

## Responses from Tom Branca, President Academic Senate

1. Do faculty have a voice/feel empowered at Merritt to make positive changes on campus?

Complex question as it depends on who you talk to. I feel the President listens to the senate and to faculty but which ones i can't say. I have had success speaking with Jackie and most managers one on one and mostly we seem stymied by the overarching hoops we all need to jump thru multiple times to get anything done.

2. Do faculty have a defined role within the shared governance structure? Again, we are at the table in budget, facilities, technology and all shared gov. committees which have by-laws which clearly define the role of faculty in this process. Sometimes it gets a bit shortchanged.

3. Do faculty work well with the other members of the campus (staff, students, administration) and district (including Board of Trustees) to improve Merritt Campus, particularly when it comes to providing student services? Hmmmmm..... I feel very comfortable speaking with all district personnel about Merritt's concerns. do others??? There is a big divide between faculty and classified which to me at times feels like the white collar/blue collar divide. I think most people have good intentions it is just extremely difficult to make change happen. The bureaucracy is big and everyone seems to point to everyone else to take responsibility. I also am not convinced that most faculty know what student services does.

4. How does the district perform in it's job as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and the college? I really can't say as everyone seems to have a different piece of information and wether it coms from the board or district personnel is hard to say. One can always read the board minutes to see what they decided. Look at the smoking policy, passed the board last year and we are still no where with it? I don't think the board has a clue on how it's policies are carried out at the college level. i don't see a feedback loop for them which connects what they pass and then a report on how it is being enacted.

5. Does the district do it's job and let Merritt do it's job? In a way yes but as they always have the final say and they can change our intentions. Look at the building D proposal. After two years of planning they decide it will be less expensive for them to build us a new building. Do we want one? Who here was asked? All the work over the past two years?? I think we are too tied in to them to have us really do our job the way we would do it if we were independent of them. We say where we need faculty and they say where they are going to give them to us.

The exact verbage of the standard is:

a. District/system clearly delineates and communicates the operational responsibilities and functions of the district/system from those of the colleges and consistently adheres to this delineation in practice

6. How does the district perform in it's job of economic accountability? Well, we all get a budget based on FTES and then they take some back as the state takes some back. There never seems to be enough to do what we really need to do as the state doesn't give us enough per

student. I think the key word here is fair and someone is always complaining about it ain't being fair. They are open to a different model if we can come up with one.