PRESIDENT’S OVERVIEW

Members of the Board:

The legislative session is almost over. We have two issues that are important to us that seem to be going well at the moment. The Honorary Degree Bill has unopposed bipartisan support. Stu has done a marvelous job of shepherding it through the process. The Capital Budget includes the remainder of the funds for the TransAlta Design. It is in the House, Senate and Governor’s budget. The hang-up could come if the two sides can’t agree on an overall budget. We are hopeful for a resolution by sine die. It appears our operating budget will be close to flat with a small reduction for an IT efficiency cut passed last year.

We are in a flurry of hiring activity. We have a new Programming Developer in IT, a new tenure track Nursing instructor and a new support person in eLearning. Interviews will be underway soon for an Art Instructor and Assoc. Dean of BAS. Job announcements are going out for a PIO, Diesel Instructor and Student Services VP. This is going to be a busy spring quarter.

Retention projects are in full swing. Our retention specialist is having good results; we are working on recruiting back to campus individuals who have completed over 70 credits but haven’t graduated; and, we are focusing an effort to recruit more basic skills students into ABE. These efforts should help us improve our student success and increase our FTEs at a time when we are seeing an enrollment decline here as well as in the entire system. Traditionally enrollments decline when unemployment goes down. You can’t blame individuals for wanting to go back to work.

The approval of the Diesel Degree has gone well and we continue to hear good things about the program from the State Board members who voted their final approval in February. Planning is underway for the remodel of the Diesel facility to accommodate the BASD students this fall.

Baseball, softball and golf are now the sports du jour this spring; please come and support our teams. Foundation night at the Theatre is May 17th featuring the play Quilters.

CAMPUS REPORTS

1. Associated Students – J.R. Siperly
2. Faculty – Sharon Mitchler
3. Classified Staff – Pauletta Crane
5. Public Information Office – Don Frey
6. Human Resources – Julie Ledford
7. Student Services Report – Lucretia Folks
9. President’s Report – Jim Walton