

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 2, 2013

VVC's not alone

Isn't it time to stop the politically motivated dog-and-pony show going on at the recent monthly Victor Valley College Board of Trustees' meetings? There is a reason why school board positions are non-partisan — to keep state and federal politics out of our schools. The continual barrage of staged political spectacles during recent board meetings serves only to distract dedicated teachers, classified employees and administrators from their mission to educate students and is meant only to promote an individual board member's political agenda. Unfortunately, one VVC board member is using his current position to further his personal political aspirations at the expense of students, the college, the community, and other more knowledgeable and rational board members.

It must be noted that the community college accreditation commission (ACCJC) found serious problems with the conduct of some board members, as well as with the overall way the board functions at VVC. ACCJC was particularly concerned with the board in relation to campus climate and excessive micro-managing. By disregarding their own ethics policy, and continually engaging in behavior that violates the Brown Act, Ed Code and Robert's Rules of Order, the actions of the president and individual board members are jeopardizing VVC's reaffirmation, deflating campus climate and ruining the college's image in the community.

VVC is not the only college in accreditation limbo. California community colleges are all struggling to keep up with ACCJC's strict, imposing and ever-changing requirements. Since January 2010, more than 51 colleges have been placed on some sort of sanction by ACCJC. It seems that the message out there is that VVC is some wart on the back of California, but that is simply not the case. The truth is far from what is being insinuated by politically motivated VVC detractors. VVC is FULLY accredited. The fact that the accreditation commission has extended the deadline for the completion of their recommendations is positive, and it's an acknowledgment of the tremendous accomplishments of faculty, staff and administration, not negative as those making false, uninformed claims would have the community believe.

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