Colleagues.

Faculty Senate will be holding a special workshop on Cabrillo’s enrollment challenges and opportunities. It will be a faculty-only meeting, giving us a chance to learn from and interact with each other.

When: Tuesday, April 14; 3-5pm

Where: Room 454, Aptos Campus

It’s obvious from the recent (and constructive) emails that faculty WANT to participate in DOING something about our enrollment challenges.

The agenda is still evolving, but in general the workshop will involve:

- Sending out a survey a week or so before the meeting to generate ideas and help shape the direction of our efforts.

- A chance to identify priorities that should inform enrollment management strategies.

- Form action groups to set forward a course of action on each area of faculty interest. Challenge participants to commit to at least one follow-up action or sequence of actions. (See “Possible Working Team Areas” at the end of this email.)

- Raise faculty awareness of and connection with the people already WORKING on these concerns at the college. Part of the problem is that folks aren’t aware of how they CAN be participating. Case in point: Peter’s observation that financial hardship interferes with students completing their goals at Cabrillo. There are many places to go with this, but one is the new Working Family Support Grant that IS IMPLEMENTING interventions to help our financially challenged students.

The workshop will not be:

- A complaining session. Whatever you think about the proposed planning processes that assume a drop in student enrollment in the coming years, we all agree that positive efforts to attract and keep more students is in ALL of our interests. That’s what we will focus on.

- A gabfest. We will form working teams to build enrollment.

- A top down process. Our hope is that faculty will leave the meeting with concrete actions that each of us can take to help build the college into a better place.
A session focused on scheduling and section offerings. This process is an ongoing collaboration among PC’s, Deans, and faculty. It’s obviously very important for strategizing how we can maximize enrollment, but we have had this conversation MANY times in the recent past.

A session focused on repeatability. That effort is also moving forward.

I still believe that the Student Equity and Success efforts may be the most important key to maximizing enrollments at the college. A lot of great work is happening in these areas including mentoring, outreach, tutorials, and refreshing pedagogy in Basic Skills instruction. Efforts from many faculty to augment our Non-credit offerings are also a promising part of the puzzle.

Last week I shared several documents that can help inform our thinking about ways to help our students succeed. I also shared the recent Faculty Senate brainstormed ideas on defining “equity.” Today I’m attaching the FS brainstorm on ideas to implement “equity” strategies at the college. I think you will find a lot of overlap with topics we’ll be discussing on April 14.

That’s plenty for now. Sorry that I am SO wordy….and for those of you who actually get through all of my verbiage, thanks and apologies at the same time.

Keep talking to each other. Have a great spring break and I hope to see a lot of you on April 14.

Michael Mangin

Faculty Senate President

PS – Possible Working Team Areas (This is a tentative, incomplete list):

- Community outreach and programs, especially to seniors and lifelong learners
- Partnerships with local high schools – college planning in the 9th grade, concurrent enrollment
- Partnerships with UCSC, SJS, and CSUMB
- Promoting degree completion; certificates for “minor field” achievement
- Dealing with financial, family, or logistical challenges of being a student
- Welcome to Cabrillo – Creating a friendly, supportive, and welcoming environment
- Fixing the bugs that prevent students from registering and attending our classes
- Reviving and energizing the Watsonville Center