Dear members of the campus community,

Happy to report that as I begin my 4th year at Napa Valley College, the Board of Trustees signaled a “thumbs up” satisfactory for the annual evaluation of my performance. I’m looking forward to a future working together at the college, and on my new goals which I expect to be finalized after the Board adopts their 2015-2017 goals in the next month or so. These Draft Board Goals are now circulating for college constituency comment—this is your opportunity—through the Council of Presidents. An ad hoc committee of the Board will work on finalizing goal language.

The Board held a public hearing and adopted the Final Budget at last week’s meeting. During the presentation, it was clear that our 2015/16 budget is “balanced” only with a contribution from our reserves. This situation is called a ‘structural deficit,’ which in essence means that year-on-year the college spends more than it receives in funding—obviously not a tenable situation and one that we must all address together this semester. Looking at the budget, it is clear that we need to work together to address opportunities and challenges across the District.

Dr. Robyn Wornall, dean of Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, shared expectations for our 9/28/15-10/1/15 Accreditation Site Visit. We are very pleased to welcome Team Leader Willard Llewellan, president of Hartnell College, and his assistant Lori Kildal, vice president of Academic Affairs, also of Hartnell College. They will be joined by 13 other team members. Watch your email for more visit related details. There will be several opportunities for you to engage with the team during their time on campus.

A letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) related to our 2015 Annual Report was also included in Robyn’s accreditation update. NVC will be providing the commission with additional information related to institution set standards for job placement and licensure exam passage rates as well as Student Learning Outcome assessment progress.

The Board, staff and several community speakers also discussed the next steps and required milestones that were included in the After-Action Report on Measure E and relate to a potential future general obligation facilities bond. The Board provided direction in finalizing the Educational Master Plan Update and a new volume of the Facilities Master Plan with the participation, input, expertise, and wisdom of our faculty, staff, and students. More to follow on these important master planning elements!
Four Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) students are eligible to participate in this year’s Dwight David Eisenhower Community College Transportation Fellowship and the Board approved the grant agreement with the Department of Transportation to provide them a stipend as well as allow their travel to Washington DC in January 2016 to attend the Transportation Research Board’s Annual Meeting. Way to go Antonio Castro, engineering instructor extraordinaire, for our seventh year of this fellowship for NVC students!

One revised Board Policy was adopted last Thursday (BP 4040 – Library & Other Instructional Services). The policy and associated Administrative Regulation (procedure) can be found on the new and improved Board Policy Manual Website.

The Board approved employment for six well qualified candidates. Please join me in welcoming them to our team and their new positions!

- Lisa Nussdorfer – Mathematics Instructor
- Jovita De La Cruz – Child Care Food Program Assistant
- Yazmin Lopez – Child Development Center Assistant
- Maria de Jesus Quevedo – Child Development Center Assistant
- Katherine Rhyno – Credit Program Technician
- Cindy Mill – Secretary III, Health Occupations

Reminder: Audio Streaming & Podcast of Board Meetings: Board meeting recordings are timestamped to coordinate with the agenda and available from NapaBroadcasting. Audio recordings of the Board meetings are also available on the Board’s website.

Looking Forward: The next Regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 8, 2015.

Thank you,

Dr. Ronald Kraft