Dear members of the campus community,

Happy Valentine’s Day to you all. I hope the upcoming holiday weekend allows you to refresh and recharge.

At a regular meeting yesterday, the Board of Trustees approved two sabbatical leave requests – 1 semester for Eileen Tejada and 2 semesters for Jessica Amato – as recommended by the Academic Senate and Office of Instruction. Sabbatical leaves have been “on-hold” since 2008 due to budget constraints. In general, sabbatical leaves provide an important mechanism for individual faculty to utilize a course of study, research, publication, or artistic performance or production as a means of expanding and/or improving the quality of an individual’s work at the institution. Specifically, Eileen’s sabbatical is to further her pursuit of a doctorate in cultural anthropology and social change allowing further development of English instruction with an interdisciplinary emphasis. Jessica’s sabbatical will allow her to pursue research in anthropology and further development of teaching and learning resources for the Anthropology Department.

The Board also acted on several items related to the college’s Planning and Budget process. The 2015-2016 Planning Priorities and Budget Assumptions were both approved and will appear in this spring’s Unit Plan and Budget worksheet packages to guide unit level planning and budget augmentation request development. (Budget Center Manager Orientation is scheduled on Friday, February 28, 2014 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room – Room 1731.)

Additionally, the Board accepted both a progress report on the last iteration of the Strategic Plan (2011-2014) and a preliminary draft of the new Strategic Plan (2014-2019). The new Strategic Plan will return to the campus and the Board for further review and comment as a Tentative Draft in April/May and a Final Draft in May/June.

The Board receives monthly reports from faculty, classified, administrative and student organizations. Last night, Denise Rosselli, president of the Faculty Association, provided an in-depth report on faculty recruitment and persistence at NVC. Click here to review her powerpoint presentation.

Lastly, on the development side of the house, the Board approved and publicly noticed that I am authorized to lay the groundwork for possible negotiations related to real property owned by the college. The properties in question are the old National Guard Armory on Menlo Avenue and the educational center on Dry Creek Road (Bumpy Camp). Neither property is currently operating at its highest and best use in support of student success. Concurrently with work to remediate title document inconsistencies and establish fair market value, we will be forming stakeholder groups to undertake a thorough review of instructional opportunities and partnerships that may be appropriate to each site.

Thank you,

Dr. Ronald Kraft