

Discussion, Debate and Information Dissemination (3-D) Task Force Recommendations to Academic Senate

Resolution 2012-08 states, "faculty should have the academic freedom to express a diversity of views on what will and will not advance student learning" **and** "the academic freedom to engage in robust and balanced discussions, debate and information dissemination regarding all issues that impact Mt.SAC students and the institution that serves them." In response to Resolution 2012-08, Discussion, Debate and Information Dissemination, and in order to **explore** what will and will not advance student learning, to **commit** to the free pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, to **promote** healthy discussion within a climate of trust and mutual support, and to **provide** opportunity for wide faculty participation, the Discussion, Debate and Information Dissemination (3-D) Task Force makes the following recommendations.

1. **Establish a committee or group that operates like a "Watch Dog Group"** to develop, monitor and maintain an extensive, accessible and balanced web page with legal links to discussion websites and a repository of readings representing a diverse and balanced view, and to report to the Academic Senate and its officers. Topics of interest and concern might include: educational trends, educational research studies, best practices for the classroom, analysis of legislation that impacts student learning and success, employment trends, economic impact on higher education, student demographic, etc.
 - a. **The group** will include the Academic Senate legislative liaison, a web page co-coordinator, and a research group or person. (Time applicable toward meeting 6 weekly supplemental hours)
 - b. **The web page** will adhere to campus policies and procedures, present a diversity of views, and thus should contain links to sites for discussion and debate of what will and will not advance student learning. The web page will include a link to a repository of a variety of readings that present multiple views. The website is vital to the development of a campus culture that invites well informed discussion and participation in the ongoing work of educating our students. (Asking for a legal opinion regarding what is a legal link what can be discussed and debated using campus resources)
 - c. **The report** to the Academic Senate President and Academic Senate officers will include any information that is useful and important to advancing student learning that comes from the discussion forums and the website. Information might include educational trends, educational research studies, best practices for the classroom, analysis of legislation that impacts student learning and success, employment trends, economic impact on higher education, student demographic, etc.
2. **Establish ongoing bi-annual 3-D (Discussion, Debate, and Dissemination) Cross Campus Forums** to include students, FA, Administrators and other campus groups. These forums are key to helping establish a campus culture of open and honest discussions. The forums

will provide an opportunity for faculty, together with other campus community members, to explore, gather and discuss information regarding issues that impact MtSAC students and their learning.

- a. **The forums** will be two per academic year, one in Spring semester and one in Fall semester. They should be announced well in advance. They will be designed to provide opportunity for faculty along with administrators, staff and students to gather information, discuss and debate trends and issues that impact student learning.
- b. Forensic team faculty and students will be invited to design the forums in such a way as to invite open multiple view discussion and debate.
- c. Topics could include: educational trends, educational research studies, best practices for the classroom, analysis of legislation that effects student learning and success, employment trends, economic impact on higher education, student demographic, etc.

3. Disseminate Information to Faculty

- a. Establish a committee/"Watch Dog" Report and "Forum Announcement" items on the Senate Executive Board agenda and the Academic Senate agenda.
 - i. Specific topics could include: educational trends, educational research studies, best practices for the classroom, analysis of legislation that impacts student learning and success, employment trends, economic impact on higher education, student demographic, etc.
- b. Request the Academic Senate President includes in his reports to the Board of Trustees any appropriate/useful information to advancing student learning that comes from the Forums, Discussions, Webinars and websites. The committee/ Watch Dog group to keep him updated.