administrators, as Dr. Shannon and Executive Team expected, is equally concerning.

Following these meetings, the ET prioritized communication, transparency, and consultation with shared governance groups. Effective immediately, in addition to current communications (the President's emails, the monthly meetings with the Academic Issues Group, the ET members' attendance at the Academic Senate meetings, the monthly Board Agenda Review, the inclusion of governance groups in President's Cabinet and College Council), the Executive Team is committed to the following:

1. At the request of Academic Senate, the Executive Team will jointly meet with Senate to examine the purpose of the Academic Issues Group and determine its future direction;
2. To strengthen collaboration and mutual respect, the Executive Team will work with both Academic and Classified Senates to formalize and document the consultation processes;
3. After the completion of consultation processes, when put into effect, the Executive Team will issue a written communication to the college community to ensure transparency across our campuses;
4. To respond to your concerns with timely actions, the Executive Team will use the MacKenzie Scott gift as an opportunity to apply an improved consultation process with governance groups and students in relevant planning efforts.

On behalf of the College, I apologize for these oversights. The Executive Team is committed to working with all constituent groups and their respective leaders. When such leaders report that they have not been consulted in decisions consistent with 10+2, we believe them, and we are committed to improving our practices.

I have spoken with your newly appointed Executive Team liaison, Dr. Michael McClellan. As a long-term faculty member of the Academic Senate and proponent of the principles of shared governance, he is prepared to lead collaboratively, effectively, and respectfully with the Senate. The other members of the Executive Team are likewise aligned to this commitment.

I am submitting this report to the Governing Board and will also send this email communication to the campus community.

Thank you.