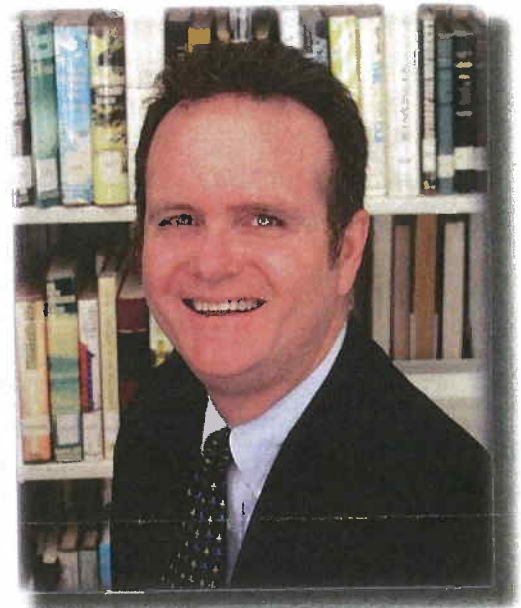


ACCE Welcomes Dr. Barry Russell, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs by JoAnne Vorhies, Noncredit Specialist and Chancellor's Office Representative to ACCE

In November 2009, Barry Russell was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the California Community College Chancellor's Office. A graduate of the Community College Leadership Program (1991) at the University of Texas at Austin, he also holds degrees in music from Texas A&M University - Commerce (previously East Texas State University).

Prior to becoming the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Russell served as Vice President of Instruction at College of the Siskiyous in Weed, California. He also served as the Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Cerritos College and held the same position at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California, before moving to Cerritos.

Dr. Russell served as Director of the Central Texas Tech Prep Consortium and was a faculty member in music and computer science at Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas. He is active in both state and national community college organizations serving as a board member representing northern California for the organization of California Community College Chief Instruction Officers. In 2009, Dr. Russell was awarded the Instructional Leadership Award from the National Instructional Administrators - an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges.



Under the direction of Vice Chancellor Russell, the Academic Affairs Division oversees the delivery of leadership and technical assistance, enhancing the capacity of the community colleges in the areas of academic planning, program approval, and review of degrees and certificates. Specific areas under this division include Credit and Noncredit Program and Course Approval, Library and Learning Resources Programs, Basic Skills/ESL, Noncredit Adult and Continuing Education, International Education, Distance Learning, Special Project Management and Grants, Minimum Qualifications, Middle College High School, Career Advancement Academies, Career Technical Education Teacher Preparation Pathways, Systemwide Technical Assistance, Compressed and Flex Calendars, Intersegmental Policy and Program Development, and Coordination with the Statewide Academic Senate and the Chief Instructional Officers.

Recreational, Avocational and Personal Development Courses

by Dr. Barry A. Russell

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the California Community College Chancellor's Office

In a review of documents all the way back to 1982, there have been several instances where recreational, avocational, and personal development courses have been addressed. In fact, in a letter dated January 31, 1984 to all Chief Instructional Officers, clear direction was provided that still remains appropriate today. The difference is that at that time, the Legislature mandated that the Chancellor's Office develop a list for a \$30 million reduction and, at this time, there is no mandate from the current Legislature. Here is a quote from this 1984 memo:

“Recreational, avocational, and personal development courses are those which:

(a) are not required courses or suggested electives leading to the completion of the requirements of a major offered by the college,

- (b) are offered primarily to provide recreational or avocational pursuits for students.
- (c) are of greater private than public interest.
- (d) should be offered as a community service class for a fee which covers the cost of instruction.”

Letter to Chief Instructional Officers by Allan L. Petersen, Dean, January 31, 1984.

It should also be noted that the language is very general intentionally so as not to focus or marginalize one specific sector of the curriculum. These types of courses can occur in virtually every curricular area of the campus.

While not giving colleges specific direction, the Chancellor's Office would highly recommend that each college visit their course offerings and review

Continued on page 8

them for three priorities: basic skills, transfer, and career technical. If courses do not fit into one of those three categories, then further analysis should be done according to the four points (a through d) listed above. Note that option "d" provides a way to continue offering a course as a community service class without affecting the state budget.

It is the opinion of the Chancellor's Office that this is a local decision and not one that should be made at the state level. The reality, though, is that if courses that are perceived as recreational, avocational, or personal development are not voluntarily removed from the credit/noncredit offerings, the Legislature or others may choose a more intrusive method.

It would be prudent for colleges to also focus on communication with their local communities and governance groups as these changes take place. The budget message should be clear to all sectors (boards, administration, faculty, staff, and students) that the necessary limited focus on basic skills, transfer, and

career technical education requires subsequent changes in scheduling and course offerings.

In the next Legislature, the issue of funding community college courses will inevitably include some review of courses which the Legislature interprets as outside the scope of the community college mission. If California community colleges have proactively changed or removed the offering of these courses voluntarily, there will be less evidence to support further reductions in state funding based on this one point of contention.

As you study your offerings and take action to reduce course offerings to meet workload reduction goals, please focus first on sustaining basic skills, transfer, and career/technical courses and programs. With a statewide response to this reduction of \$120 million, hopefully the chance of further state budget reductions based on this issue can be minimized. If you have any questions or concerns throughout this process, please feel free to contact the Chancellor's Office, Division of Academic Affairs at 916.322.6881.



Advocates for Lifelong Learning in California

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The ACCE Journal is published quarterly by the Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE), an organization of California Community Colleges.

The Executive Board of ACCE invites submission of information, announcements, research findings, and articles of interest to noncredit, contract education, and community education (fee-based) program providers. For information or submissions, contact Jane DiLucchio at dilucchi@glendale.edu