

ACE Update Newsletter

ACE - Association of College Educators
West Valley-Mission Community College District
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WELCOME!!

I want to thank all of the WVMCCD faculty members who took the time and effort to fill out the Hours by Arrangement verification forms. The form demonstrated a good faith effort on behalf of the faculty.

You will have received by now in your mailbox a ballot for voting on the Tentative Agreements. If you have not received one, please contact Susanna Pancella (855-5362) for the ballot, directions on voting and a summary of the Tentative Agreements. The full text of the articles can be found at the ACE Website (<http://www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/ace/>). Please note the ballots must be cast by Wednesday, noon, October 17th.

While the above vote will deal with some 30 tentative article agreements, the Union and District are still negotiating several more. It is anticipated that there will be a second vote before the end of the semester on these. If the tentative article agreements are ratified in both votes and signed by both sides, the 2005-08 Contract as ratified will then be printed, distributed to faculty, and posted on the ACE Website.

On another front the ACE Council has become aware that there is some concern about Re-Employment Preference (REP) and how to implement it. The Council will be sending out a more thorough explanation, but I wish to correct one basic misconception now. Yes, REP is a form of seniority for our associate union members. The California State legislature passed a bill that became law directing that the California community college districts establish a seniority system for the part-timers. This law was passed in reaction to complaints by part-timers and a state investigation into the methodology used by the districts to assign classes to part-timers. Each district was directed to negotiate a seniority system for part-timers. Consequently, each district's seniority system is different.

Ed Kleppinger
President, ACE

ACE FACULTY FORUMS ON CONTRACT RATIFICATION

All faculty are encouraged to attend either or both of two informational forums this week to clarify the proposed contract changes currently before the faculty. ACE Council members and negotiators will be present to answer questions on the relevant Contract articles. Please try to attend!

Mission College:	Tuesday, October 9, 2:30pm-4:30pm in E1-603
West Valley College:	Thursday, October 11, 3:00 pm-5:00pm in AAS10

SABBATICAL LEAVES

By LeAnn McGinley, Sabbatical Committee Chair

The ACE contract provides the negotiated benefit of sabbatical leaves to its full-time ACE members. A sabbatical leave is a wonderful opportunity for all eligible ACE members. An eligible member is one who has served 6 years of full-time service prior to the year of the leave or who has fulfilled six years of full-time service after returning from a sabbatical leave.

According to the ACE contract and the Guidelines for Sabbatical Leaves (on PARI under Faculty, Sabbatical), the purpose of a sabbatical leave is to provide faculty with time to complete a substantial project that will benefit students and the college as well as the individual faculty. The purpose goes beyond the general needs that ACE members have for periodic rejuvenation. Rather, the sabbatical project should make significant and explicit contributions to the college community. Applicants should keep this in mind in designing their projects.

Each year there are 11 semesters of sabbatical leaves available for distribution. If all semesters are not distributed, an additional three semesters may be carried over to the next year. A sabbatical proposal may be for a one semester at full-salary leave; two semesters at half-salary; or two consecutive semesters at full pay. Sabbatical leaves can be granted for study, travel, work experience, curriculum development, other scholarly creative activities, or combination projects. Over the last three years the number of applicants, the number of leaves, and number of semesters of leave granted have increased. Six leaves were granted for 2007-2008 for a total of nine semesters.

Sabbatical applications for 2008-2009 are due to the WVMCCD Human Resources Office (HR) by Friday, December 7, 2007. Human Resources removes identifying information so that the proposals are anonymous when they go to the Sabbatical Leave Committee.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee is comprised of an administrator and two appointed faculty members from each college. The current committee members are Joseph Lough, Heather Rothenberg, Mina Jahan, Max Crumley, Fred Prochaska, and LeAnn McGinley. The Committee reviews and rates the proposals according to the requirements in the ACE contract and forwards a prioritized list of approved applications to HR. Ultimately, it is the Board of Trustees that approves the applicants' leaves.

On behalf of the Committee, I encourage each eligible member to consider applying for a sabbatical leave. Copies of successful proposals are available on reserve in the library of each college. Application workshops are also being held at Mission on October 24 at 10:00 am in TAV 124 and at West Valley on October 25 at 2:00 pm in the Board Room.

Here are comments from two faculty, one who has returned from a sabbatical, another who is currently on leave. It is obvious that their projects not only support their own professional development but also make significant contributions to their departments and the college.

“My love of my discipline has definitely grown. I have a much stronger base in non-Western art which I think is important for a diverse student community such as ours.

“Also, I was able to [create]...abstract paintings [that will be installed] in the theater. I believe public art enhances our lives as a community and also allows others to see that the district supports the arts.” - Heidi Brueckner, Art, WVC

“I'm grateful to have a semester to work on a project of value to the ESL Department. I will be taking two classes at SJSU in Instructional Technology while compiling a workbook of activities for ESL teachers to use with their students in the new World Languages Center (language lab). My project will take the next step in assisting faculty and students to effectively integrate the new technology into our curriculum.” - Suzanne Overstreet, ESL, WVC

FACULTY DEADLINES

Fall 2007

- October 12** Submit written Professional Growth and Development proposal (PG&D).
- November 2** Associate faculty apply for insurance reimbursement.
- December 7** All applications for a sabbatical leave for 2008-09 must be in the HR office.
- Evaluations** Observations to be completed by November 23.
Student Appraisals completed between October 1 and November 23.
Post-Appraisal Conference completed prior to December 11.

Spring 2008

- February 8** An application for banked load leave must be submitted to your department chair and the appropriate vice-president if you are going to use banked load in fall 2008.
- March 14** Submit column advancement application to Human Resources for fall 2008 salary adjustment.
- FSA Requests** Submit an FSA request to Human Resources before the committee review dates:
In fall 2007 the committee will meet the week of October 15 and November 12.
In spring 2007 the committee will meet the week of February 25 and April 14.
- Grievances** **In general, a grievance has a time limit.** A faculty member has only twenty (20) days from the date they know or reasonably should have known of an alleged grievance to initiate the grievance. (See Article 48).

FACULTY REMINDERS

- ACE is in the process of holding a vote to ratify the articles that have been tentatively agreed to for the 2005-2008 contract. You should have received a ballot in your faculty mailbox. If you did not, please contact ACE Council secretary Susanna Pancella. Tentatively agreed-to articles can be reviewed at the ACE Webpage.
- If you are due for an evaluation, please make sure that you are being evaluated. Check with your department or division chair for this information. If there are any questions or problems, please contact the ACE Secretary Susanna Pancella (see below).
- Regularly check the ACE website for contract information, minutes, announcements and union information : www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/ace.
- Get involved! In the near future there will be forums to discuss the *next* contract (2008-2011). Please provide your input. If you cannot attend a forum, please send your ideas to either the ACE Secretary or to an ACE Representative.

Contact ACE Secretary, Susanna Pancella at susanna_pancella@wvm.edu if you have questions or concerns on any of the above reminders.

ASSOCIATE-FACULTY DEADLINE FOR MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT

By Marge Thronson, Associate-Faculty ACE Council Representative, West Valley

Application forms to participate in the Associate Faculty Medical Reimbursement Program are due on Friday, November 2. They are to be sent to Lucy Clementi, Human Resources at WVC. If you need a form, Lucy's phone number is 741-2168. Associate faculty can be reimbursed for all medical, dental, vision insurance, and prescription drug insurance up to \$1,000 per semester. This program does not reimburse for individual medical appointments.

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ACE Web site: <http://www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/ace/>

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