

OUR OPINION

## Roots of the VVC problem

September 19, 2013

A Valley Voices piece today (see elsewhere on the page) correctly blames two entities for the mess at Victor Valley College — unions and past trustees. But another Voices piece Wednesday, from a longtime Barstow Community College professor, Richard Reeb, extended the culpability to include the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation team, whom he says has been doing its own form of politicization. Reeb wrote, “It has pushed so-called ‘multicultural’ education, which purports to broaden students’ perspectives but actually narrows them by encouraging them to identify with their particular ethnic, racial or gender grouping.”

We’re not surprised. The past two decades or so of the history of higher education reveals that they don’t teach the subject at hand — history, social science, and the like — they teach (or perhaps preach) their own agenda. The result has been generations of degree-holding “graduates” who scorn capitalism — the practice of which has financed not only their education, but the jobs they obtain after their college years are concluded — and revere socialism, the most often tried and most often failed economic system in history.

As far as the California Teachers Association (the full-time faculty’s union) is concerned, you can be very sure that they aren’t interested in any “restructuring” attempt by the school’s trustees or any recommendation to do so by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The ACCJC’s charge to VVC trustees is that they submit a budget proposal that will solve the school’s financial crisis, the acceptability of which will determine the return to accreditation of VVC.

You can also be very sure that any budget “restructuring” will involve re-negotiating the union’s contract for full-time faculty members, and “re-negotiation” means the union will have to agree to reduced pay. Failing that, VVC’s expenses will continue to outstrip income, and we all know where that leads.

In his Op-Ed last week, Peter Allan, now interim President/Superintendent, acknowledged that in the past trustees had agreed to union demands for pay and benefits that were “too generous.” Indeed.

In a Press Dispatch story Sept. 15, VVC Vice President and Chief Financial Officer G.H. Javaheripour said, “I’ve been warning this college and its administration for years that this (financial crisis) would come,” adding that the school will “have to curtail our spending.”

We assume the “for years” he referred to include those years when Joe Range was president, and when at least two of the board’s current members included trustees who served with Range. They ignored the warning.

Is the community being served by VVC? Are the students being served by VVC? We don’t think so. If it takes draconian measures by the ACCJC to change that, we’re all for it.

**Steve Williams**