January 29, 2013

To: President Jack E. Daniels, III
From: Oscar Cobian
Re: Results of Student Focus Groups
CC: Elmer Bugg, Ferris Trimble, Allison Moore

Climate Study:
During Fall 2013, the College used a student campus climate survey adopted from Rio Hondo College in Whittier, California to measure how students perceive the campus environment, the opportunities the College provides students to engage in campus activities, and the adequacy of support services offered by the College. The pilot survey was sent to five programs (EOPS, Veterans Services, DSPS, Puente Program, and Passage Program) and sections of five disciplines (Accounting, Biology, Music, Personal Development and English). The committee distributed 300 surveys and received over 250 completed surveys from students in both English and Spanish. The completed surveys were submitted to the LASC Office of Institutional Effectiveness which scanned the completed surveys, notated all student comments, and reported on findings.

The most significant findings included the following:

1. Students don’t have a “hang-out” space
2. The need for more classes
3. The need for more high quality tutors
4. The need for more study space on campus
5. Quality of library services and hours needs to be increased
6. Lack of information about events on campus
7. Lack of information about student clubs on campus

The analysis of campus climate included responses from 8 focus groups conducted by trained focus facilitators. Moreover, a focus group was conducted for non-credit ESL students in both English and Spanish. The focus group findings included the following:

1. More class offerings
2. Greater flexibility with class hours
3. Tutoring – on-line; better student/tutor ratio; more discipline tutors
4. More weekend classes
5. Better library management
6. More weekend and evening library hours
7. More diversity workshops
8. More student clubs on campus (professional, social, cultural)
9. Greater communication
10. Creation of a Veteran’s Center (Veterans)
11. College orientation in Spanish with emphasis on how to apply for financial aid

Follow-up with campus:
The results of the student campus climate survey and subsequent focus group findings were sent to the Accreditation Team and Deans on November 13, 2012. The findings were also sent to the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness on December 4, 2012 to be sent to Strategic Planning Committee Members. On January 17th, the survey results were sent to the ASO President to be disseminated to ASO Board. The Acting Vice President of Student Services will present the results of the surveys and focus groups to the ASO Board during the first meeting of the 2013 spring semester. On January 29, 2013, The Acting Vice President of Student Services presented the results of the survey/focus groups with Student Services Managers.